To Whom It May Concern:

The University of New Hampshire Student Senate has passed the attached resolution concerning educational inclusivity at UNH. According to UNH Disability Services for Students (DSS), UNH seeks to “create a welcoming, universally accessible environment where all students are able to participate in the myriad aspects of the UNH experience.” Despite this policy, the University and the State of New Hampshire currently do not have any programs offering a post-secondary educational experience to persons with intellectual disabilities. Meanwhile, there are 247 programs around the country providing some sort of collegiate experience to persons with intellectual disabilities.

The Student Senate respectfully urges the University to create a committee with the task of assessing the potential implementation of a program for UNH in which students with disabilities may participate in collegiate life and have the opportunity to experience life at the University of New Hampshire.

Respectfully,

Gabriel Hoffman
Student Senate Speaker
University of New Hampshire

Doug Marino
Assistant Student Senate Speaker
University of New Hampshire
Student Senate Resolution XXXVII – 42 Regarding Educational Inclusivity at UNH

Introduced by: Academic Affairs Chairperson, Justin Poisson
Date: April 24th, 2016

Whereas, the University of New Hampshire prides itself on being inclusive and diverse while maintaining an environment where the “primary purpose is learning”¹ and

Whereas, UNH seeks to provide “a welcoming, universally accessible environment where all students are able to participate in the myriad (of) aspects of the UNH experience”² and

Whereas, there are students at all grade levels in the state of New Hampshire, New England, and beyond with intellectual disabilities who would not otherwise be able to attend a college or university because of academic-related roadblocks, and

Whereas, it has been documented that including peers with mental and intellectual disabilities into general education classes furthers their ability to learn and feel included³,⁴ and

Whereas, as of the current date, there are two hundred and forty-seven (247) programs across the nation providing varying degrees of collegiate accommodations to students with intellectual disabilities in the way of academic course offerings, housing/dormitory arrangements and other emerging practices and,⁵

Whereas, there are currently zero programs offering a post-secondary four-year program for students with intellectual disabilities in the state of New Hampshire and

Whereas, “Youth with intellectual disabilities have the lowest rates of education, work, or preparation for work after high school of all disability groups”⁶, therefore

Be it resolved by the Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire to recommend that the necessary stakeholders at the University of New Hampshire create a committee assessing the feasibility and potential implementation of such a program wherein students with

¹ http://unh.edu/president/mission
² https://www.unh.edu/disabilityservices
³ http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/SpecialEducation/AllInclusive.pdf
⁴ http://www.who-cares-about-kelsey.com/about/the-team
⁵ http://www.thinkcollege.net/index.php?option=com_programsdatabase&task=search
disabilities could participate indiscriminately and in the same capacity as their peers without intellectual disabilities.

**Senate Action:** Passes Unanimously  
 **Speaker Verification:** *Gabriel Hoffman*