

UNH FACULTY SENATE  
MOTION # XX-M27

*on Discovery Review Committee recommendations to ensure distribution of Discovery seats*

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").

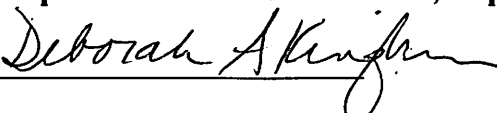
The DRCR recommends that there be a hard cap of 400 (a suggested number) on any one course in aggregate—that is, the total number of seats across all sections would be limited to 400. The AAC recognizes and is sympathetic with the underlying concern, namely, that a single popular course might upset the delicate balance of equitable distribution of Discovery seats in other fields, especially if, as the DRCR suggests may happen, a large course is academically less rigorous than others. Yet, a hard cap of any number does not address the deeper issues underlying the distribution of Discovery and other courses. Rather, the AAC thought it preferable to charge the Discovery Committee to work with Deans and Chairs to devise a fair policy to ensure equitable distribution of Discovery seats.

In light of the concerns at the heart of Faculty Senate Motions #XX-M24 and #XX-M26, the AAC recognizes:

- a) that Discovery Courses are inseparably tied to enrollment management within and without colleges,
- b) that departments may recognize Discovery as a way to capture, or recapture, market-share of students at the university,
- c) that some units on campus are being squeezed, partly because of national trends toward specific fields of "employable" majors, partly because of the university's own strategic emphasis on certain fields of inquiry, and
- d) that it would therefore be unsurprising if Discovery courses have been used as an attempt to survive in such an atmosphere.

**4. Motion: The Academic Affairs Committee moves that the Discovery Committee work with Deans and Chairs to ensure that Discovery seats are equitably distributed and that certain large classes do not unfairly dominate the market.**

**5. Senate action: The motion passed with 45 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 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