

Graduate Student Senate



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

GSS CEPS Senator, Dominic Payne, submitted the following resolution for the consideration of the Graduate Student Senate.

Resolution AY2019/2020.2, Public Transportation Policy

Whereas, The Transportation Policy 2003-2018 Review and Update (TPC15) stresses the importance of a 'walking campus' initiative, which explicitly rejects an increase in parking capacity and discourages single-occupancy car trips in lieu of more efficient alternatives, and

Whereas, the TPC15 acknowledges a need for a more dynamic review, assessment, and adjustment of wildcat transit routes to maintain quality services and discourage on-campus use of private vehicles, and

Whereas, in coordination with the Energy Task Force (ETF), the Transportation Policy Committee (TPC) seeks to support the University of New Hampshire in its Emissions reductions commitments so that UNH is seen as a leader in environmentally friendly initiatives in the coming decade, and

Whereas, the Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS) has recently given the University of New Hampshire the coveted Platinum status, which is set to expire in September of 2020, and

Whereas, graduate students, while a minority of the student population, provide relatively low cost labor yet make a vital contribution to the University of New Hampshire and its reputation as a top research institution, deserving of its new R1 tier status recognized by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, and

Whereas, graduate students have a higher percentage of international students on visas than the general student population, and a significant portion of these students may not have a license or may not be able to get a car, and

Whereas, compared to undergraduate students, staff, and faculty, graduate students are more likely to have on-campus commitments at odd hours such as early mornings, late nights, weekends, and summer due to time sensitive lab experiments and other deadlines, and

Whereas, the recent closing of Forest Park apartments has likely displaced many graduate students out of Durham and changed prospective ridership data in surrounding towns

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BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRADUATE STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

To urge, The University of New Hampshire to strongly commit to making wildcat transit the primary mode of transportation for off-campus students, staff, and faculty in accordance with section 3 under *Fundamental Principles* in the TPC15 document and in line with sustainability goals.

To urge, The University of New Hampshire, in accordance with sections 5 and 6 under *Fundamental Principles* and section 2 under *Core Strategies* in the TPC15 document, to maintain active and transparent review of the transit needs of the community on a consistent basis, including coming up with ways to assess potential ridership data on non-existent or defunct transit routes.

To urge, The University of New Hampshire to more effectively communicate any transportation updates, including changes to wildcat transit routes, in a timely manner prior to their implementation so that students, staff, and faculty can make informed transportation and housing decisions.

To urge, The University of New Hampshire to prioritize public transportation on a long-term basis, in the pursuit of a more environmentally friendly campus and pedestrian friendly campus, in accordance with sections 1 and 3 under *Fundamental Principles* and sections 2 and 5 under *Core Strategies* as outlined in the TPC15 document.

To urge, The University of New Hampshire to revise the criteria by which bus routes are deemed necessary to maintain, such that they are accommodating to the needs of undergraduate and graduate students alike.

**This resolution was approved by the Graduate Student Senate on 10/28/2019.*

Graduate Student Senate President

Casey O'Heran