

UNH FACULTY SENATE

MOTION # XX-M24

on Discovery Review Committee recommendations to allow "double counting"

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").

See AAC Report on the Discovery Review Committee Report, pp. 7–9, a summary of which follows. At present, the College of Liberal Arts has created a policy whereby departments do not allow a student to count a course taken as a major requirement also as a Discovery requirement (with rare exceptions). Thus, students must take a course outside of their major to fulfill a Discovery requirement that could be fulfilled in their major. Taken to the extreme, a history major who fulfills her requirements with numerous history courses (many of which are designated as Discovery HP) *would nevertheless not satisfy the HP requirement*. This seems illogical. If the intent of the Discovery program is to ensure contact with a number of fields, then students will, by dint of their majors, fulfill at least one of the areas naturally. The point is to ensure that they go outside their majors in the *other* fields. Thus, the Academic Affairs Committee generally agrees, with some dissent, that if a course has been designated as a Discovery course of a certain category, then it can count for the requirement regardless of whether the student counts it toward their major as well, unless a department decides otherwise. In other words, the decision whether "double counting" may be allowed should not be made by colleges, but by individual departments.

There is, however, the legitimate concern that a student may choose to fulfill her or his Discovery requirements with as many Discovery courses as exist *inside* the major. For many departments, this may mean one or two courses. But there are a significant number of programs at UNH-Durham and UNH-Manchester—in particular in COLA—that offer courses from *as many as five Discovery categories*. The Academic Affairs Committee recognizes that this is overly insular, and not in the spirit of a general education program which is intrinsically anti-insular. Thus we strongly urge departments to ensure that their students achieve breadth in their studies by seeking out opportunities in other fields. Perhaps a general guideline should be that no more than two courses in the major can count toward Discovery—but this should remain a recommendation and not a rule.

4. Motion: Based on DRCR recommendation #5, 4) that a Discovery course can satisfy a Discovery category regardless of whether it also counts as a major requirement (that is, "double counting" is allowable); departments and programs as well as colleges by agreement of their chairs are, however, free to place restrictions on double counting, and are encouraged to limit the number of Discovery courses taken within the major rubric itself.

5. Senate action: The motion passed with 46 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

6. Senate chair's signature: *Deborah A. Kinghorn*

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