

SUMMARY REPORT ON THE FACULTY SENATE
Session XVII
2012-2013

Chair, Faculty Senate (XVII): Willem deVries, Professor of Philosophy

Submitted by the XVIII 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 XVII Faculty Senate investigated, deliberated, and passed motions on a wide range of topics. The Senate reviewed such important academic topics as online courses, the creation of interdisciplinary schools, Discovery courses, Thompson School of Applied Science course numbering, and the importance of the library to the academic mission.

The senate was involved in the second university-wide e-UNH forum and it co-sponsored the State-of-the Art Lecture Series.

The Faculty Senate passed 22 motions. In addition, one motion of no confidence motion was presented but immediately tabled as per Senate policy. Three of the motions brought to fruition based on a discussion that occurred over several years. The first is the adoption of the Interdisciplinary Schools Policy. Second, the senate endorsed the School of Marine Science and Ocean Engineering proposal submitted under the policy. The third motion was the renumbering of the Thompson School of Applied Science course to bring them into alignment with the university's numbering system. In addition, the following is a representative sample of **motions** and actions of the Faculty Senate.

Curriculum and Instruction

- changed the rule for military credit
- changed the credits for the Discovery Program Inquiry requirement
- held that Honors courses could not be taught online as part of the Honors Curriculum
- established a position on changes in mode and time for Discovery and Writing Intensive courses
- stated support for the library as central and critical to teaching and research
- requested that all departments discuss the value of *e*-courses in their curricula

Faculty

- encouraged the departments, colleges, and the university to review the policy and procedures for responding to threats
- established a right to receive an explanation and a review when the administration makes a decision regarding student grades or status in a course
- identified the default position of replacing tenured faculty with tenure-track faculty when vacancies occur
- recommended that the policy used by COLA to improve the salary and contract lengths for its instructors serve as a model for other colleges.
- recommended the lecturers receive their letter about future employment six months before employment is to begin
- established a committee to review the status of non-tenure-track faculty regarding their participation in governance, teaching, research, and service

Planning

- established guidelines for UNH public/private ventures

Reports were received from standing senate committees. An example of reports includes the following representative sample of topics.

Curriculum and Instruction

- library support, leading to the Senate motion reaffirming the need to keep the Library and its collections strong

Instructional Technology

- IT privacy concerns
- cheating in online courses
- J-term

Students

- accepting transfer credits,
- student advising problems

Faculty

- research faculty promotions in rank
- a report on the numbers of faculty relative to students and administrators
- governance issues and the increase of hiring non-tenure-track faculty

Governance/Finance

- capital campaign
- research faculty funding
- cost effectiveness
- RCM advisory committees
- RCM inter-unit problems

Planning

- parking
- campus master plan.

In addition to reports from senate committees, various university administrators gave reports and updates to Faculty Senate. A sample of those **updates** includes the following topics.

- e-UNH and online programs
- NEASC reaccreditation self study
- enrollment
- IT security and privacy
- advancement
- master plan

Several issues will continue over from the XVII faculty Senate to the XVIII Faculty Senate. Most notably, the ad hoc committee on promotion and tenure will continue its work on understanding if all levels of the university (department, college, & university) have articulated and provided standards for faculty promotion and tenure. The ad hoc committee on student evaluations will continue its work on developing a new student evaluation form and piloting an online evaluation system.

The XVII Faculty Senate had a productive year. It was engaged in a large number of issues that confront the faculty and the university in the shared pursuit of the academic mission. The work of the Faculty Senate as demonstrated by a perusal of the breadth and depth of topics that it engaged through motions, reports, and updates is extensive, important, and necessary. The shared governance responsibilities of the faculty are met in several venues. One of those critical venues is the Faculty Senate. It has a highly visible presence with the administration and in many ways is the public face of the faculty. A strong Faculty Senate helps to ensure a strong faculty voice.