

UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XII-M7

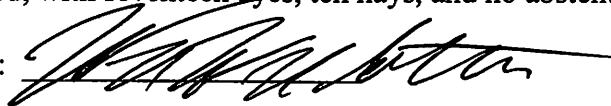
Research Strategic Planning

1. Motion presenter: Jeff Salloway
2. Date of Faculty Senate discussion: 12/3/07
3. Motion:

that the Faculty Senate direct the Agenda Committee to choose a representative of the senate to serve as observer to the Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Strategic Planning Steering Committee and, in addition, that the Faculty Senate chair send the minutes of this meeting to the president and the interim vice president for research and discuss the issues thoroughly with both.

4. Senate action: passed, with seventeen ayes, ten nays, and no abstentions

Senate chair's signature:



Forwarded to: President Mark Huddleston, on December 19, 2007

Forwarded to: Provost Bruce Mallory, on December 19, 2007

Forwarded to: Taylor Eighmy, on December 19, 2007

From the 12/3/07 Faculty Senate minutes:

V. Research – The senate chair said that the Faculty Senate needs to decide whether, during work to rule, the senate will nominate a member for the Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Strategic Planning Committee. The interim vice president for research would like to have a ten-year strategic plan ready by August, and the new vice president for research is expected to be hired and start work by September. The senate declined, during work to rule, to participate in work on the Academic Plan and the NEASC Self Study but did agree to provide representatives for the president's search committee last year and the search committee for the vice president for research. Regardless of the senate's decision on committee representation, the research strategic plan will be brought to the Faculty Senate for review and input.

A senator said that doing the research strategic plan now is putting the cart before the horse and appears to be an attempt to maintain the status quo, a situation that works less well for the faculty at large and very well for the small establishment that has controlled research resources for the past ten years. A new strategic plan will set up how the university arrives at its research priorities and where it will spend its funds. He added that UNH has gotten about two million dollars in federal ear-marked funds since 2000 and that there has not been enough discussion on how ear marks are developed and the results. One option would be for the Faculty Senate to participate in the Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Strategic Planning Committee but to clarify and modify what this committee will do. He said that the purpose of the committee should be to survey the strengths and weaknesses of the UNH research organization, how it serves the university faculty, how the office of research works to further the university's goals, and what the relationship should be between the vice president for research and the provost. When the committee has defined the current situation and the new vice president for research starts work, the committee could then work with the vice president on the goals, rather than presenting an already prepared ten-year plan.

Another senator said that faculty need to influence the process at its beginnings, that a strategic plan for research is critical, and that the strategic plan will take too long to prepare after the new vice president for research is hired and gets his bearings. A professor said that the office for research should serve the interests of the faculty as a whole and not just the centers and institutes. Another senator said that, although these matters are important, the faculty have waited a very long time for a contract and should honor work to rule, not work on planning, and expect that the administration will not form strategic plans without the standard shared governance which cannot happen during work to rule. A professor suggested that the faculty should work with the committee but that the committee should do preliminary surveys and not prepare a strategic plan. He added that the interaction of the office for research and the academic programs could use improvement and that, if a strategic plan were to be drafted now, it would build up momentum and be hard to stop. Another senator said that faculty are better off if they are involved in strategic planning from its inception.

Jeff Salloway moved and Anita Klein seconded a motion that the Faculty Senate direct the Agenda Committee to choose a representative of the senate to serve on the

Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Strategic Planning Steering Committee. After discussion of an alternative motion to decline to provide a representative during work to rule, a professor said that a third alternative would be to influence whether or not the actual strategic planning happens now. A senator said that the senate chair or the Agenda Committee should discuss this matter with the president. Rather than setting out a ten-year plan, the strategic planning steering committee could survey and study the issues so that a newly-hired vice president for research will be well informed about what the issues are. The senate chair has written the interim vice president for research that, when any strategic plan is drafted, it must be brought to the Faculty Senate for vetting. Last year the Faculty Senate passed a motion stating in part that:

The Faculty Senate will take no decisions and no actions during this period of work to rule, and the Faculty Senate expects the university administration to take no decisions and no actions on all those areas over which the faculty has primary or co-equal responsibility. Should such actions be taken, the Faculty Senate will be prepared to take appropriate action including but not limited to motions of censure and no confidence.

The senate chair said that today's senate minutes will be published and will also be sent to the interim vice president for research. A senator suggested that the senate instruct the Agenda Committee to appoint a representative but also ask the senate chair to make the president and interim vice president for research aware of the senate's concerns about the drafting of a strategic plan at this time. A professor said that the Faculty Senate should send an observer to and not a member of the committee for now and that the senate should discuss these matters further at its next meeting. Another professor said that the senate chair should discuss with the president and interim vice president that the office of research should focus on traditional research and not primarily on the big research centers and institutes. A senator said that, since the president is pouring money into EOS, the senate should ask for a specific statement from the president on the focus of the office for research. A professor added that faculty play a central role in research but that research is also bound to academic programs. If those programs are not competitive in getting good graduate assistants, that has a profound effect on both research and teaching. Support for teaching assistants is very important.

David Richman proposed a friendly amendment to the motion, to add that the senate will send the minutes of this meeting to the president and the interim vice president for research and that the senate chair will discuss the issues thoroughly with both. The maker and seconder of the original motion accepted this friendly amendment. Then Larry Prelli proposed and the maker and seconder of the original motion accepted an amendment that the senate should provide an observer to rather than a representative for the committee. After discussion, the senate passed the amended motion, with seventeen ayes, ten nays, and no abstentions. The senate chair agreed to make clear to the president and interim vice president the difference between an observer and a representative and the reasons for this choice.