Durham Town Council  
15 Newmarket Road  
Durham, NH 03824  

Dear Durham Town Council Members,

On Sunday, November 3rd the University of New Hampshire Student Senate adopted the following resolution requiring that the Town of Durham pay for all costs incurred by maintaining the current size of the pool, including the cost of accommodation and any operating costs associated with a larger pool size.

Additionally, the resolution requires that the Town Council send said costs to the taxpayers via a referendum rather than utilizing the Town’s operating budget to cover the costs.

Finally, the resolution requires that the University of New Hampshire not allow student money to be utilized for anything above the construction cost of the proposed pool.

The conclusion among students is that keeping the pool its current size would not be in the best interest of students, as they are not in a position to make good use of the pool as it is primarily available, and practical, to use it during the summer months.

Students also voiced the belief that the proposed size for the new pool would be more than adequate to fulfill the needs of both the students and the residents of Durham.

This resolution was written by the Student Body President, Bryan Merrill.

Should you have any questions about this resolution, I may be contacted at senate.speaker@unh.edu or at 862-0304.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Albert F. Pace III  
Speaker of the Student Senate

CC:  
Dr. Mark Huddleston, President, University of New Hampshire  
Dr. Mark Rubinstein, Vice President for Student and Academic Services  
Dr. Kevin Charles, Assistant VP/Executive Director UNH Health Services  
Dr. Stacey Hall, Director, Hamel Center  
Doug Bencek, Director, Campus Planning  
Mica Stark, Special Assistant to the President Government Relations and Strategic Initiatives  
Megan Davis, Chief of Staff, President’s Office  
Bryan Merrill, Student Body President

Office of Student Senate  
Memorial Union Building, 119A  
Durham, New Hampshire 03824  
603-862-1494  
student.senate@unh.edu
Student Senate Resolution XXXV – 05 Regarding the Financing of the UNH Pool

Introduced by: Student Body President, Bryan Merrill
Date: November 3, 2013

WHEREAS, as part of the Hamel Recreation Center Expansion plans, the University of New Hampshire Administration and the Town of Durham are currently in negotiations regarding the future state of the UNH Outdoor Pool, and

WHEREAS, as part of these negotiations, the University of New Hampshire Administration currently intends to construct a pool of approximately 10,000-16,000 square feet, and has agreed to work with the town to ensure that said pool is sufficient for the needs of both the University and the Town, and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned high-end 16,000 square footage stipulation is a result of a professional study on the needs of the University and Town, and

WHEREAS, this square footage stipulation is actually much more generous than was actually deemed necessary by the study, and

WHEREAS, 10,000 square feet has been deemed more appropriate and also fits the needs of both the University and the Town of Durham, and

WHEREAS, this 6,000 square foot difference creates a cost savings of approximately $1.1 million for UNH students while still fulfilling all involved parties’ needs,1 and

WHEREAS, despite this, some within the Town have expressed interest in preserving the pool in its current state (approximately 40,000 square feet) via retrofitting (reducing the footprint to approximately 32,000 square feet), which would require over $6.6 million in repairs and renovations,2 and

WHEREAS, accommodating a larger pool in the design of the Hamel Recreation Center could incur additional costs upwards of $2 million, and

WHEREAS, if a larger pool is constructed, the larger facility will incur significantly larger annual operating costs,3 and

WHEREAS, although the University has stated that the additional cost of any pool that exceeds the proposed 10,000-16,000 square feet should be paid for by the town, the University has not stated that the Town should pay for the cost of accommodating a larger pool or the yearly increase in operating costs should a larger pool be chosen, and

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1 See Supplement B
2 See Supplement B
3 To place things in context, the current outdated pool costs $115,000-$160,000 annually, which is paid by the mandatory Student Recreation fee (See Supplement A) Source: Campus Rec Budget, FY03-12
WHEREAS, while Students understand the need for a healthy town and gown relationship and strive to maintain that balance, we believe the criteria for accommodation are already well met due to the fact that:

1) The aforementioned 10,000-16,000 square feet is already more than satisfactory
2) The Administration and contractors will ensure the pool satisfies the needs of both the University and the Town, and
3) Students are paying for all of the above; and

WHEREAS, the University of New Hampshire’s financial commitments are to the best interests of the student body and not to the town of Durham, and

WHEREAS, given that extensive, good-faith commitment to accommodation has already been made, having students pay for the cost of accommodation at a cost upwards of $2 million as well as a significantly increased operating costs every single year into perpetuity is excessive and grossly inappropriate, and

WHEREAS, in addition, the Town council has expressed interest in bypassing the normal referendum route (by which taxpayers would vote yes/no to issue bonds to pay for the net cost of a larger pool) in favor of funding the larger pool via the towns operating budget, and

WHEREAS, while it is not the prerogative of Student Senate to advocate for Durham taxpayers per se, the amount of students living in Durham and the reality is that (contingent on tax incidence, etc.) a substantial amount of any tax increase would fall on students, and

WHEREAS, no decision with such significant implications on Durham’s citizens—students or not—should be removed from the hands of voters, and

WHEREAS, furthermore, any commitment via the operating budget carries a certain level of additional risk, as said commitment may be contingent on newly elected Town Council members maintaining the same interests and ideals as their predecessors as well as the financial stability of the town over the agreed period of payment, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED by Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire to demand that the University of New Hampshire Administration not allow student money to be utilized for anything above the construction cost of the proposed pool at a 10,000 square foot level, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire to require that the Town pay for not only the increased construction costs, but also the cost of accommodation and net difference in operating costs incurred as a result should they decide they want a bigger pool, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire to require that the Town Council send said cost to the taxpayers via a referendum rather than utilizing the operating budget strategy.

ADOPTED on the 3rd OF NOVEMBER, 2013

ALBERT F. PACE III
Speaker of the Student Senate
Supplements:

Supplement A:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mandatory Fees - 12-20 Credits</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>2013/2014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Activity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Services and Counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Memorial Union</td>
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<td>Student Recreation</td>
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<td>Transportation Fee</td>
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<td>Total Mandatory Fees</td>
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Supplement B:

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<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Water Surface</th>
<th>Swimmer Capacity</th>
<th>Social Space</th>
<th>Social Space Capacity</th>
<th>Total Capacity</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>40,000 sq ft</td>
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<td>8,230 sq ft</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>1,646</td>
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<td>Retrofit</td>
<td>32,000 sq ft</td>
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<td>22,900 sq ft</td>
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<td>$3.7M</td>
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Source: Outdoor Pool Working Group Summary 8/23/13