



BOARD OF TRUSTEES JUNE 26-27, 2025 REGULAR MEETING

Meeting Held at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH
Merrill Conference Center, Multipurpose Room B

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance June 26: Trustees present at meeting location: Chair Mike Pilot, Vice Chair Kass Ardinger, Maureen Beauregard, Donald Birx, Jamie Burnett, Elizabeth Chilton, MJ Condon, Jeremy Dupuis, Jackie Eastwood, Cathy Green, Patrick Griffin, George Hansel, Shawn Jasper, Brian McCabe, Mackenzie Murphy, Joël Nkounkou, Peter Paul, Catherine Provencher, Wayne Semprini, Melinda Treadwell, Christiana Thornton, and David Westover. Trustees participating by videoconference: Secretary Kevin Knarr. Trustees not in attendance: Frank Edelblut, Isabella Falcetti, Sen. James Gray, Rep. Rick Ladd, and Gregg Tewksbury.

Call to Order: At 3:18 pm, Chair Pilot called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient for the conduct of business.

UNH Strategic Plan: UNH President Chilton updated the Board on UNH's in-process five-year strategic plan. President Chilton noted that the previous plan expired at the end of May, and her goal is not just to develop a replacement but to also design a robust implantation program so that the plan is of practical use. The framework for the plan was developed by a 36-person working group and included feedback from stakeholders across the institution. The work was guided by the question of where UNH wants to be in 2030, with the overarching goal of advancing UNH's role as New Hampshire's public research university. It also included an assumption that, because of the demographic realities of the region, UNH will become 15% smaller over the medium- to long-term.

The workgroup articulated four pillars for the plan: Strengthening UNH's Impact, Be a First-Choice Destination, Interdisciplinary Teaching and Research Excellence, and Commitment to Well-Being and Belonging. UNH is forming an implementation committee that will be charged with developing specific goals and related metrics for each of the four pillars. These goals and metrics will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised regularly during the term of the strategic plan. Updates will be provided to UNH leadership and board on an ongoing basis as this work continues. Trustees noted that the presentation clearly identified the need for buy-in across the campus and the need for close management of limited resources in order to be successful.

Presidents' Council Strategic Vision Work: Chair Pilot noted that the Board had tasked the Presidents' Council with developing a vision for how the System should change the way it does business in the face of declining enrollment and reductions in state and federal funding. Chair Pilot noted that trustees needed to provide the Council with candid feedback on its plans. Chancellor Provencher then set out an overview of the work done by the Council. As part of that work, the Council

spoke with the leaders of other higher education systems, outside experts, and the System's accreditors, among others. Chancellor Provencher also acknowledged that further due diligence and stakeholder consultation will be needed in order to achieve any major change at the System. Options considered included:

- Maintaining the status quo structurally
- Combination with the community college system
- Combining only PSU and KSC with the community college system
- Integration of UNH and the system office and coordinating leadership at PSU and KSC
- Reorganizing as a single university with multiple campuses
- Leadership consolidation without reorganizing as a single campus under new NECHE rules

Nonpublic Session: At 3:57 pm, on motion made by Trustee McCabe and seconded by Trustee Hansel, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to enter nonpublic session for the reasons stated below:

VOTED, pursuant to R.S.A. §§ 91-A:2.I(b) and 91-A:3.II(j), that the Board enter nonpublic session for the purposes of discussing matters affecting collective bargaining strategy and/or considering confidential personnel, financial or commercial information.

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

Sealing of Nonpublic Session Minutes: At 5:49 pm, on motion made by Trustee Burnett and seconded by Trustee Griffin, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session for the reasons stated below:

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.

Recess: At 5:50 pm, the Chair recessed the Board until 8:30 am on June 27.

In Attendance June 27: Trustees present at meeting location: Chair Mike Pilot, Vice Chair Kass Ardinger, Maureen Beauregard, Donald Birx, Jamie Burnett, Elizabeth Chilton, MJ Condon, Jeremy Dupuis, Jackie Eastwood, James Gray, Cathy Green, Patrick Griffin, George Hansel, Shawn Jasper, Rick Ladd, Brian McCabe, Mackenzie Murphy, Joël Nkounkou, Peter Paul, Catherine Provencher, Wayne Semprini, Melinda Treadwell, Christiana Thornton, and David Westover. Trustees participating by videoconference: Secretary Kevin Knarr. Trustees not in attendance: Frank Edelblut, Isabella Falcetti, and Gregg Tewksbury.

