To all those whom it concerns,

The Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire recently passed the attached resolution urging the University of New Hampshire to take several specific steps regarding the current smoking policy on campus. The Student Senate took both the University’s long-term goals and its current standards into consideration in order to develop a series of recommendations regarding current concerns and potential solutions that pertain to smoking policy. The chief requests of the Student Senate are for the University to reconsider methods of enforcement and education regarding the current smoking policies, and to develop a taskforce to reconsider the smoking policy as a whole.

Respectfully,
Gabriel Hoffman
Speaker of the University of New Hampshire Student Senate
Student Senate Resolution XXXVII – 34 Concerning Smoking Policy on Campus

Introduced by: Health and Wellness Chairperson, Emily Counts, Student Body President, Cameron Cook

Date: March 6th, 2015

Whereas, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) has current policy that states that no individual may smoke “Inside all buildings owned and occupied or leased and occupied by UNH, University vehicles” and some outdoor areas 1, and

Whereas, within the UNH Tobacco policy, there is a specific clause that states that there shall be no smoking “…within twenty (20) feet of a building or an air intake unit” and

Whereas, currently, the Office of Community Standards (OCS) enforces the UNH Tobacco policy typically through a fine on the first offense 2, and

Whereas, UNH Health Services and the Office of Health Education and Promotion provide the UNH community with “prevention and cessation programs to students upon request…” 1, and

Whereas, UNH is committed, as stated by the Strategic Plan, to be the healthiest campus in the nation by 2020 3, and

Whereas, many students have expressed concerns about the current policy, its enforcement, and the education surrounding it, including through the Student Master Plan 4, therefore

Be it resolved by the Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire to recommend the following changes:

1. A re-evaluation of the sanctions that OCS delivers for violating the UNH Tobacco Policy to be more stringent
2. To educate the UNH community on policy and enforcement more effectively
3. To provide more educational programming to the UNH community around the UNH Tobacco Policy and tobacco in general
4. To create a task force of relevant University stakeholders to develop these changes and analyze the UNH Tobacco Policy and the health and culture as a whole.

Senate Action: Passes with three abstentions
Speaker Verification: Gabriel Hoffman