

UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XX-M19
on protecting university lands

1. Motion presenter: John Carroll, Senate Campus Planning Committee chair
2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 3/21/2016, 4/11/2016

3. Rationale: The Faculty Senate has a primary obligation to protect the academic resources of the UNH campus, and is designed to be fully representative of the academic mission of the faculty. The university lands, both woodlands and open fields, are critically important academic assets to UNH, for both teaching at all levels and for undergraduate, graduate and faculty research. These lands are made significantly more valuable to UNH given their close proximity by foot or bicycle to every student, faculty or staff member living or working on the UNH campus. For nearly 125 years, in fact as long as UNH has been in Durham, these on-campus university lands have been providing such service to the UNH academic community. Occasionally, it seems that UNH administrators, among others, may underestimate the fragility and irreplaceable worth to the university of these lands per se, valuing their potential for development or sale as surplus more highly.

These lands are vital to UNH's academic mission. They are arguably as important as classrooms, laboratories and libraries of UNH. As such, these lands must be protected from any form of development which would compromise, reduce or destroy the myriad unique academic activities that they make so easily available and accessible to all students and faculty. For adequate protection, the university should create and sell a Conservation Easement on, at minimum, College Woods, including the College Woods Natural Area.

4. Motion: Let it be resolved that the Faculty Senate goes on record to protect these valuable academic assets, UNH's farms and woodlands in Durham, Lee and Madbury, and asks university administration to take such measures as necessary to protect these lands as outdoor academic assets in perpetuity.

5. Senate action: The motion was put to a voice vote and passed unanimously, with no abstentions.

6. Senate chair's signature: Deborah A. Kinghorn

Forwarded to the following on May 13, 2016

President Mark Huddleston
Interim Provost P.T. Vasudevan
Mary Rhiel, Interim Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs
All college deans
All department chairs