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UNH FACULTY SENATE MOTION # XX-M30 on active university support for childcare

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UNH FACULTY SENATE
MOTION # XX-M30
on active university support for childcare

1. Motion presenters: Emily Poworoznek & Kang Wu, Senate Campus Planning Committee

2. Dates of Faculty Senate discussion: 4/25/2016, 5/2/2016

3. **Rationale:** Almost 10 years ago, a comprehensive study conducted by the UNH President's Commission on the Status of Women thoroughly documented the need for high-quality, affordable childcare. Childcare is essential to most working people with young children, and the quality of childcare is widely recognized as a key dynamic in child development. UNH seeks to provide a family-friendly environment, yet there is less nearby accredited childcare for infants and toddlers than 15 years ago. The UNH Child Study & Development Center (CSDC) is part of the Department of Human Development & Family Studies, and its capacity is set to fulfill its academic mission, not to meet university community needs for childcare. Waiting lists indicate that capacity would need to double to accommodate existing need. The environment is stressful for families as well as for faculty and staff parents' departmental colleagues. Meanwhile, academic expectations for employees have increased. It is time for the University to set a high priority on and actively support the expansion of child care options for the UNH community.

Given the clear need, academic climate, and the range of possibilities for cooperation and in-kind support that exist, it is time for the University to play an active role and wholeheartedly embrace its opportunities to encourage the expansion of high-quality, affordable childcare in the immediate vicinity

As the Executive Summary of the Women's Commission Child Care Study concluded:

"The University of New Hampshire, in its development of a family leave policy for faculty, is beginning a courageous journey towards developing a comprehensive family-friendly campus climate. The development of more extensive child care services and programs to meet the needs of faculty, staff and students would be a reasonable and sound next step in the process. As the Flagship University in the University System of New Hampshire, we can use this opportunity to provide an example of leadership not only to the other members of the system, but to the other Land Grant Universities in the New England states."

Therefore,

4. **Motion:** Let it be resolved that the Faculty Senate urges the University Administration to support high-quality, affordable childcare for the UNH community by actively encouraging and creatively leveraging resources toward childcare expansion on and in the immediate vicinity of the UNH Durham campus, including updated facilities for the Child Study & Development Center, in a collaborative manner with in-kind and other available means of support and cooperation. We request that the administration report back to the Senate next year by October 17th on their intentions and plans in this regard.

5. Senate action: The motion passed unanimously with no abstentions.

6. Senate chair's signature: Deborah A. Kinghorn

Forwarded to the following on May 13, 2016

President Mark Huddleston,

Interim Provost P.T. Vasudevan

Mary Rhiel, Interim Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs

All college deans

All department chairs