



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
JUNE 26, 2025

PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY
PLYMOUTH, NH

MEETING MINUTES
Approved October 23, 2025

Attendance

Committee members present: M. Jacqueline Eastwood, committee chair; Wayne Semprini, committee vice chair; MJ Condon: Anthony DiVito; Ethan Dupuis; Nathan Fredrickson (remote); Patrick Griffin; Tim Hoheneder; Shawn Jasper; Mackenzie Murphy; Christiana Thornton; David Westover

Other trustees present: Kassandra Ardinger; Maureen Beauregard; Donald Birx; James Burnett, III; Elizabeth Chilton; Cathy Green; George Hansel; Kevin Knarr (remote); Brian McCabe; Joel Nkounkou; Peter Paul; Michael Pilot; Catherine Provencher; Melinda Treadwell

Other participants: Kathleen Grace-Bishop, Nathaniel Bowditch, Megan Carpenter, Kimberly DeRego, Melissa Goyait, Cyndee Gruden, Joanne Landers, MB Lufkin, Kirsti Sandy

Call to Order

Committee Chair Eastwood called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. She called attention to the NH occupational projections requiring postsecondary education and emphasized the role of USNH in helping to meet NH workforce needs.

Approval of Consent Agenda

Moved by Chair Eastwood, duly seconded, and approved.

VOTED, that the consent agenda for the Educational Excellence Committee's meeting of June 26, 2025, be approved as presented.

Consent Items:

- Minutes March 20, 2025
- UNH Award of Tenure

Motion, on recommendation of President Chilton, that the Educational Excellence Committee recommend for approval by the Board of Trustees the award of tenure to the newly appointed professor within the Department of English at the University of New Hampshire, as presented in the supporting material.

(The name of the individual will be disclosed upon final approval by the full Board of Trustees.)

- Promotion and Tenure Awards

Motion, on recommendation of the respective presidents, that the Educational Excellence Committee approve the promotion and tenure recommendations for faculty of the University of New Hampshire, Keene State College, and Plymouth State University, as presented in the supporting material.

Names of the individuals approved for promotion and/or the award of tenure are listed below.

Keene State College

Associate Professor

Lito Amit
Abdulrazak Balogun
Paul Fowler

Professor

Kimberly Bohannon
Johanna Dery
Niall Moran
Kirstin O'Brien

Tenure

John Hart
Emily Lambert
Kim Lauffer
Eric Shannon

Plymouth State University

Associate Professor with Tenure

Rajeev Sachdev
Christopher Stoddard
Joshua Wakeham

Professor

Gregory Dumont
Maria Sanders

University of New Hampshire

Associate Professor with Tenure

Yashar Eftekhari Azam
Szu-Han Kay Chen
Madhavi Devasher
Inchan Kim
Anyin Li
Kathryn Greenslade
Andrew Macpherson
Scott McNamara
Rem Moll
Jill Sherman
Sherri Simmons-Horton
Viktoriya Staneva
Anupama Sukhu
Susan Wager

Professor

Stephen Ciccone
Jianhong Chen
Szu-Feng Chen
Francois Foucart
Casey Golomski
Kyung Jae Jeong
Adrienne Kovach
Roy Planalp
Jayson Seaman
Sandhya Shetty
Vidya Sundar

Professor with Tenure

Amy Keesee

- Information

Annual Academic Reports: Academic Plan and Program Review, Academic Quality Metrics

University System Student Board (USSB)

Student trustees and USSB representatives, with input from Kathleen Grace-Bishop, director of education and promotion for UNH Health and Wellness, presented information about substance abuse prevention and intervention resources at USNH institutions. Information included examples of alcohol, nicotine, and other drug education and counseling (ANOD) frameworks and recommendations/proposed action for USNH institutions. Trustees expressed interest in receiving quantitative outcomes data that demonstrate improved student retention and success through increased ANOD resources. The USSB was asked to continue the discussion next year in consultation with student affairs leadership.

Do incoming freshmen value our research?

Chair Eastwood reported that results of UNH prospective student surveys around incoming first-year student expectations for research participation supported the high premium placed on the UNH research enterprise. Survey results indicated that UNH was known for "cutting-edge research opportunities," with half of enrolled first-year students planning to participate in original or faculty research. Chair Eastwood also reported that 1,500 to 2,000 undergraduates annually participate in the UNH Undergraduate Research Conference, making it one of the largest conferences of its kind in the country. Trustees expressed interest in receiving statistics that connect UNH undergraduate research opportunities to admissions yield and to graduate student enrollment.

Middle School Postsecondary Outreach

Trustee Thornton, president and CEO of Granite Edvance, and Melissa Goyait, director of Education Talent Search (ETS), a federally funded TRIO program at UNH, presented information about NH programming that aims to help to prepare low-income, first-generation youth for enrollment and success in postsecondary education. Engagement activities tailored to youth in grades 5 through 8 include career and aptitude exploration, college awareness, campus tours, and financial literacy. Group and individual sessions are designed to promote the value of early planning and provide students and parents guidance for college readiness preparation at the secondary level and for navigating financial aid and college admissions processes. Trustee Nkounkou, a first-generation college graduate, credited ETS for helping him early on to develop a college-going mindset and confidence for success.

Enrollment Update

Enrollment management leaders presented information about admissions and registration activity as indicators of fall 2025 enrollment, net revenue projections at UNH, online and hybrid programming at the UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law, and ongoing enrollment management risks and mitigation strategies. On the topic of the Law School, President Chilton and Dean Carpenter additionally provided an update on UNH compliance with accreditation standards. Discussion centered on fall enrollment and touched on the shrinking traditional college-age population, market demand, competition, Pell eligibility changes, discount rates, first-year admitted applicant yield, and summer melt expectations.

Adjournment

Provost Bowditch recognized key staff transitions, and he thanked outgoing Chair Eastwood for her service to the Board, her committee leadership, and her work to advance educational excellence for the state's citizenry.

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.