Return to Order: At 8:33 am, the Chair called the meeting back to order and noted the continued presence of a quorum.

Chair's Remarks: Chair Pilot welcomed incoming UNH alumni trustee Jen Petrie and incoming UNH student trustee Matthew Ash. The Chair then recognized outgoing trustees MJ Condon, Mackenzie Murphy, Cathy Green, Ethan Dupuis, and Jackie Eastwood, and expressed the System's enormous gratitude and thanks for their work on the board.

Host Campus Presentation: PSU President Don Birx introduced PSU Director of Student Life Jessica Dutille and PSU students Daniel Donahue and Natalia Guay, who gave a presentation on the efforts PSU makes to welcome new students to the PSU community. The presentation reviewed PSU's new student orientation programs and options for finding a sense of belonging, including a variety of student clubs and assets like the student fitness center. Belonging supports student success and well-being and so is the core of PSU's orientation program. The program also provides resources to parents so that they can help support their students.

Consent Agenda: By motion made by Trustee Green and seconded by Trustee Hansel, the Board unanimously voted by roll call to approve the consent agenda items as follows:

VOTED, that the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of the meeting held on March 20, 2025 as presented.

Chancellor's Update: With assistance from Rep. Ladd, and Sen. Gray, Chancellor Provencher updated the Board on yesterday's passage of the state budget, which will reduce funding to the System by 15% by 2026-27.

KSC President's Report: President Treadwell reported on the increase in partnerships with community and industry at KSC and the successful completion of the first comprehensive fundraising campaign in KSC history, with nearly \$27 million raised.

UNH President's Report: In addition to the update in the meeting materials, President Chilton shared her experience of presiding over her first commencement at UNH and noted that UNH's new Provost, Jeanette Riley, will begin work next week. UNH is also beginning a new program designed to raise public awareness of how research at UNH benefits the state as a whole. Finally, President Chilton thanked the UNH Advancement team for the successful completion of its recent seven-year, \$360 million fundraising campaign.

PSU President's Report: President Birx noted that PSU's new three-year degree programs have met with significant interest. President Birx also noted that PSU has been working with federal legislators to seek funding for workforce housing and new physician's assistant programs at PSU.

Recess: At 9:45 am Chair Pilot recessed the meeting for a short break.

Return to Order: At 10:00 am Chair Pilot called the Board back to order.

Educational Excellence Committee Report and Related Board Action: Committee Chair Eastwood presented the report of the committee's June 26, 2025 meeting. The Chair noted that the trustees had all attended the Committee meeting making a detailed report unnecessary and thanked the members of the Committee for their work over her tenure as Chair. Following the report, the Board took the following action on recommendation of the committee.

Appointment of Faculty with Tenure at UNH: By motion made by Trustee Ardinger and seconded by Trustee Eastwood, the Board unanimously voted by roll call as follows to approve an appointment with tenure at UNH as described in the supporting materials for the Educational Excellence Committee agenda:

VOTED, on recommendation of President Chilton and the Educational Excellence Committee, that the Board of Trustees approve the award of tenure to a newly appointed professor within the Department of English at the University of New Hampshire, as presented in the supporting materials for the Educational Excellence Committee.

Audit Committee Report: Committee Chair Paul presented the report of the Committee's June 26 meeting. The Committee reviewed audit results on areas of risk including implementation of the System's new enterprise software. It also discussed risks associated with changes to the terms and conditions of federal grants during the past year.

Governance Committee Report: Committee Chair Ardinger presented the report of the Committee's June 26 meeting. The Committee reviewed the results of the annual trustee self-evaluation. Overall scores were good, although trustees reported a lack of engagement in campus events. As a result, the Committee suggests that trustees be made aware of campus events more regularly. The Committee also discussed the need for trustee education on higher education budgeting processes, either as part of the new trustee orientation or during the Board retreat. The Committee will also review the survey to remove duplicative or less pertinent questions. The Committee also discussed potential revisions to the Board policy on attendance. Finally, the Committee held its annual discussion on the role of the Chancellor. While there were no substantive discussions on the topic, following the discussion of the matter by the full Board the Committee intends to take up the issue over the summer so that the Board can consider proposals at its retreat. The Committee also determined to keep its standing item on Board diversity, pending possible modification based on changes in state law.

