

UNH FACULTY SENATE  
MOTION # XX-M10  
*to form Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Evaluation Standards*

1. Motion presenter: Deb Kinghorn, Senate chair and chair of Agenda Committee
2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 2/29/2016; 3/21/2016
3. **Rationale:** Faculty have for many years expressed concerns about undue emphasis in some colleges and departments on teaching evaluations in the retention and promotion process. There are no clear rules for use of these evaluations when making such decisions, leaving the deans in the position of weighing them as they see fit, which may or may not be in agreement with how a department thinks or how a promotion and tenure committee thinks they should be weighed. Furthermore, the role of other methods of teaching evaluation (e.g., classroom visits) are even more ill-defined. It falls within the purview of the Faculty Senate to create clear rules for the function and weighting of teaching evaluations and other methods of evaluating teaching in order to determine a set of best practices and to protect faculty members from such disparate opinions.

**Therefore:**

4. **Motion:** *The Faculty Senate shall undertake a study of best practices in utilizing methodologies for assessing teaching quality, to include peer-review, classroom visitation, mentoring, student evaluations, and any other methods which may be used in the process of evaluating faculty and in the determination of retention, promotion, and tenure decisions. The Faculty Senate shall form an ad-hoc committee which will have faculty representatives from each college, UNH-Manchester, the School of Law, and the Library. The committee will include CCLEAR faculty, and graduate student and undergraduate student representatives as well, and will connect with a member of the Academic Affairs Committee. The Agenda committee shall appoint the committee and may invite selected non-faculty members who could contribute to the study to serve on the committee. The Agenda Committee shall charge the committee to undertake this study and report its findings and recommendations to the Faculty Senate.*

5. **Senate action:** The motion was put to a vote and passed with 43 votes in favor, 1 opposed, and no abstentions.

6. Senate chair's signature: 

Forwarded to: President Mark Huddleston, on April 5, 2016  
Interim Provost P.T. Vasudevan, on April 5, 2016  
Mary Rhiel, Interim Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, on April 5, 2016  
All college deans, on April 5, 2016  
All department chairs, on April 5, 2016