EMERGENCY RESOLUTION - Concerning Halloween Weekend Amidst the COVID 19 Pandemic
To be moved by: *Community Development Chair*, Hannah Falcone and *Student Body Vice President*, Tyler Silverwood.

Be it enacted by the Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, Halloween weekend has traditionally been a weekend of heavy student partying and drinking on and off the UNH campus, and

WHEREAS, the Durham area and the rest of the country are still facing the effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic, one of which is the rapid transmission of the virus which can easily occur through such partying and drinking events, especially when attendees are not wearing masks, and

WHEREAS, the Durham Chief of Police, Rene Kelley, has issued over 500 warnings for mask violations to students since the beginning of the semester in Durham, and

WHEREAS, although students have been fairly consistent in mask wearing and testing compliance throughout the fall semester thus far, Halloween weekend is far enough into the semester that they may begin to disregard necessary precautions and just want to enjoy themselves, and

WHEREAS, Halloween falls on Daylight Savings Time this year, so there will be an extra hour of Halloween to account for, and

WHEREAS, the University is currently succeeding in keeping COVID-19 cases and the spread of the virus to a minimum by requiring students to test twice a week and wear masks at all times, and

WHEREAS, allowing people to party recklessly on Halloween weekend may cause clusters of COVID-19 cases and cause students to be sent home prematurely, and

WHEREAS, students who attend parties on Halloween weekend may endanger the students who come into contact with them through day-to-day life on campus, such as in-person classes or visiting the dining halls, and

WHEREAS, the state of New Hampshire is currently at a critical point in slowing the spread of COVID-19 while students are still on campus, and

WHEREAS, the town of Durham is participating in socially distant, in-person Trick-or-Treating on the evening of October 31, 2020, and

WHEREAS, both the state of New Hampshire and the town of Durham do not currently have a legal cap on the size of gatherings and therefore any sized gathering is legally "allowed" unless in a direct violation of a lease agreement or zoning ordinance, and

WHEREAS, weather in New England is decreasing rapidly which correlates to a larger amount of gatherings inside, which contributes to the spread of COVID-19 due to lack of proper air flow, and

WHEREAS, on October 24, 2020, New Hampshire saw its largest single day count of positive COVID-19 cases (129 positive cases) since May,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE STUDENT SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

TO URGE, the UNH community, including the UNH Police Department, Durham Police Department, UNH Residential Life, and the Durham Landlord Association, to come together and encourage students to follow both the University's COVID-19 guidelines as well as the Town of Durham's Mask Ordinance on the nights of October 29th, 30th, and 31st

TO RECOGNIZE, the great work of the Student Body in following COVID-19 guidelines and keeping case counts low on campus

TO PROMOTE: a risk mitigation strategy composed of the following four elements since it is likely that students will continue to party on this weekend despite risks of contracting COVID-19:
1. Encourage students to keep their gatherings to 14-18 people or fewer
2. Encourage students to know the names of everyone they are partying with for purposes of contract tracing
3. Encourage students to physically distance while drinking and to keep masks on while not actively doing so
4.Encourage students to make mask wearing a part of their Halloween costume

To recognize, the great work of the Student Body in following COVID-19 guidelines and keeping case counts low on campus

Senate Actions: Passes with Two Nays and Two Abstentions
Speaker Verification: Igor Garcia