

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE FACULTY SENATE
SESSION XIX
2014-2015

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Submitted by the XX Faculty Senate Agenda Committee
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The XIX Faculty Senate discussed, deliberated, and passed motions and resolutions on a variety of topics. It spent considerable time debating the merits of a proposal to extend to lecturers, clinical, contract, extension, alternative security, and research faculty the eligibility to elect faculty senators in their departments, and be elected as their department's faculty senator. There was also substantial discussion on other topics such as making sure that faculty input is considered when decisions about maintaining Library collections are made, the implications of changing the common exam period while Hamilton-Smith Hall is being renovated, changes in the academic calendar, concerns about proposed changes in the policy regarding passwords for UNH IT accounts, intellectual property and research-data ownership, at-risk students, student advising, campus planning, teaching evaluations, and the Confucius Institute. The XIX Faculty Senate passed seventeen motions and received reports from Faculty Senate committees and University administrators. Most of the motions, discussions, and other actions of the Faculty Senate in academic year 2014-2015 are outlined below:

Academic Programs & Policies/Curriculum & Instruction

- Approved the proposal establishing a Dual Major in Sustainability; the proposal was endorsed by the Faculty Senate's University Curriculum and Academic Policies Committee (XIX-M10)
- Initiated a review of the Discovery Program; established and populated a review committee and provided guidelines for conducting the review (XIX-M3)
- Approved a proposed revision of the University Honors Program (XIX-M6)
- Approved a series of motions related to the Confucius Institute. One of the motions recommended the hiring of a tenure-track faculty member to teach Chinese. (XIX-M17)
- Approved moving the common exam period, i.e., Tuesday and Thursday, 12:40 – 2 p.m. to Friday, 2:10 to 5 p.m., for Academic Years 2016 and 2017, while Hamilton-Smith Hall is under renovation (XIX-M5)
- Approved moving the Thursday 7 to 9 p.m. common exam period to Tuesday, 6 to 9 p.m. or 7 to 10 p.m. (XIX-M7)

- Authorized the cancellation of classes on Wednesday before Thanksgiving Day and eliminated Fall Break Day (XIX-M8)
- Discussed with Terri Winters, Director of Academic Technology and IT, potential changes to UNH's Learning Management System (LMS), i.e., replacing Blackboard with another LMS

University Policies

- Early in the academic year, discussed the Library's policy in removing books and other printed material from its collection
- Approved a proposed revision to the Library collection maintenance policy (XIX-M14)
- Passed a resolution stating that no UNH branch library be closed, consolidated or moved without full consideration by, and consultation with, the Faculty Senate as manifested through a vote of the Faculty Senate.
- Discussed the revisions to the University's policy on intellectual property; The Research and Public Service Committee reported that the guidelines were clear for the sciences but additional clarification may be needed for work by faculty in the arts
- Approved, after discussion spread over two sessions, and a conversation with Jan Nisbet, Senior Vice Provost for Research, a policy assigning custody of data from research initiated by UNH for the purpose of institutional decision making to an UNH Academic Administrator assigned to perform such custodial duties (XIX-M9)

Faculty Activities

- Approved continuing the use of the majority of the teaching/course evaluation questions currently utilized by the University for all UNH courses, but revising Question 4: "*Was well prepared for class,*" Question 6: "*Encouraged discussion or questions,*" and Question 10: "*Was available to students outside of class*" to make them appropriate for online courses (XIX-M11)
- Endorsed the recommendation of the Faculty Senate ad hoc Committee on Promotion and Tenure Standards for all departments to have clear and explicit guidelines regarding promotion and tenure
- After substantial discussions and a meeting with Terri Winters, the Faculty Senate did not support proposed changes in policy on passwords for UNH IT accounts.

- Endorsed the report and recommendation from the Joint Panel on Teaching and Learning (XIX-M15)

Student Affairs

- Approved a motion to add statements to the Faculty Advising Handbook clarifying the role of faculty advisors, and a section in the Student Rights, Rules, and Responsibilities handbook providing guidance to students as to sources of academic information, the types of support typically provided by faculty advisors, and the students' responsibility in maximizing the effectiveness of advising (XIX-16)
- Discussed with David Cross, Director of the Counseling Center, the issue of at-risk students, and the Kognito program which provides training on identifying such students
- Discussed and approved proposed changes to the UNH Policy on Scheduling Games and Practices. The minor changes made the UNH policy consistent with UNH standards.

Planning, Development, and Budgets

- Discussed with Debbie Dutton, UNH Vice President for Advancement, the status of UNH's current capital campaign
- Discussed with Mica Stark, Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs, the status of UNH's budget requests to the NH Legislature
- Heard and discussed the Campus Planning Committee's report on UNH's current and planned construction and renovation projects

Faculty Senate Business

- Passed motions amending the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws making CCLEAR faculty eligible to vote for faculty senators in their departments and eligible to be elected and serve in the Faculty Senate (XIX-M12 and XIX-M13)
- Included the UNH School of Law as an academic unit, making it eligible to elect a faculty senator and have representation on the Professional Standards Committee (Motion XIX-M1)
- Included the Department of Classics, Humanities, and Italian Studies as an academic unit and therefore eligible to elect representatives to the Faculty Senate (Motion XIX-M2)

- Authorized the agenda committee to fill vacancies on the ad hoc Committee on Teaching Evaluation Form Implementation Committee (XIX-M4)

Continuing Business

The XIX Faculty Senate was not able to complete the Discovery Program Review during its term; the Discovery Program Review Committee's report was completed in early Fall Semester 2015. The work of the ad hoc Committee on Teaching Evaluation Form Implementation is still continuing.

The achievements of the Faculty Senate in Academic Year 2014-2015 were the result of the hard work and contributions of faculty members in the various Senate committees and in the vigorous participation of faculty senators in the deliberations and decision-making of the full Senate. The XIX Faculty Senate also received support from various UNH administrators who understood that the academic mission is the responsibility of the faculty, and respected the faculty's role in shared governance.