

UNH FACULTY SENATE
COMMITTEE MOTION # III-M2

1. Faculty Senate Committee Academic Affairs
2. Committee Chairperson Deborah Winslow
3. Date of Faculty Senate Discussion 11-23-98
4. Committee/Administrator Responsible for Implementation _____
5. Motion:

In recognition of the fact that that the University of New Hampshire is in the midst of a severe financial crisis that will have significant and negative effects on UNH's ability to fulfill its mission in teaching, research, and service; and the fact that the University System of New Hampshire has demanded contributions from UNH that have increased faster than the increases received by the University and are above the Higher Education Price Index, we, the Faculty Senate of the University of New Hampshire, seek reassurance that the System also is undertaking stringent cost-cutting measures and is not simply part of the problem. Therefore,

(1) We urge that the System immediately forego the 1998-99, 4% (319,000) increase in the University's payment to the System, and that this money be used to support academic programs at the University.

(2) We urge the System to adopt a plan to implement a set of measurable efforts to reduce further the University's annual contribution to the System, reversing the inflationary trend of the past six years.

(3) We urge Governor Shaheen to play a more active ongoing role in limiting unchecked growth of the System and assuring that the academic mission of the State's University remains central.

6. Rationale:


On October 16, 1998, Joan Leitzel, President of the University of New Hampshire, announced a \$2.2 million set of specific cuts to academic programs. This is the first installment in the administration's efforts to come to grips with a projected \$4.5 million revenue shortfall in the FY 2000 budget. On October 26, 1998, President Leitzel told the Faculty Senate that she will try to cope with the remaining balance of this shortfall without further damage to college budgets, but a specific plan has not yet been announced.

The \$2.2 million in cuts to academic programs will affect all colleges and will reduce the academic quality of our University. The cuts will eliminate programs and one department. They will cut full and part-time faculty and staff positions. They will increase class size and thereby reduce student-faculty interaction. They will increase work loads without any increase in compensation, despite the plethora of studies that have shown an already fully extended University faculty. These negative developments threaten all

aspects of the University's mission: teaching, research, and service. Indeed, they may reduce the overall attractiveness of the University to future students, which could further depress enrollments and consequently future revenues, necessitating even more cuts down the road.

Meanwhile, despite campus budget cuts, there has been no respite in the increase in UNH payments to the University System of New Hampshire. From 1995 to 1998 the average annual increase in the Higher Education Price Index has been 3.1%. During this same period of time, the General Fund revenues for UNH have not kept pace, increasing at the lower average rate of 2.7%. In contrast, increases in UNH payments to the System during the same time period averaged 4.7%, substantially above the average annual increase in the Higher Education Price Index. Thus "the average increase in UNH payments to the System is 74% greater than the average increase experienced by UNH itself in the General Fund". While the University whittles away at the academic core, thereby seriously diminishing our capacity to fulfill the central mission of the State's University, the System's bureaucracy continues to consume increasing resources from the University.

In times of such severe financial crises, UNH, which serves the State's mission centrally and directly, must be assured that the System is also undertaking stringent cost-cutting measures, and is not a part of the problem.

7. Senate Action: <u>Passed</u>	Vote: <u>with one nay</u>
Chair's verification: <u></u>	Date: <u>12/4/98</u>
Forwarded to: <u>President Leitzel</u>	Date: <u>12/4/98</u>
<u>Governor Jeanne Shaheen</u>	Date: <u>12/4/98</u>
<u>Speaker of the House</u>	Date: <u>12/4/98</u>
<u>President of the NH Senate</u>	Date: <u>12/4/98</u>
<u>Members of the Legislative Oversight Committee</u>	Date: <u>12/4/98</u>
<u>Chair of the Board of Trustees</u>	Date: <u>12/4/98</u>
<u>USNH Chancellor Farrell</u>	Date: <u>12/4/98</u>
<u>New Hampshire Press (including Campus Journal and the New Hampshire)</u>	Date: <u>12/4/98</u>