

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE FACULTY SENATE
Session XVIII
2013-2014

Chair, Faculty Senate (XVIII): Todd A. DeMitchell, Professor, Education Department &
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Submitted by the XIX Faculty Senate, Agenda Committee
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The purpose of the Faculty Senate is found in its constitution. It reads: “The Faculty Senate will be the legislative body that reviews and develops policies concerned with the academic mission of the university.” The Faculty Senate is vital to the core academic mission of the University of New Hampshire. It is a deliberative body that provides an important voice for the faculty on important university academic matters.

The XVIII Faculty Senate investigated, deliberated, and passed motions on a wide range of topics. The Senate reviewed and discussed such important academic topics as amending the Faculty Senate Constitution, supporting the creation of the Carsey School of Public Policy, scheduling of online master’s degrees courses, co-sponsoring a University Panel on Teaching and Learning, the “deselection” of the Dimond library collections, affordability of course materials, engaged scholarship, and policies regarding minor children participation in UNH activities. The Faculty Senate passed 12 motions in addition to receiving reports from Faculty Senate Committees and University administrators. Below is a representative sample of motions, reports, discussions, and actions taken by the XVIII Faculty Senate.

Curriculum and Instruction

- Mean scores for teaching evaluations was added to the summary sheet (Motion XVIII-M1)
- An eight-week calendar was adopted for on-line master’s degrees
- Report on the possibility of changing the reading days and final examination days was discussed
- A five-year calendar was approved (Motion XVIII-M3)
- The senate reviewed the report from Interim Annie Donohue on the Physics Library (DeMeritt Hall)
- Discussion on the alignment of procedures between Durham and Manchester on student petitions.
- A snow day was added to the calendar in place of a reading day due to large numbers of curtailed operations because of snow.
- A report on the deselection of library materials was discussed.
- Motion XVIII-M9 was passed regarding the participation of the senate in the review of the contract with the Confucius Institute.
- Report from the Discovery Committee was received.
- A report on on-line courses was accepted.

- A report on J-Term on-line courses was received.

Faculty Activities

- Report on faculty professional development activities associated with the *ADVANCE Institutional Transformation Grant* was discussed (Monica Chiu & Karen Graham)
- A discussion on engaged scholarship was held with faculty and university administrators (Julie Williams, Eleanor Abrams, Michael Middleton, & Mihaela Sabin) as well as receiving a report from the senate ad hoc committee on Promotion & Tenure on the topic.
- Discussion of the creation of a joint (Senate and Academic Affairs) University Panel on Teaching and Learning at UNH and Beyond. The charge to the panel was discussed.
- A motion was presented and passed which exempted non-tenured faculty members from participating in the pilot on web-based teaching evaluations (Motion XVII-M8).

Student Affairs

- On-line course registration deadline was extended for students (Motion XVIII-M6)
- The possibility of shifting the common exam time was discussed.
- Student Senate Resolution on Blackboard use was discussed and a resolution urging faculty to post syllabi and schedules on Blackboard was passed.
- The progress of the minors policy for visiting and participating in UNH programs was discussed.

A report was received and motion (Motion XVII-M10) was passed on the access and affordability of course materials.

Planning

- A report on the admissions cycle was received and discussed (Mark Rubinstein)
- A report on campus planning was received and a motion (Motion XVIII-M7) was passed calling on the inclusion of department chairs on steering committees.

University Policies

- A report on security and instructional technology was received (Joanna Young)
- The Carsey gift for the proposed School of Public Policy was discussed.
- The proposed changes to the Vice Provost for Faculty Development and Inclusive Excellence were discussed.
- Discussed changes to plagiarism and misconduct in scholarly activities and student rights
- A report on the proposed HIPAA compliance policy was delivered.
- The senate accepted the UCAPC report supporting the creation of the Carsey School of Public Policy (Motion XVIII-M11).
- The senate, on a motion from the floor, voted to send the dual major in Sustainability proposal to UCAPC (Motion XVIII-12).
- A report on the financial impact of the UNH School of Law was presented.

Faculty Senate Business

- Changes were made to the Faculty Senate website to include pertinent information that can be accessed easily

- The senate constitution was updated to reflect changes in the university and the senate (Motion XVIII-M4)
- A procedural rule on laying over the vote on main motions was passed (Motion XVIII-M5)
- Senate Bylaws were changed regarding attendance (1. Meetings (C)(1-2)).

There are several matters from the XVIII Faculty Senate will carry over to the XIX Faculty Senate. The ad hoc Committee on Non-Tenure Track Faculty will bring forward its report in the fall. Similarly, the ad hoc Committee on Promotion and Tenure Standards will finalize its report in the upcoming year, as will the ad hoc Teaching Evaluation Implementation Committee. In addition, the Academic Affairs Committee will carry over its motion on writing intensive courses to the fall.

As can be seen by this brief overview of the XVIII Faculty Senate, the work of the senate is central to the academic mission of the university. It is a central player in the academic governance of the university. Its standing committees and its Agenda Committee work regularly with senior administrators on issues of shared concern. The Faculty Senate has a highly visible presence with the administration and in many ways it is the public face of the faculty.

**A strong Faculty Senate helps to ensure a strong
faculty voice in the academic affairs of the university**