I. Roll - The following Faculty Senate members were absent: Bogle, Burger, Cooper, Doucet, Ernest, Fan, Halstead, Herold, Laudano, Lugalla, McMahon, Messier, Morgan, Moynihan, Schoof, Sohl and Zabarsky. Carroll, Greenlaw, Naumes and Walsh were excused.

II. Special Assistant to the President for Affirmative Action - Patricia Gormley was introduced and said that her job includes a combination of advocacy, compliance and education. She works to help the university comply with the NCAA rules and the federal requirements such as Title IX. The Affirmative Action Office has distributed both a discriminatory harassment booklet and a sexual harassment booklet. The office works on complaint resolution, beginning with attempts at informal resolution. The office also facilitates the promotion of diversity, civility and affirmative action including admissions, hiring and training of staff and students. A senator expressed concern about the records kept in the Affirmative Action Office since, if a complaint were made but found to be insubstantial, the accused would not be informed and, if another complaint were made later, the accused would have difficulty then refuting the first charge about which he had not been informed.

III. Communications from the Chair - The handout from Senators deAlba and Greenlaw on academic computing has been sent to each senator. Please review it and seek responses from your departments, for discussion at the January 26 meeting of the Faculty Senate. That meeting may also include a motion from the Academic Computing Committee on email confidentiality. The Faculty Senate chair has sent a letter to all department chairs regarding the transfer credit approval process and the transfer credit motion passed in the senate. The alcohol policy draft was discussed in the University Governance Communication Council. Faculty gave further input on the approvals process for alcohol use, and a new version of the draft is being prepared. The Faculty Senate chair will ask the ACCESS Office to give to the senate statistics on requests for service by their office and guidelines for their services. On February 9, the Professional Standards Committee will present information to the senate on research standards and scholarly misconduct. The Board of Governors of the MUB needs a faculty representative to help decide on the funding and space in the MUB. On December 8, Governor Shaheen will meet with the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate decided that five student leaders should be invited to this meeting. These student leaders and a few administrators will be introduced as senate guests, and an audio tape of the event will be made available. The chair of the Faculty Senate has sent a letter to the four senators who do not attend senate meetings. The Legislative Study Committee is meeting on campus today.

IV. Minutes - The minutes of the last senate meeting were approved unanimously.

V. Resolution on Domestic Partner Benefits - John Seavey moved that, to be
consistent with the University System of New Hampshire’s policy not to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation in treatment or employment and to provide a professional academic environment which is attractive to the most qualified faculty regardless of sexual orientation, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of the University of New Hampshire authorizes the chair of the Faculty Senate to urge the Trustees of the University System of New Hampshire to extend its benefits coverage to include same-sex domestic partnerships and in so doing bring its benefits policies in compliance with the University System of New Hampshire’s non-discrimination policy and, as of January 1, 1998, the non-discrimination policy of the State of New Hampshire. Arthur Copeland seconded the motion. Requirements for eligibility, commitment, financial interdependency and termination were listed. Opposite sex partnerships are not included, because those people have the option to marry. Concern was expressed that a vote on this issue would violate the Faculty Senate constitution’s prohibition on taking action on collective bargaining issues. This issue is not currently being discussed in collective bargaining. The motion passed with a large majority.

VI. Enrollment Management - On October 10, the Academic Affairs Committee sent a letter to the provost with recommendations regarding the Enrollment Management Report. Today the main question is about the addition of a high-level management position in this area. The committee believes that the “principle of a self-supporting structure for the addition of academic programs should be applied to this new position”, if it is filled.

VII. Sustainability - Tom Kelley, Director of Sustainability, said that the Office of Sustainability has a 7.2 million dollar endowment. There was a national search for a director, and he began this position in July. He feels that sustainability is a major challenge ahead of us and needs a conceptual framework from multiple disciplines. Higher education is a strategic point of intervention, since it trains the next generation of professionals who could fan out and share sustainable ideals; but students learn from everything around them, not just the curriculum. A goal is to integrate the principles and practice of sustainability into the core curriculum. Some current concerns are College Brook which is the ecological center of the campus but has been built over, channelized and polluted. Also, an emerald necklace of land holdings may be at risk of being sold off for current cash. How can they be developed for educational purposes? A plan has been made to do year-round composting of dining services' waste on Kingman Farm, which would use the compost to grow vegetables for sale to dining services in a closed loop. The Office of Sustainability intends to put together an ecological history of the campus on a web page. The area behind the Memorial Union Building will be planted with wildflowers and perennials which will not need to be watered, will be mowed once a year, and will foster more biodiversity and reduce erosion. Plans are also being made to beautify the circle of grass in the front of the MUB.

VIII. Open Mike - The Office of Sustainability originated from a gift and was created by the administration. Where does the mandate come from? The Faculty Senate should have some role in this. The Faculty Senate chair will ask the senate’s Campus Planning
Committee to review this matter. The meeting was adjourned.