

University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate
Resolution 2014:2
January 28, 2014

A Resolution Regarding Graduate Student Participation in the Election of Student Trustee

WHEREAS, RSA 187-A:13.IIIb of the charter of the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) states that student trustees serving on the USNH Board of Trustees “shall be elected by the student body at the school responsible for providing the student trustees”; and

WHEREAS, the University of New Hampshire (UNH) has over 2,100 graduate students that represent roughly 15% of the total student population; and

WHEREAS, graduate students cannot currently vote in the UNH election for the position of Student Trustee because it is tied into the election process of the (Undergraduate) Student Senate in accordance with BOT.I.A.4-5; and

WHEREAS, the language of BOT.I.A.4-5 explicitly restricts graduate students from participating in the voting process for the position of Student Trustee at UNH as it currently stands and does not reflect the separate governing structure of undergraduate and graduate students at UNH; and

WHEREAS, UNH graduate students have consistently elected involved and dedicated University System Student Board (USSB) Representatives, who have undertaken many leadership roles, through the Graduate Student Senate; and

WHEREAS, many graduate students spend more than two years at UNH, especially those who have already completed an undergraduate degree at UNH, and can easily meet the four-semester criterion for candidacy stipulated by BOT.I.A.3.1; and

WHEREAS, a graduate student serving as student trustee can represent and serve the needs of undergraduate students as well as an undergraduate student serving as student trustee can represent and serve the needs of graduate students;

Be it RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate strongly encourages the USNH Board of Trustees to consider amending its policy BOT.I.A. to allow graduate students to vote and run for the position of student trustee; and

Be it FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate strongly encourages the administration of the University of New Hampshire to reexamine its procedures for student government elections to include the graduate student population.