Investment and Capital Planning Committee Report: Committee Chair Knarr presented the report of the committee's June 26, 2025 meeting. Chair Knarr reported generally favorable results in the System's investment portfolio. The short-term investment pool is up roughly 5% year-to-date allowing for an increase in the projected returns in the FY 26 budget. The Committee then approved a life safety project at the Paul Creative Arts Center. The Committee then received as report on the recently concluded procurement process for a master developer of the Edge project. UNH is currently concluding a nonbinding MOU with the selected developer and will consider whether and how to move on with the project based on those negotiations.

Financial Affairs Committee Report and Related Board Action: Committee Vice-Chair Knarr presented the report of the Committee's June 26 meeting. Chair Knarr noted that trustees had all attended the meeting and thanked the trustees for their work and input during the meeting. Following the report, the Board took the following action on recommendation of the committee.

Approval of System FY 26 Budget: By motion made by Trustee Hansel and seconded by Trustee Burnett, the Board unanimously voted by roll call as follows to approve the System's FY 26 budget as presented to the Financial Affairs Committee:

VOTED, on recommendation of the Financial Affairs Committee, that the Board approves the operating and capital budgets for the University System applicable to the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 (FY26) as presented in the attachments;

AND FURTHER, in the event revenues are lower than currently anticipated in the attachments, requires the Presidents' Council to make budget adjustments to reduce expenses to the lower revenue levels to meet the systemwide Operating Margin; if unable to do so, the Council will seek amended approval from the Board for the revised FY26 budget by August 2025;

AND FURTHER, in the event material expense savings targets are incorporated into the proposed budgets (across the board reductions, planned initiatives, etc.), requires the Presidents' Council to provide and updates to the Executive Committee of the Board to include detailed plans for achieving the savings;

AND FURTHER, requires the use of available restricted and external funding prior to the use of any USNH funds with exceptions requiring the approval of the institutional CFO or CFO designee;

AND FURTHER, by July 31 the institutional Presidents are directed to provide the Board Chair, FAC Chair, and ICPC Chair with sufficient additional information to permit full evaluation of the institutions' plans to achieve their required additional costs savings in FY 26 and to provide any additional information requested by the chairs.

Nomination Committee Report and Related Board Action: Committee Chair Green presented the committee's recommended slates of Board officers and Nomination Committee members for FY 26. The recommendations are:

Board Chair:	Mike Pilot
Board Vice-Chair	Kass Ardinger
Board Secretary	Kevin Knarr

Nomination Committee Chair : Jamie Burnett (two-year term)
Nomination Committee Member: Gregg Tewksbury
Nomination Committee Member: Maureen Beauregard

Following the report, the Board took the following action on recommendation of the committee.

Election of Board Officers and Nomination Committee Members: By motion made by Trustee Hansel and seconded by Trustee Jasper, the Board unanimously voted by roll call (Trustees Ardinger, Knarr, and Pilot abstaining) as follows to elect its Board officers and Nomination Committee members for FY 26:

VOTED, upon recommendation of the Nomination Committee, that the Board of Trustees elects the Board Officers and Nomination Committee members specified in the attached report.

Nonpublic Session: At 10:48 am, on motion made by Trustee Hansel and seconded by Trustee Jasper, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to enter nonpublic session for the reasons stated below:

VOTED, pursuant to R.S.A. §§ 91-A:2.I(b) and 91-A:3.II(j), that the Board enter nonpublic session for the purposes of discussing matters affecting collective bargaining strategy and/or considering confidential personnel, financial or commercial information.

Return to Public Session: At 1:15 pm, by motion duly made and seconded, the Board returned to public session.

Sealing of Nonpublic Session Minutes: On motion made by Trustee Jasper and seconded by Trustee Hansel, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session for the reasons stated below:

VOTED, pursuant to R.S.A. § 91-A:3.III., that the minutes of the nonpublic session be sealed until the close of business on July 1, except that the institutional presidents may disclose the action taken by the Board in nonpublic session before that time at their discretion.

Closing Remarks: Chancellor Provencher noted that trustees had taken up a collection for donations to be made on behalf of outgoing trustees. Donations will be made on behalf of Trustee Green to the basic needs fund at UNH Franklin Pierce Law School, on behalf of Trustee Eastwood to a nursing scholarship program, and on behalf of Trustee Murphy to a scholarship program at Nashua Community College. Chair Pilot concluded by thanking the trustees for their work and noting the challenging work ahead.

Adjourn: At 1:24 pm Chair Pilot called for further business and, hearing none, adjourned the meeting.