President Mark Huddleston was a guest at the last faculty meeting. He started by saying that as part of the budget deal, the House and Senate leadership need direct representation on the USNH Board of Trustees. Therefore, Chuck Morris and Shawn Jasper will be now participating as non-voting board members.

To the question about the new performing arts center, and the fire department, the president replied that the art center is still his priority, however there is still the lack of funding, and added that they are working with the city of Durham on finding a new location for the vehicles. Another question was about free education that is discussed by some presidential candidates. The president said he wasn’t hopeful it could happen in the near future. The following question was whether UNH can make college more affordable, especially for in-state students. The president replied that UNH is ahead of others in terms of cutting costs, and added that having done all the possible cuts there isn’t much that could be done, especially because UNH is promoting residential model rather than cheaper online teaching.

Next, the provost Vasu replied to questions. He was asked why there were so many Vice President positions at UNH and he said that the number is not large concerning the number of students and encouraged the faculty to compare UNH to other universities of the same size. The next question was about the earning expectations of CEPS and COLA graduates. Provost replied that CEPS graduates make much more on average than COLA graduates, and added that this ratio mirrors the fee expenses and illustrated through an example: Engineering and Computer Science students pay a $965 fee, Paul College students pay a $946 fee, and Music students pay a $400 fee.

Conversation with the Senior Vice Provost for Research, Jan Nisbet: Jan discussed three initiatives:

- Major Interdisciplinary Aspirational Proposals – funded at about $100,000 with a ten-to-one return on the dollar.
- Strengthening New Centers and Institutes – support was provided to centers to provide an external evaluation of what they are doing to help them improve. Four were funded.
- Three new centers – faculty groups that are well organized and well positioned already. Three large centers were funded: Advanced materials and manufacturing innovations (CEPS), Prevention Innovations (COLA), and the PowerPlay theatre group (COLA), as well as a smaller initiative for a Center
of Environmental and Civil Engineering on resilient infrastructure-related climate change.

Kathy Cataneo from the Office of Research Development (ResDev) then spoke to the senate and said that the Office of Research Development is here to help faculty to identify appropriate funding sources to support research and scholarship, help faculty assess when they are ready to submit to a particular sponsor, and then help faculty write the most impressive proposal possible.

Mark Milutinovich the Office for Large Center Development spoke too. He works to expand UNH’s capacity to pursue major multi- and interdisciplinary research initiatives.

Conversation with Jaime Nolan, associate vice president for campus community, diversity, and equity:
Jaime said that she is working on having one page handout to share with the campus community regarding expectations and steps towards compliance. This would outline how sexual assault/violence is defined, who the mandated reports are and are not, and what the expectations are of community members.

New business: A senator commented that the answer by provost regarding administrator bloat, was not a satisfactory one and added that in looking at the university’s organizational chart, there were more vice president positions than the provost mentioned. Another senator said she just Googled it, and that the number of administrators has doubled since 1987 while enrollments have increased by 40%. Another senator referenced hybrid positions in which faculty also work as administrators, and asked about the salary differences.

The senate chair encouraged the senator who raised this concern to put her questions into writing so that the Agenda Committee can review and address them. The chair of the Finance and Administration Committee said that her committee has been having some trouble getting information from the administration, particularly regarding the Central Budget Committee, which has not met for some time.