



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

GSS External Affairs Officer, Jacob Bennett, submitted the following resolution for the consideration of the Graduate Student Senate.

Resolution AY2019-2020.3, Concerning the Campus Climate Survey Results

WHEREAS, the [Campus Climate Survey](#)¹ results released earlier this fall include some encouraging and positive findings regarding the support and sense of inclusion graduate students feel they have received from their advisors, departments and programs, and other faculty; but

WHEREAS, the Survey results suggest disparities along the lines of gender identity, including findings that

- 37% of male-identifying graduate students and 28% of female-identifying graduate students “strongly agree” they are satisfied with the quality of advising they receive; and
- 59% of male-identifying graduate students and 36% of female-identifying graduate students “strongly agree” they have adequate access to their advisors; and
- 55% of male-identifying graduate students and 41% of female-identifying graduate students “strongly agreed” their advisors responded promptly to emails and calls; and
- 45% of male-identifying graduate students and 35% of female-identifying graduate students “strongly agree” department faculty members respond promptly to emails and calls; and
- 31% of male-identifying graduate students and 19% of female-identifying graduate students “strongly agree” they have adequate opportunities to interact with faculty outside their departments; and
- 40% of male-identifying graduate students and 30% of female-identifying graduate students “strongly agree” they receive support from advisors to pursue research interests; and
- 43% of male-identifying graduate students and 28% of female-identifying graduate students “strongly agree” their advisors and/or department faculty encourage them to present research and produce publications; and

WHEREAS, the Survey results do not report on the responses of graduate students of color due to the risk of unmasking individuals owing to such small numbers of respondents at the department or program level; and

WHEREAS, the Survey results suggest disparities between students who identify as heterosexual

¹ The Survey reports on graduate student perceptions at the department level (pp. 279-288), and also includes results regarding reasons graduate students give when they have seriously considered leaving the University (pp. 288-305).

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and those who identify along the queer spectrum, including findings that

- a greater proportion of graduate students who identify along the queer spectrum than those who identify as heterosexual “strongly disagree” or “disagree” they have adequate opportunities to interact with faculty outside their departments; and
- 60% of graduate students who identified along the trans spectrum, compared with 25% of male-identifying and 20% of female-identifying students considered leaving the university; and
- 33% of graduate students identifying along the queer spectrum, 27% of those identifying as bisexual, and 20% of those identifying as heterosexual considered leaving the university; and

WHEREAS, the Survey results suggest disparities along lines of socioeconomic status, including findings that

- 73% of total student respondents “strongly agreed” or “agreed” that they felt valued by their adviser, compared to only 37% of low-income students and 30% of students who are both first generation and low income; and

WHEREAS, the Survey results suggest disparities along lines of ability, including findings that

- 16.5% of graduate students who reported having a disability, compared with 25.2% of graduate students without a disability “strongly agreed” their department has provided opportunities to serve the department or university outside of research or teaching; and
- 31% of graduate students who self-reported a disability and 22% of those who reported no disability considered leaving the university; and

WHEREAS, themes emerged from the qualitative comments made by 237 graduate student respondents, including findings that

- advising relationships were sometimes unclear to graduate students, some of whom reported not knowing who their advisor was or not knowing who replaced an advisor who left the program or university, or reported having minimal interaction with a known advisor; and
- non-advising relationships with faculty in students’ programs or departments were sometimes non-existent or indicative of a lack of concern for students’ professional development or financial difficulties;

Therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate recognizes the vital importance of regular and clear communication from advisors and other faculty to effective inclusion and support for all graduate students in the departments and programs that are home to their studies, scholarship, and development; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Graduate Student Senate urges graduate academic

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programs do more to recruit and retain underrepresented minority students and faculty; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Graduate Student Senate urges the UNH Administration ensure all graduate academic programs offer instructional staff, especially those with advising responsibilities, opportunity and incentive to participate in professional development meant to define and prevent unconscious bias in terms of race, ethnicity, sex, gender, sexual orientation, ability, socioeconomic, and citizenship statuses.

**This resolution was passed by the Graduate Student Senate on 11/4/2019.*

Graduate Student Senate President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Casey O'Heran". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Casey O'Heran