

**Resolution AY2018-2019.1, Urging UNH Commitment to Graduate and Family Housing
Introduced April 16, 2019; Passed April 26, 2019**

WHEREAS, “[The School Agreement](#)” between the University of New Hampshire and the town of Durham, signed April 19, 2016, and in effect for 10 years, requires the University to pay upwards of \$17,000/year in lieu of taxes for every dependent child living on campus and attending Durham public schools;

WHEREAS, that agreement makes housing families with children cost-prohibitive for UNH;

WHEREAS, Forest Park, constructed 1961-68 “[to replace the former College Road Apartments, which had been deemed too hazardous for continued occupation](#),” will be demolished after June 30, 2019, following partial closure during AY2018-19 due to hazardous conditions;

WHEREAS, the demolition of Forest Park thus reduces on-campus graduate housing options and completely eliminates the only on-campus family housing options;

WHEREAS, the Housing Steering Committee’s initial recommendations, based on findings from the housing survey conducted in the fall semester of 2018, have been premised on the doubtful claim that “there is no significant unmet demand for on-campus graduate housing”;

WHEREAS, 20% of all graduate respondents to that survey (52 of 258 completed surveys) referred to the high cost of on-campus housing in their optional open-ended comments;

WHEREAS, 67% of domestic off-campus graduate respondent comments (35 of 52 comments) cited high cost as the reason they do not live on campus;

WHEREAS, the initial recommendations from the Housing Steering Committee would limit on-campus graduate housing options to single-occupancy units, with additional resources devoted only to supporting graduate students’ searches for off-campus housing;

WHEREAS, faculty and graduate students have expressed concerns [at least since 2006](#) that a lack of affordable family housing at UNH poses risks to diversity initiatives and graduate recruitment;

WHEREAS, UNH staff, administrators, and faculty contributed to [The Sustainable Learning Community](#), which referred to the 2004 Campus Master Plan in urging “a significant long-term increase in on-campus housing — with a result of reduced commute trips to campus” (p. 119);

WHEREAS, a 2010 housing survey, referred to in the [2012 Campus Master Plan](#) (pp. 44-45), reinforced concerns about a lack of affordable graduate and family housing at UNH;

WHEREAS, the UNH Faculty Senate passed Motion [XXIII-M21](#) (April 15, 2019) “on the need for UNH family housing,” and therein make reference to previously passed [Motion XIII-M14](#) (April 6, 2009) and [Motion XV-M7](#) (February 14, 2011) regarding the importance of family housing at UNH;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate urges the UNH Administration to commit itself to providing affordable on-campus housing options for graduate students, their partners, and their children.