

## Discovery Committee Minutes – Feb 24, 2021

**Present (Zoom):** Nicky Gullace (chair), Kathrine Aydelott (vice chair), Jay Colbert, Andy Colby, Roger Grinde, Yvette Lazdowski, Lisa MacFarlane, Greg McMahon, Alicia Medros, Dawn Meredith, Subhash Minocha, Amy Oliva

**Absent:** Sajay Arthanat, Norma Bazylinski, Catherine Peebles, Charles Vannette

### I. **Welcome and Announcements**

Jenny Hargenrader introduced Jillian Cookinham as the Student Senate rep for S21. The DC welcomed Jillian and thanked Jenny for her contributions over the last almost two years.

### II. **Action Items**

#### Minutes

**Motion:** Kathrine Aydelott moved and Dawn Meredith seconded approval of the minutes of the Feb 10, 2021 meeting.

**Vote:** Yes 5; No 0; Abs 2. **Motion passed.** Minutes approved.

#### **Course and/or Program Review**

*No courses to review at this time.*

#### Student Petitions

1. Request to allow Worcester Polytechnic Institute course MATH 1023 Calculus III to fulfill QR.

**Vote:** Yes 6; No 0; Abs 0. **Petition approved.** (djoceps021521)

*Review of this petition brought up the question of whether transfer courses Calculus II and above could be coded by Admissions and the Registrar's Office as QR (provided they meet minimum grade and credit hour rules). The DC agreed this was in line with the motion they sent forward to the Faculty Senate in April 2019.*

**Motion:** Dawn Meredith moved and Kathrine Aydelott seconded to allow transfer courses equivalent to Calculus II and above to fulfill the Discovery Quantitative Reasoning (QR) requirement, reaffirming the principles of the Faculty Senate Motion on awarding Transfer and Study Abroad Discovery Credit ([#XXIII-M25 4/29/19](#)).

**Vote:** Yes 6; No 0; Abs 0. **Motion passed.**

### III. **Discussion**

#### Faculty Senate Motion to Continue Suspension of Restrictions for Online Courses through COVID-19 Pandemic –

The DC discussed the motion which states, in part: “As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, the academic model for Fall 2021 provides that face to face (F2F) instruction should occur as much as is feasible within the health and safety recommendations. However, the model anticipates a mix of course modalities with some courses offered face to face, some online, or a combination of the two...” and “The Faculty Senate requests that the Discovery, University Honors, and Writing Programs monitor the efficacy of on-line courses and provide the Faculty Senate with a report and a recommendation as to eliminating the restriction permanently. The report should be received by the end of September, 2021. The Senate has chosen this date because it will allow for any potential changes to the spring 2022 schedule.”

The majority of the DC's comments were in support of the motion noting online delivery of courses increases accessibility, would be a benefit to students, and keeps UNH competitive. However, concerns were raised regarding giving “blanket permission” for all Discovery courses to be offered online, especially Discovery Labs (DLAB). It was commented that many science faculty are not in favor of online labs.

The importance of examining best practices for delivering a general education curriculum online was discussed, as well as the need to broaden thinking regarding online course delivery and its equivalency to face-to-face.

It was reported that the Discovery office has a process in place for evaluating Discovery courses offered online (though this has been a challenging task since last spring 2020). The DC agreed by consensus that the Discovery office begin to prepare a report with rationale and documentation to bring back to them for their approval and, if passed, to forward to the Academic Program Committee of the Faculty Senate by the requested September 2021 deadline.

#### **Meeting adjourned 1:25pm.**

Submitted by Amy M. Oliva