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UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
FACULTY SENATE
26 JANUARY 1998 MINUTES SUMMARY

I. Roll - The following Faculty Senate members were absent: Balling, Barkey, Bogle, Doucet, Henke, Herold, McNamara, Morgan, and Sohl. Cooper, Halstead, Laudano, McMahon and Straussfogel were excused.

II. Discussion with the President - The recent ice storm served as a rehearsal for UNH of how to respond in such emergencies. Electrical power is necessary not only for light and heat but also to drive the sewage system and to keep alive plants and animals at the greenhouses and many research projects. Ten more portable generators will be acquired, and emergency plans are under review.

The president has offered the resources of the university to the legislature, in its effort to respond to the Claremont decision. Discussions of "adequate" education should include consideration of higher education. Dennis Meadows will help to design a one or two-day workshop funded by the NH Charitable Fund. The university will present testimony to oppose house bill 1595 to impose an eight percent meals tax on campus for non-resident students and also faculty and staff. Churches and hospitals are exempt from this tax, and the university should also have the right to feed its people. In addition, the president will testify against a bill that would require SAT scores of 1100 and thirty-three percent in-state students, for athletic scholarships.

The Alumni Association is working with alumni, parents and students, to build a state-wide advocacy network of grass-roots support for state funding for higher education. The Faculty Senate leadership has contacted the President of the Alumni Association to discuss how faculty could facilitate this effort. A reception will be held this spring for legislators who have attended UNH. In addition, UNH will move ahead on private fund raising and on external funding of research and more industrial support, as well as increased enrollments in areas such as professional masters level programs.

The United States Congress formed a National Commission on Higher Education to look into the cost of education to students. A draft of the report was circulated, but congress sent the draft back for revision. The report is now twice as long and contains much more language on cost containment and productivity.

Contract negotiations will begin again this spring, and it would be unfortunate if the negotiations opened in the same adversarial way as in the past. A new chief negotiator has been hired, and informal talks have begun. A fair procedure to assess and acknowledge merit is needed.

III. Communications from the Chair - The chair welcomed the new senators and asked them to contact their Faculty Senate committee chair. As a follow-up to the governor's visit, the senate chair asked for ideas on what the faculty can do to improve UNH's image in the state and to facilitate better funding for higher education? In addition to meeting

with the President of the Alumni Association, the Faculty Senate leaders will meet with the alumni trustees and with Amanda Merrill and other state legislators. Please inform the senate chair if you would like to participate in these efforts. Howard Mayne will serve on the Faculty Awards Committee. Julie Brinker and Sharyn Zunz will share a seat on the MUB Board of Governors. By February 2 in conjunction with the senate chair, all Faculty Senate committee chairs should confirm when each of the committee's remaining charges will be presented to the senate.

The Enrollment Management Report recommended creation of a new position to oversee areas such as admissions, financial aid, and registration. President Leitzel has informed the Agenda Committee that there will be a national search to fill this position of vice provost. Funding for the position will come from the current administrative budgets within those areas, except for an eighteen-month patch of temporary funds. The president offered to talk with the Faculty Senate's Academic Affairs Committee about this matter, but the committee did not see a need at this time. The president has confirmed that faculty will be involved in the search for the new vice provost for enrollment management. A search for a new UNH-Manchester dean is also underway.

President Leitzel has confirmed that the news reports about Vision 2000 were distorted. A copy of the letter from the Executive Officer of the Council of Presidents to the Coordinator of the President's Commission on the Status of Women is available from the senate office.

IV. Minutes - The minutes of the November 24 senate meeting were approved unanimously. A transcript of the December 8 meeting with the governor has been distributed.

V. Library Renovation - Library renovation is on schedule; and completion is expected by May, with the library opening before fall classes start in September. Information is available on the library web page regarding the summer moving schedule. Faculty should inform the library which materials will be needed for summer session, so that those materials can be kept in New Hampshire Hall during the summer. The library will be closed for two weeks after the summer session in order to complete the move. Floor plans and carpet samples were shown in the senate meeting. The same number of faculty carrels will be available close together in the top part of the library, as will roomy reading rooms. However, the plan is to permanently close the back door to the library, in order to reduce costs and increase security. Many faculty expressed concern about this plan. Suggestions were made to use a closed circuit camera in the area or to put a current worker's desk within view of the door. Handicap access is important, as is accessibility for all those from the far half of the campus.

VI. Electronic Rosters - Faculty will now be able to access class lists electronically at the beginning of the first day of class. Requests should be made one week ahead of time to Bev Comtois or Nicole Zid. Student's grades and social security numbers must stay confidential. Final grades may be submitted to the Registrar's Office electronically as well, using a specific format explained in the materials handed out at this senate meeting.

The grades would be emailed to Bev Comptois, who would produce a printed copy which would be sent to the faculty member for confirmation. The faculty member would sign and return this confirmation along with any AF or IC green cards, to the Registrar's Office.

VII. Academic Computing - Pedro deAlba and Ray Greenlaw are the Faculty Senate's representatives to the Academic Computing Advisory Committee. A new draft email policy states that all on-campus email belongs to the university system and thus is not private. The same apparently is true of papers in campus offices. Faculty are concerned about privacy and especially about intellectual property rights, for example of ideas which faculty may discuss on email with colleagues from other universities. A suggestion was made that the committee should seek legal counsel on this matter from someone not connected with the administration. There should also be a policy to protect faculty who develop course materials in electronic form.

Policies about hyper-links on web pages are unclear and changing. Some links could seem peculiar but be for a legitimate academic purpose, for example related to a course on propaganda and persuasion.

The university has only 220 seats in the computer clusters available to students, and many more are needed. Also, software supported by the university often changes without warning. We need clarity on how that process is determined; and faculty should have input in the process, as well as advanced notice. The university pays for software licenses for mainframes but should switch many of those funds to pay for personal site licenses instead. More classrooms should be wired so that a professor could download displays from his laptop computer or tap into the mainframe and download from that.

Faculty would like more responsive computer support, with a quicker response, a more user-friendly attitude, and an understandable vocabulary. Perhaps the committee could get survey data regarding the funds and positions available at other schools for computer support and service. Also, faculty would like to have the direct phone number of CIS people expert in various software packages. Faculty need an access point where computers can be brought to a repair site by car. Please give any additional input to Pedro deAlba and Ray Greenlaw.

VIII. Open Mike - Concern was expressed about potential changes in health insurance benefits.

IX. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned.