

Graduate Student Senate



Graduate Student Senate, UNH Graduate School
Thompson Hall, 105 Main Street, Durham, NH 03824
Email: Grad.Student.Senate@unh.edu

The GSS Health and Wellness Committee submitted the following letter for the consideration of the Graduate Student Senate on 4/13/2020.

To Whom it May Concern,

On February 10, 2020, Stacey Hall, Executive Director of Student Engagement and Development), met with the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) to reveal the proposed plans for renovations to the Memorial Union Building (MUB). In order to align with the University's goal to Embrace New Hampshire, we believe it vital that the new MUB space provide opportunities for one of its most underserved populations—its students (both undergraduates and graduate) with families.

In 2016 the Faculty Senate noted the waiting lists at the UNH Child Study & Developmental Center "indicate that capacity would need to double to accommodate existing need" among the community's faculty, staff, and students (Motion # XX-M30). These wait lists, however, remain. While lactation rooms were recently added in the MUB to meet some family needs, this does not solve the variety of needs students with families have. Given that this portion of our student body is in a particularly tight financial situation, and given that the University has not addressed this population's proven needs, we advocate the following,

To urge: that the University address the previously noted outstanding needs its students with families face;

To urge: that the University be transparent and increase communication regarding matters concerning students with families; and

To urge: that the University create a reserved space in the proposed MUB renovations specifically for families which would accommodate both their familial and academic needs. This proposed space should include the following:

- Adequate space to include multiple students and their families at the same time.
- Private lactation room similar to the ones that were recently installed on campus.
- Private bathroom with changing table and child-size toilet.
- Work spaces (desks/tables/etc) for students.

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- Child-size and adult-size furniture.
- Kitchenette--microwave, cabinets, counterspace, sink and drying space for cleaning and sanitizing.
- Cubbies to store children's and parent's outdoor clothing/bags.
- Closet to house shared resources.
- To be placed in a location which is most accessible for parents using strollers.

We believe these accommodations would be a welcome addition to the proposed MUB additions and would provide valuable resources to an important population of students.

**This letter was approved by the Graduate Student Senate on 04/27/2020.*

Graduate Student Senate President

Casey O'Heran

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