



15 March, 2012

To: The New Hampshire State House of Representatives and Senate
From: The Graduate Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire
Re: Opposition to HB 1692-FN

Dear Representatives and Senators,

The University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate represents approximately 2300 full-time and part-time graduate students. Our membership is concerned about the recent passage of *HB 1692-FN: an act making changes to the administration of the University System of New Hampshire (USNH)* by the Finance Committee of the New Hampshire House of Representatives. We are concerned about the estimated \$12,250,000 annual cost of this bill to the USNH and its component institutions through multiplication of effort and the loss of financially beneficial economies of scale. Ultimately, this passage of this bill would create an unnecessary added financial burden for New Hampshire's students and their families.

Having worked closely with the USNH Board of Trustees in recent years and seeing their commitment and initiative to maximize the efficiency of the university system, as evidenced by the board's unanimous October 2011 resolution that started the process of providing maximal delegation of authority to campus presidents and reexamining all "shared services" now coordinated by the chancellor's office, the graduate students of UNH feel that the USNH board of trustees should be allowed to finish the work they have already begun in addressing the efficiency of the system.

As detailed in the attached UNH Graduate Student Senate resolution, we encourage the House of Representatives to recommend HB 1692-FN as Inexpedient to Legislate or to refer the bill to interim study, allowing the USNH board of trustees to implement the measures approved in its October 2011 plan.

Sincerely,

The UNH Graduate Student Senate

Bob Swarthout, President
Daniel Budak, Vice President
John McClain, Treasurer
Ian Cohen, USNH Board of Trustees Representative
Emily Klein, Programs Coordinator
Michael Staley, Clerk

UNH Graduate Student Senate

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University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate

Resolution 2012:1

March 15, 2012

A Resolution Opposing HB 1692-FN

WHEREAS, on February 8th, 2012 the New Hampshire House of Representatives recommended passage of HB 1692-FN: an act making changes to the administration of the University System of New Hampshire (USNH), and referred the bill to the House Finance Committee, and

WHEREAS, HB 1692-FN would eliminate the office of the USNH chancellor and transfer all power and duties of the Chancellor to the USNH Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, the USNH chancellor's office currently provides centralized functions to all four component institutions including purchasing, human resources and benefits, debt services, legal counsel, and capital projects planning and financing, and

WHEREAS, 28 individual investigations of the efficiency of the USNH chancellor's office have concluded that the centralized functions of the chancellor's office are financially beneficial to its four component institutions and their students, and

WHEREAS, HB 1692-FN would drastically reduce the number of employees in the USNH chancellor's office who provide these services, resulting in the elimination of financially beneficial economies of scale and creating a multiplication of effort as the functions of the chancellor's office are taken on by each component institution, and

WHEREAS, this multiplication of effort and loss of economies of scale would directly increase costs to the USNH and its four component institutions by an estimated \$12,250,000 annually and would create an unnecessary added financial burden for New Hampshire's students and their families, and

WHEREAS, the USNH has recognized that the budgetary needs of the state of New Hampshire do merit serious, knowledgeable consideration of the structure and efficiency of the state's system of public universities, and

WHEREAS, in October 2011 the USNH Board of Trustees unanimously passed a resolution to "implement a path to enhanced independence, autonomy, and self-governance for each of the component institutions", and has already begun to make necessary changes to the USNH by assessing all Board and USNH policies and procedures with the aim of providing maximal delegation of authority to campus presidents and reexamining all "shared services" now coordinated by the chancellor's office, and

WHEREAS, the changes to the USNH already approved by the Board of Trustees in the October 2011 plan would accomplish many of the same aims as HB 1692-FN without creating an additional economic burden for New Hampshire students and their families, and

WHEREAS, members of the board of trustees of the University System of New Hampshire and the presidents of its constituent institutions testified before the New Hampshire Education Committee against the passage of HB 1692-FN, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Graduate Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire encourages the members of the New Hampshire Legislature to recommend HB 1692-FN as Inexpedient to Legislate or to refer the bill to interim study, allowing the USNH board of trustees to implement the restructuring approved in the October 2011 plan to make the USNH as financially efficient as possible without compromising the integrity of the services that it provides to its component institutions and their students and to do so without raising costs for New Hampshire's students and their families, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Graduate Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire encourages the USNH board of trustees to implement the October 2011 plan as soon as possible and to provide regular status updates to the New Hampshire Legislature.

Graduate Student Senate

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