



# University of New Hampshire

TO: President Mark Huddleston, Vice President Mark Rubinstein, Vice President Dick Cannon, Provost Lisa MacFarlane, BOT Chair Pamela Diamantis

CC: Dean Harry Richards, Dean Cari Moorhead, Bryan Merrill, Al Pace

RE: Graduate Student Senate Resolution Regarding Single-cost of Attendance Initiative

March 25, 2014

Dear Recipients,

The UNH Graduate Student Senate (GSS) is concerned over the recent vocalization of support for an initiative to consolidate tuition with other fees into one single total-cost of attendance figure. As you know, the (Undergraduate) Student Senate passed a resolution supporting this initiative back in February and President Huddleston has since endorsed the idea as well.

While the GSS strongly supports the right and responsibility of the Student Senate to represent their constituency of undergraduate UNH students, we are concerned that this initiative seems to be moving forward without allowing time for proper discussion of all parties affected, in particular graduate students.

For that reason, the GSS passed the following resolution on Tuesday, March 18, 2014 identifying the potential difficulties that may result from such a cost consolidation for graduate students. However, the GSS is not necessarily opposed to the idea of a single total-cost of attendance figure for graduate students, especially if sufficient time and discussion is given to weigh and understand the details and potential impacts of such a change. Likewise, we support the Student Senate's resolution to work with the university administration to develop a more comprehensive review of the UNH budget and recommendation to the Board of Trustees and request to be included in that process.

We thank you in advance for your time and consideration and look forward to working with you on this issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [grad.student.senate@unh.edu](mailto:grad.student.senate@unh.edu).

Sincerely,

The UNH Graduate Student Senate  
Ian Cohen, President  
Joe Gilbert, Vice President  
John McClain, External Affairs Officer  
Deanna Silva, Treasurer  
Dan Tran, Clerk  
Madhav Baral, Programs Coordinator

UNH Graduate Student Senate

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University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate

Resolution 2014:4

March 18, 2014

## **A Resolution Regarding the Proposed Consolidation of Tuition with Other Fees**

WHEREAS, the Student Senate has rightfully passed a resolution expressing the desire amongst undergraduates for tuition and fees to be consolidated into a single cost of attendance figure; and

WHEREAS, the needs and desires of graduate students at UNH vary significantly from those of undergraduate students, especially regarding tuition and fees; and

WHEREAS, tuition for graduate students, especially those participating in Doctoral or Master's research, is structured and charged differently than that for undergraduates; and

WHEREAS, graduate students at UNH do not pay all of the same fees as undergraduates; and

WHEREAS, there is a formal process by which certain eligible graduate students can petition to have mandatory fees waived, a process which is not available to undergraduates; and

WHEREAS, combining tuition and other fees together would be especially complicated for graduate students being supported by Research Assistantships because regulations on federal grant dollars allow for the payment of tuition but not of fees; and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Senate feels that an attempt to consolidate tuition and fees into a single-cost of attendance figure would be a detriment to cost transparency; and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Senate understands that having multiple tuition rates and fees may seem cumbersome, but is manageable so long as care is taken to ensure that *all* relevant figures are communicated to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Senate has in its annual mandatory fee statements repeatedly urged the UNH administration and USNH Board of Trustees to consider a more broad and holistic review of the university's greater budget and expressed its concern over the apparent attempts to shift cost increases from tuition to fees; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, the UNH administration has vocalized its support in the past for broadening the scope of budget and fee discussions, but has taken little action in that direction;

Therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Graduate Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire to strongly oppose the consolidation of tuition and mandatory fees *for graduate students* without a more open discussion regarding the details and impact of such a decision; and



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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Graduate Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire that the University Administration and (Undergraduate) Student Senate include the Graduate Student Senate in its design of a new student oversight system that allows oversight of all Responsibility Center Management (RCM) units; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Graduate Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire that the Graduate Student Senate be included in the process by which the Student Trustee's budget recommendation is determined.