I. Roll - The following Faculty Senate members were absent: Bornstein, Chandler, and Pugh. Excused were Bogle, Echt, Keim, Mayne, McMahon, Morris, Roh, and Williams.

II. Communications with the President - President Leitzel said that Nesmith Hall will undergo repairs to remove worn floor tiles which contain asbestos. The occupants of half the building at a time will move to other locations while repairs are made. Full renovation of the building is expected in about five years, but repair on the tiles is needed now. The university has made a request for state funding for capital improvements for the next six years. The first biennium would hopefully include Pettee Hall, Murkland Hall, the southern railroad crossing, a design for Kingsbury Hall renovations, and NH Public Television equipment. State matching funds are needed in order to qualify for federal dollars for NH Public Television. The Social Work Department will occupy Pettee Hall when its renovation is completed.

The alumni advocacy network is now in place, and alumni and parents are focusing on the governor's budget request. The faculty union ran a radio advertisement which referred to increases in the university system’s budget, but the president maintains that most of the increase is for buildings and cannot be converted to salaries. A professor asked that the university lobby for a change in priorities.

III. Communications from the Chair - The chair welcomed the faculty who have joined the senate this semester. Governor Shaheen sent a letter to the senate chair, saying that she had asked for an increase of six percent in funding for the university’s 1998/99 budget but that the legislature had not set the funding at that level. The governor’s letter will be available on the senate’s web site. Chancellor Farrell also sent a letter responding to the senate’s motion on funding for the system office. That letter and the senate chair’s reply to it will be distributed to the senators.

The Distinguished Alumni Event will be held on February 7, 8 and 9. Please attend and encourage your colleagues to attend also. Some committee meetings may be changed in order not to conflict with these events. Senate committees can meet on February 15; and the Faculty Senate will meet on February 22, in order to allow the committees time to work on their charges.

The Programmatic Review Committee for Engineering Technology will include Todd DeMitchell as chair, Steve Fan, Chris Balling, Robert Henry, Paul Brockelman, Ted Howard and Victor Benassi. The Faculty Senate chair met with Jim Washington and Walter Eggers regarding a faculty advisory committee for admissions and enrollment management. The second installment of “Faculty in the News” will be available by the end of March. Please continue to submit news articles about faculty.
IV. Minutes - The minutes of the December 7 Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

V. Report on the McNair Graduate Opportunity Program - This program provides mentoring for program participants, and faculty are encouraged to volunteer as mentors and to tell their students about the program. The McNair Program is a ten-week residential research program from June 1 to August 6, for twenty people. The student participants receive room, board, a $2000 stipend, and workshops on writing, research and GRE test preparation. The faculty mentors receive an $800 stipend for the summer.

Each student participant must be a low-income and first-generation college student or an under-represented minority, have junior standing and demonstrated academic ability, be a citizen or permanent United States resident, and plan to pursue a doctoral but not a professional degree. The Chronicle of Higher Education publishes annually which categories of students are underrepresented. Faculty and students are encouraged to contact the program in Hood House by February 19.

VI. Master Plan Review - Although everyone agrees about the necessity to renovate certain buildings, there seems to be little agreement on the senate’s Campus Planning Committee or among the faculty about some other elements of the master plan, especially the concept of a walking campus, parking and the loop road. Two maps were distributed, the first showing current parking and the second presenting the future parking and loop road proposal. Several parking lots on the main campus would be eliminated. The president is asking for two railroad underpasses, and train traffic on the line soon will at least double. Married student housing and the mini-dorms would be torn down. People are also concerned that the loop road will threaten College Woods, not only by removing a small portion of the woods but also by noise and air pollution.

Plans exist to slow down traffic through the downtown on Main Street, by adding traffic islands and narrowing the street. Some faculty said that they have no faith in the capacity of this institution to provide and maintain shuttle buses at five minute intervals and that parking on the periphery and transportation to and from campus would take too long and require many additional hours a week. Please send comments to the Campus Planning Committee by March 1.

VII. Adjournment - Today’s meeting was adjourned.