

UNH Faculty Senate
Motion # X-M2
Shared Governance Motion

1. Sponsoring committee: Agenda Committee
2. Motion presenter: Jeff Salloway
3. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: November 14 and December 12, 2005
4. Motion:

The Faculty Senate is the legislative body that reviews and develops policy concerned with the academic mission of the university. On behalf of the faculty of the University of New Hampshire, the Faculty Senate reaffirms that the central activities of the university are and must be teaching, learning, research, artistry, and outreach.

As we make and support choices among alternative uses of our limited resources, the Faculty Senate emphasizes that the standard by which fiscal decisions must be judged is their effect on academic goals of teaching, learning, research, artistry, and outreach, never vice versa. A good budget system serves academic priorities; it does not define them.

The Faculty Senate reaffirms as well its commitment to the principle that the faculty has primary responsibility for curriculum, subject matter, methods of instruction, research, artistry, faculty status, and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process. On these matters, the power of review or final decision lodged in the governing board, or delegated by it to the president, or delegated by the president to other administrative officers should be exercised adversely to the reasoned view of the faculty only in exceptional circumstances and for reasons communicated to the faculty.

We commend the statements¹ the UNH president has made regarding the importance of giving the faculty its central voice in matters pertaining to teaching, learning, research, artistry, and

¹ 11/3/03 Faculty Senate minutes, item II, paragraph 1: The president said that she apologizes for not having consulted sufficiently with faculty prior to the recent appointment of John Aber, an interim vice president, to full vice president status. This appointment may have been hastened by a job offer he had received from another university. The president said that she would like to arrange an opportunity for communications and input from faculty who do research, regarding the Office of Research and Public Service.

10/27/03 Agenda Committee minutes, item III, paragraph 2: President Hart said that she apologizes for not having sufficiently consulted with faculty prior to the recent appointment of an interim vice president to full vice president status. This appointment may have been hastened by a job offer the individual had received from another university. The president said that the kinds of conversations that take place during a search process are very useful.

4/19/04 Faculty Senate minutes, item II, paragraph 2: President Hart said that both she and the provost have had conversations with the senate chair and vice chair and other members of the Agenda Committee, regarding some faculty concerns over emergency administrative appointments and the joint desire for a clear procedure for emergency searches. A professor said that faculty have the perception that there has been a series of searches with less faculty input, that the letter from the new COLSA dean asking the department chairs to resign seems inappropriate, and that faculty wonder why the COLSA dean's appointment was not an interim appointment. The president said that the provost will include information about these matters in his current letter to faculty. She said that, in the last year, there have been two major searches that have been emergency appointments: the vice president for research and the COLSA dean. She added that a process is being set up to regulate these situations.

outreach, the setting of academic goals and priorities, the allocation of resources, and the recruitment of administrative officers. We expect the principles enunciated by the president to be followed by administrative officers at all levels so as to give the faculty its central voice in these matters.

The Faculty Senate, as the faculty's representative body, remains the custodian of teaching, learning, research, artistry, and outreach at the university. At this time, the Faculty Senate reaffirms its responsibilities under principles of shared governance in the processes of:

(1) Assessment and revision of Responsibility Center Management as a tool that serves teaching, learning, research, artistry, and outreach and that assists in meeting the goals of the UNH Academic Plan.

(2) Assessment and restructuring of colleges, centers, and institutes as these affect teaching, learning, research, artistry, and outreach.

(3) Recruitment of administrative officers - including vice-presidents and their principal assistants, as well as deans and their principal assistants. Faculty must continue to have a central voice in any process that results in the selection of an administrative officer, at any level, whose work and presence will affect those matters, listed above, for which the faculty has primary responsibility.

(4) Periodic review of performance of key administrators whose work and presence affect those matters listed above that affect teaching, learning, research, artistry and outreach.

5. Senate action: passed, on December 12, 2005

Vote: unanimous

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized name with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping tail.

Senate chair's signature:

Forwarded to: President Ann Hart, on December 20, 2005

Forwarded to: Provost Bruce Mallory, on December 20, 2005

Forwarded to: VPFA Candace Corvey, on December 20, 2005

Forwarded to: UNH college deans, on December 20, 2005