



To: The New Hampshire State Senate and The New Hampshire State House of Representatives

Dear Legislators,

The University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate represents approximately 2300 full-time and part-time graduate students at campuses in both Durham and Manchester. Our membership is concerned about last year's 49% reduction of the state appropriation to the University System of New Hampshire. Our constituents and we are concerned that New Hampshire now has the lowest state support of higher education per capita of any state in the nation.

As graduate students and the citizens and leaders of tomorrow, we believe that public higher education is integral to the economic and cultural success of the state and its people. We know first-hand the quality of education that the University of New Hampshire and the other USNH institutions offer, despite low levels of state funding, but it concerns us that the state has put such a heavy financial burden on them. As tuition levels rise, there is mounting concern that students, both undergraduate and graduate, will soon start to feel that UNH and its USNH counterparts are too expensive to attend.

As detailed in the attached UNH Graduate Student Senate resolution, we encourage the Legislature to approve the proposal laid out by USNH Biennial Budget Report for FY2014-2015, entitled "Higher Education Works for New Hampshire", that pledges a two-year freeze on in-state tuition and increase in financial aid for students in need, provided the Legislature restores its budget support to FY2011 levels of \$100 million.

Sincerely,

The UNH Graduate Student Senate

Sonic Woytonik, President
Bob Swarthout, Vice President
John McClain, Treasurer, Fee Oversight Committee Chair
Ian Cohen, USNH Board of Trustees Representative
Emily Klein, Programs Coordinator
Dan Tran, Clerk

University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate
Resolution 2012:8
October 2, 2012

A Resolution Supporting the USNH Biennial Budget Request for FY14-15

WHEREAS, the University System of New Hampshire (USNH), composed of the University of New Hampshire, Plymouth State University, Keene State College, and Granite State College, graduates over 6,500 people into the New Hampshire workforce each year and contributes more than \$2 billion into the state's economy; and

WHEREAS, the state appropriation for the University System of New Hampshire was cut by 49 percent for FY2012 and now receives less than 6 percent of its operating budget from the state—the lowest level of support per capita in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the FY2012 state appropriation received by USNH would need to be tripled to reach the average state support for higher education in New England and nearly quadrupled to reach the national average; and

WHEREAS, the price of attendance at USNH institutions is far greater than it would be if the state met its obligation to properly fund public higher education; and

WHEREAS, the burden of providing financial aid to New Hampshire's neediest students falls entirely to USNH institutions, further reducing USNH's net subsidy and creating additional pressure on the price of attendance; and

WHEREAS, USNH students graduate with one of the highest debt loads in the country; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire's public colleges and universities struggle to retain the best and brightest high school graduates in the state because they can often go to other states' schools or private institutions at less cost after scholarships are factored in; and

WHEREAS, the USNH Board of Trustees approved a Biennial Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2014-2015, entitled "Higher Education Works for New Hampshire", that pledged a two year freeze on in-state tuition and increase in financial aid for students in need, provided the Legislature restores its budget support to FY2011 levels of \$100 million;

Be it RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate commends the University System of New Hampshire for its efficiency and effectiveness in supplying high-quality education to the students of New Hampshire, despite the lowest state support per capita in the nation; and

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate implores the New Hampshire State Legislature to approve the Biennial Budget Request for FY2014-2015 as submitted by the University System of New Hampshire as a symbol of the State of New Hampshire's recognition of the importance and need for higher education.