



BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting Held at USNH Offices
5 Chenell Dr., Suite 301, Concord, NH
(January 23, 2025)

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Executive Committee members present at meeting location (USNH System Office, 5 Chenell Dr., Concord, NH 03301): Chair Mike Pilot, Kass Ardinger, Jackie Eastwood, and Cathy Green. Executive Committee members participating by videoconference: Kevin Knarr (travel), Peter Paul (unavoidable scheduling conflict). Committee member unable to attend: Gregg Tewksbury. Other Trustees present at meeting location: Jamie Burnett, Elizabeth Chilton, Shawn Jasper, Cathy Provencher, and David Westover. Other Trustees participating by videoconference: Donald Birx, MJ Condon, James Gray, Brian McCabe, Mackenzie Murphy, and Melinda Treadwell. Others participating in the meeting: UNH Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration Aaron Howell.

Call to Order: At 4:30 pm, Chair Pilot called the meeting to order and confirmed the presence of a quorum sufficient for the conduct of business.

Approval of Minutes: By motion made by Trustee Eastwood and seconded by Trustee Green, the committee voted unanimously by roll call as follows to approve the minutes of its December 19, 2024 meeting:

VOTED, that the Executive Committee approves the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of December 19, 2024, as presented in the materials for this meeting.

NOAA++ Project Budget Approval: At the Committee's last meeting, it reviewed materials and heard remarks on the proposed expansion of the previously approved NOAA building project at UNH. The proposed expansion would create additional space in the project for colocation of existing industry partners. At that time, it was noted that the matter would return to the Committee for consideration in January, and that action was needed at that time in order to maintain project deadlines. UNH President Chilton described the importance of the project to UNH's goal of positively impacting New Hampshire's economy. UNH EVP for Finance and Administration Aaron Howell then reviewed the expanded project budget proposal for the Committee. Committee members asked questions about the project scope, market demand for the space, and assumptions underlying the financial projections.

Following extensive discussion, by motion made by Trustee Ardinger and seconded by Trustee Green, the committee voted unanimously by roll call as follows to approve the project budget:

VOTED, on recommendation of the UNH President, that the Executive Committee approves a project budget not to exceed \$9 million dollars for the expansion of the Ocean Mapping Center of Excellence High Bay to include industry partners, with source of funds intended to be \$3 Million from UNH Reserves and \$6 Million from USNH's Strategic Investment Fund; and,

FURTHER, if the \$5 million of federal fund currently appropriated for the initial \$25 million project approved in June 2024 is not funded, UNH shall work with NOAA to scale back the initial project to the available funding level which is currently \$20 million.

Standing Item: Update on President and Chancellor Systemwide Goals: Chancellor Provencher updated the Committee on this work. The Presidents Council will meet on January 24 to create a list of action items for addressing systemwide financial and operational challenges. The Council also met with representatives of NECHE regarding experiences in other New England states that have revisited or changed accreditation structure. The Presidents Council also will discuss Grant Thornton's recommendations for possible adjustments to the system's revenue and cost allocation formulae.

New Business: The Committee discussed the recent federal executive order regarding federal funding for entities with DEI programs that violate federal law. Current state law already bars the sort of preferences identified in the order; however, the system's institutions will compile a list of DEI programs and review them for compliance and to have on hand to respond to possible questions. The Chancellor and Presidents also shared their generally positive sense of how the recent Workday rollout has gone. The Committee also discussed the recent report issued by a UNH committee regarding the events of May 1 of last year. President Chilton noted that all of the report's recommendations remain under advisement, and nothing will be implemented without further study and development, but that the report represents a needed chance for UNH's community to move forward.

Adjourn: At 5:58 pm, Chair Pilot called for further business and, hearing none, adjourned the meeting.