



BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting Held at USNH Offices
5 Chenell Dr., Suite 301, Concord, NH
(February 20, 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, Cathy Green, and Gregg Tewksbury. Executive Committee members participating by videoconference: Kevin Knarr (unavoidable scheduling conflict), Peter Paul (unavoidable scheduling conflict). Other Trustees present at meeting location: Donald Birx, Jamie Burnett, Elizabeth Chilton, Sen. James Gray, Cathy Provencher, and Melinda Treadwell. Other Trustees participating by videoconference: Maureen Beauregard, MJ Condon, Joël Nkounkou, Christiana Thornton, and David Westover.

Call to Order: At 4:00 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 Ardinger, the committee voted unanimously as follows to approve the minutes of its January 23, 2025 meeting:

VOTED, that the Executive Committee approves the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of January 23, 2025, as presented in the materials for this meeting.

UNH Jackson Estuarine Lab Expansion and Renovation Project Budget Approval: UNH EVPFA Aaron Howell and AVP Bill Janelle presented to the Committee on this project. The lab brings in approximately \$2.7 million in research funds and conducts research related to the Great Bay and for the aid of local municipalities. The project will allow for that work to be expanded. The project is being brought before the Committee because delaying consideration until the next full Board meeting is projected to increase project costs by 10%. Trustees asked questions and received information regarding the risk that federal funds would not be available and what mitigation strategies UNH has in place in that eventuality. Trustees also asked questions regarding the expected operating costs and incremental revenues that would be generated by the project.

Upon motion made by Trustee Knarr and seconded by Trustee Eastwood, the Committee voted unanimously by roll call as follows to conditionally approve the presented project budget:

VOTED, on recommendation of the UNH President, that the Executive Committee approves a project budget not to exceed \$5.83 million dollars for the UNH Jackson Estuarine Lab

Expansion and Renovation project, with source of funds intended to be \$3.68 million from Federal NIST Grant, \$1.82 million gift funds and \$.33 million from UNH funds; and

FURTHER, if the projected \$3.68 million of federal funds are not appropriated for the project or pulled back at the federal level, UNH will scale back the project by \$3.68 million or place this project on hold.

Plymouth State University South Campus Steam Loop Project Budget Approval: PSU President Don Birx and VPFA Tracy Claybaugh presented on this topic. The proposed project would repair steam infrastructure providing heat and hot water to a large group of buildings on campus. The matter is being brought before the Committee because the system is at a high risk of failure, risking loss of heat to nine campus buildings. In addition, approval now would align the project with a related project to be undertaken by the Plymouth Water & Sewer District this summer.

Upon motion made by Trustee Eastwood and seconded by Trustee Tewksbury, the Committee voted unanimously by roll call as follows to approve the project budget as described in the meeting materials:

VOTED, on recommendation of the PSU President, that the Executive Committee approve a project budget not to exceed \$2.3 million dollars for the PSU South Campus Steam Loop project, with source of funds intended to be PSU reserves.

Standing Item: Update on President and Chancellor Systemwide Goals: Chancellor Provencher updated the Committee on this work. The Presidents' Council has charged FinEC with identifying underutilized buildings and options for divesting, along with opportunities for monetizing space. The Presidents' Council is also reviewing existing shared services and determining whether shared services could or should be expanded to additional back office areas. Work is also underway to benchmark the System's IT costs and services. The Committee then received updates from the Chancellor and Presidents on the ongoing ERP implementation. The Committee also discussed the extent to which efficiencies, structural changes, or both could best help address the System's projected financial challenges.

Nonpublic Session: At 5:08, upon motion made by Trustee Tewksbury and seconded by Trustee Green, the Committee voted unanimously by roll call as follows to enter nonpublic session for the reasons stated:

VOTED, that the USNH Board of Trustees Executive Committee enters nonpublic session for the purposes of discussing collective bargaining strategy or negotiations and consultation with legal counsel, as authorized by RSA § 91-A:2.I (a) and (b); and to consider the sale or lease of real property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party whose interests are adverse to that of the general community as authorized by RSA § 91-A:3.II(d).

Return to Public Session: At 5:45pm, upon motion duly made and seconded, the Committee voted unanimously to return to public session.

Report of Action Taken in Nonpublic Session: Chair Pilot reported that in nonpublic session the Committee took the following action:

Approval of One-Year Extension to Collective Bargaining Agreement between PSU and the AAUP: By motion made by Trustee Eastwood and seconded by Trustee Tewksbury, the

Committee voted unanimously by roll call as follows to approve a one-year extension of the CBA in place between PSU and the AAUP:

VOTED, that the USNH Board of Trustees Executive Committee approves the Extension of the 2022-25 Collective Bargaining Agreements between the University System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees/Plymouth State University and Plymouth State University American Association of University Professors (AAUP) as presented in the materials for this meeting.

Sealing of Minutes of Nonpublic Session: By motion made by Trustee Green and seconded by Trustee Eastwood, (with a 2/3 majority required to approve), the Committee voted unanimously by roll call as follows to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session (except the action reported above):

VOTED, pursuant to R.S.A. 91-A:3(III), that the minutes of the nonpublic session be sealed because disclosure would render the nonpublic session ineffective.

Further Business: Trustee Knarr noted that every effort should be made to bring capital projects to the relevant Board committee rather than rely on Executive Committee action.

Adjourn: At 5:49 pm, Chair Pilot called for further business and, hearing none, adjourned the meeting.