

UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XVI-M12

on the SARRC budget

1. Motion presenter: Erin Sharp
2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 3/19/2012 and 4/2/2012
3. Rationale:


The Space Allocation, Repairs and Renovation Committee, the website of which is at <http://www.unh.edu/vpfa/sarrc.html>, oversees the assignment, renovation, and extraordinary maintenance of all university buildings, grounds, roads, and related structures. SARRC is a standing advisory committee to the president of the University of New Hampshire. The SARRC budget is primarily funded from two sources: (1) the RCM square foot charge for facilities paid by colleges across the UNH campus and (2) the deferred maintenance student fee. SARRC's current strategic improvements priority list reaches over \$35 million in estimated project costs. Many academic buildings on the UNH campus are in *critical* need of repairs and renovations. These buildings have pressing safety concerns. Many of the buildings are not in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Many are not able to meet the direct academic needs, instructional and research, of faculty and students.

In the past, the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) and UNH/SARRC have received state funding to offset some of the major repair, renovation, and renovation by replacement costs of existing academic buildings. Given the current relationship among USNH, UNH, and the New Hampshire legislature, it is questionable whether this support will continue. Even with the significant number of *critical* repair and renovation needs of existing academic buildings, the UNH administration approved construction of the brand new Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics building. UNH borrowed \$12.5 million (at 5.25 percent interest) from USNH to cover building costs remaining after funding from the Peter T. Paul gift, private fund raising, and WSBE reserves. This loan is now a SARRC budget expense; and repayment will use approximately 12 percent of the SARRC budget annually, even though this project was not identified previously by SARRC as a critical repair and renovation need. To the Campus Planning Committee's knowledge, SARRC does not have a policy in place that limits the amount of its annual budget that can go toward new building ventures and projects versus existing repairs, renovations (e.g. James Hall), and renovations by replacement (e.g. Demeritt Hall) of existing buildings (the purpose of SARRC). Given that the updated Campus Master Plan envisions new building projects (e.g. a new center for the arts), the Faculty Senate is concerned that additional SARRC monies will be diverted away from the critical existing repair and renovation needs of academic buildings to fund new ventures.

4. Motion:

The Faculty Senate of the University of New Hampshire advises the university administration to develop and communicate to the Faculty Senate a justifiable and viable policy guaranteeing that the SARRC budget, funded primarily by the student deferred maintenance fee and the RCM square foot charge for facilities paid by RCM units should only fund the repair and renovation projects reflected in the annual strategic improvements priority list in keeping with SARRC's primary role.

5. Senate action: passed with thirty-four ayes and three nays.

6. Senate chair's signature: 

Forwarded to: President Mark Huddleston, on 5-1-2012

Forwarded to: Provost John Aber, on 5-1-2012

Forwarded to: Lisa MacFarlane, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, on 5-1-2012