

UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XX-M26

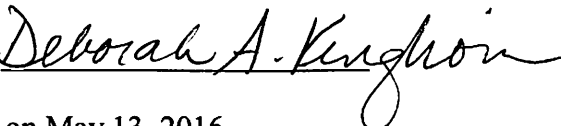
on Discovery Review Committee recommendations to stop decommissioning of courses

1. Motion presenter: Scott Smith, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee
2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 4/25/2016, 5/2/2016
3. **Rationale:** The Academic Affairs Committee moves that the following measure be adopted regarding the Discovery Program, based on the recommendations made by the Discovery Review Committee Report (henceforth "DRCR").

This is a recommendation that is included to emphasize faculty dissatisfaction that creating a new Discovery course requires the elimination of a Discovery Course or Discovery designation of another course. The policy of decommissioning substantially diminishes the impulse to innovate and is the creature of college control over enrollment patterns through Discovery. We support the spirit of the recommendation, which charges the Associate Deans to come up with a policy that inspires innovation where appropriate and that still allows the colleges to regulate enrollment patterns. We are pleased to hear that colleges are already working to change to a "vaulting" method, whereby departments may rotate course offerings in a Discovery category without having to give up the other course.

4. Motion: Based on DRCR recommendation #11, the Academic Affairs Committee moves that colleges stop the practice of forcing departments to "decommission" a Discovery course in order to create a new one since such practice stifles innovation; by "decommission" we mean the process whereby a department, if it wishes to create a new Discovery Course, must eliminate all offerings of, or remove the Discovery designation from, another course in the same category as the new course. Pursuant to this and the next motion, we recommend a policy that, if a department wishes to offer a new Discovery Course and there is not enough room college-wide in the category to do so, the college try to negotiate with the department a deal whereby the department temporarily suspends—but does not eliminate—a course (or its Discovery status) for the semester or year that the new course is offered, so that a rotation instead of course or category elimination is adopted.

5. Senate action: The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions

6. Senate chair's signature: 

Forwarded to the following on May 13, 2016

President Mark Huddleston
Interim Provost P.T. Vasudevan
Mary Rhiel, Interim Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
Barbara White, chair of Discovery Committee
David Richman, chair of Discovery Review Committee
All college deans
All department chairs