

Discovery Committee Minutes, February 5, 2025 (Zoom)

Present: Nicky Gullace (chair), Timothy Montminy (vice-chair), Sachiko Akiyama, Chris Bauer, Lara Demarest, Maeve Dion, Roger Grinde, Lisa MacFarlane, Greg McMahon, Kenneth Mitchell, Catherine Pebbles, Wendy Pothier, Forrest Schwartz, Laura Upham, Anna Wainwright

Absent: Meaghan Dittrich

I. Welcome and Announcements

II. Action Items

- Minutes

Motion: Timothy Montminy moved and Maeve Dion seconded approval of the December 18, 2024, meeting minutes.

Vote: Yes 7, No 0, Abstain 0. **Minutes approved.**

- Student Petitions

1. Request to allow AP 2D Art & Design to satisfy FPA

Vote: Yes 5, No 0, Abstain 2. **Petition approved.** (nfcorsa122325)

2. Request to allow UNH course BIOT 704: New & Emerging Biotechnologies to satisfy ETS.

Vote: Yes 1, No 5, Abstain 2. **Petition denied.** (ascorsa010225)

3. Request to allow UNH course CEE 402: 2D Computer Aided Design to satisfy PS & DLAB.

Vote: Yes 1, No 7, Abstain 0. **Petition denied.** (gmcola010825)

- Course Reviews

1. BIOL 428: Quantitative Biosciences – QR – new course

Motion: Timothy Montminy moved & Chris Bauer seconded the approval of BIOL 428 for QR

Vote: Yes 9, No 0, Abstain 0. **Course approved for QR.**

2. BSCI 441: Exploring NH Forests: Drawing – FPA – new course

Motion: Maeve Dion moved & Wendy Pothier seconded the approval of BSCI 441 for FPA

Vote: Yes 9, No 0, Abstain 0. **Course approved for FPA.**

3. KIN 690: Study Abroad in Kinesiology – WC – reactivation

Motion: Maeve Dion moved & Forrest Schwartz seconded the approval of KIN 690 for WC.

Vote: Yes 2, No 5, Abstain 2. **Course denied for WC.**

We will communicate with the department about the committee's concerns.

4. SW 525: Social Welfare Policy-Hist of Social & Economic Justice – HP – modifying course description

Motion: Timothy Montminy moved & Greg McMahon seconded the approval of SW 525 for HP

Vote: Yes 9, No 0, Abstain 0. **Course approved for HP.**

III. Discussion

Discussion about the Community Forum webinar that was held on February 4th:

- There were several questions about the IDEA requirement. The message from leadership and general counsel was we are to “stay the course”.
- The university remains in compliance with the 2020 Devos-era Department of Education regulations. We are also in compliance with NH state law that mandates inclusivity. If people are not excluded from a program or event, we are compliant. The example given was “Women in STEM”. Such events must remain open to all participants. Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for personal safety concerns.
- Classroom instruction remains protected under academic freedom, and there have been no mandated changes for courses.
- A law has been proposed in the NH State House aiming to remove references to DEI in certain agencies. Concerns were expressed about how legal shifts may impact institutional policies and how faculty will be protected.

Next Meeting February 19, 2025

Meeting adjourned 2:06 pm