University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate
Resolution AY2015-2016:
March 8, 2016

A Resolution Encouraging the Update and Enforcement of Smoking & Tobacco Policies

WHEREAS, the University of New Hampshire has smoking and tobacco policies in place to “protect the health, safety, and comfort of University faculty, staff, and visitors” (RSA 155: 64-77); and

WHEREAS, the existing policy establishes non-smoking areas, such as within 20-feet of a building or in service lines, such as for bus stops; and

WHEREAS, the existing policy does not specify a mode of enforcement, but rather relies on the “consideration and cooperation of smokers and nonsmokers”; and

WHEREAS, the existing policy does not specify any standards regarding the disposal of cigarette waste that, if not handled properly, can cause substantial environmental pollution; and

WHEREAS, the accumulation of cigarette waste on the grounds surrounding academic buildings presents aesthetic challenges along with the aforementioned environmental risks; and

WHEREAS, within the UNH Strategic Plan, sustainability is defined as “what sustains us as diverse people and communities, from clean air and water to healthcare, education and art;”

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate strongly encourages the following changes:

1) The reasonable enforcement of existing smoking and tobacco policies – specifically, maintaining nonsmoking areas
2) Enhancing educational efforts to inform faculty, staff and students about existing policies
3) Employing personnel on campus who are equipped with the necessary tools and authority to enforce policies beyond residential halls and to ticket those who violate policies
4) Conducting an assessment of the quality, quantity, and location of cigarette waste containers on campus
5) Developing a revised smoking and tobacco policy about the enforcement process and resultant consequences.