



## **Resolution: Fostering Inclusive Discourse on Campus**

*Adopted October 20, 2015*

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Senate (GSS) strives to be inclusive, diverse, and equitable, and supports those values for our campus; and

WHEREAS, UNH President Huddleston has stated that “Our deep commitment to diversity, and to the values of civility and inclusiveness that nurture diversity, is central to who we are;”<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS, the use of micro-aggressions on the UNH campus negatively impacts graduate students as well as members of our broader Wildcat community; and

WHEREAS, the GSS wants to be able to support graduate students who may be on the receiving end of micro-aggressions; and

WHEREAS, the GSS supports UNH graduate students taking into consideration how the language they use may affect others; and

WHEREAS, the GSS believes UNH graduate students should have the resources and support to engage in the enterprise of thoughtful and critical thinking regarding inclusive language; and

WHEREAS, in the 1990s members of the President’s Commission on the Status of Women created a “Guide to Non-Sexist Language”; and

WHEREAS, members of the UNH community, professionals who through their work research and/or address micro-aggressions and their consequences, created a “Bias-Free Language Guide” in 2013; and

WHEREAS, this guide was available to the UNH community on the website of the Office of Community, Equity, and Diversity as a web link under the heading “Resources”; and

WHEREAS, the GSS recognizes that controversy recently ensued over this particular guide (and/or particular parts of the guide) in the summer of 2015; and

WHEREAS, this controversy included a spurious claim that the 2013-2015 “Bias-Free Language Guide” infringed on free speech; and

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.unh.edu/inclusive/presidents-statement-diversity>

WHEREAS, this guide was removed from UNH’s website on July 30, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the GSS, as an advocate for graduate student concerns, is interested in encouraging the UNH administration to foster “our collective commitment to respecting the rights, dignity, and worth of all community member;”<sup>2</sup>

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate believes it is appropriate for UNH to have some type of discussion guide or toolkit that encourages inclusive discourse available to the UNH community; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate welcomes constructive dialogue with the Office of the President regarding how to work together toward our shared goals of inclusive excellence. It is our sincere hope that we can work together to create a supportive empathetic Wildcat community that upholds and affirms all graduate students and all members of the UNH community.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.unh.edu/vpsas/handbook/welcome-university-new-hampshire>