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### University of New Hampshire NEASC self-study report 2003. Part 1: The eleven standards: overview

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## **PART I: THE ELEVEN STANDARDS OVERVIEW**

For its New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) accreditation review, the University of New Hampshire elected to undertake a focused self-study in addition to its report on compliance with NEASC's 11 Standards. With the agreement of NEASC and concurrence of the chair of the NEASC site visit team, a "mini site visit" structured around the 11 Standards is scheduled for May 1-2. The University's main self-study activity has focused on three areas central to implementing the Academic Plan for the Future of the University of New Hampshire – The Undergraduate Experience, Engagement Through Research and Scholarship, and Institutional Effectiveness. The focused self-study report will form the basis for the full site visit schedule in October.

What follows is a self-study on our compliance with NEASC's 11 Standards. We will refer to this as the Self-Study: Part I. It is an abbreviated report since the more extensive self-study – Self-Study: Part II – is being conducted on the focus areas and will be submitted in August, 2003.

Despite its abbreviated nature, the Self-Study: Part I reveals some significant changes since our last re-accreditation in 1993. Foremost is our institutional commitment to planning. Never before has the university attempted such an inclusive and integrated approach to planning. The efforts are discussed at various places in the self-study. We have much to celebrate. At the same time, we recognize the need to implement key elements of the Academic Plan and to integrate planning at all levels with resource allocation and assessment. This complex process of integration and implementation will be the focus of the Self-Study: Part II.

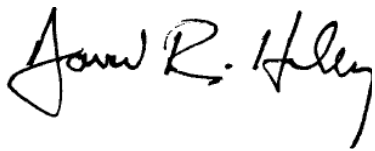
Planning is essential for a state university historically challenged by limited state funding. Over the last ten years, however, the university has enjoyed staggering success in fundraising, grants, and contracts. In 1992 the new UNH Foundation (1989) generated \$6.6 million in private support. In 2002 the Foundation completed a \$100 million capital campaign two years ahead of schedule. At the time of its last accreditation, the University had generated about \$33 million in external grants and contracts. In 2002, that figure topped \$85 million.

Since 1993, the university has carefully managed both new construction and renovation of existing facilities. One of our most notable achievements was a partnership with Trustees, the System office, and the business community that convinced the State Legislature to appropriate \$100 million in capital funding in 2002 for construction and renovation. Much more is needed, but process offers a model for future efforts.

The 1993 self study expressed serious concerns about governance, particularly the University's relationship with the Trustees and the University System. The last decade has seen significant progress in this area. It is not an issue in this report. Internal governance, however, remains a target of careful attention. In 1993, the faculty union was new, an initial contract had just been signed, and the self study could only project hope

for smooth negotiations in the future. Collective bargaining over the next two contracts, however, has not gone smoothly. For the most recent contract negotiation, the Trustees (who managed the first negotiations) have allowed the university administration to bargain directly with the faculty union. This structure offers hope of speedier and smoother negotiations.

We expect NEASC to characterize the University of New Hampshire as an institution that meets and exceeds expectations described in the 11 Standards. While this preliminary report offers candid appraisals and projections, the deeper analysis will follow in Self-Study: Part II. We look forward to the team visits in April and October, as a chance to consult with caring yet critical peers who will strengthen our efforts to achieve our mission.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R. Hiley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

David R. Hiley  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
March 2003