



BOARD OF TRUSTEES GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting Held at Plymouth State University, Plymouth, NH
Merrill Conference Center, Multipurpose Room B
(June 26, 2025)

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Governance Committee members present at meeting location: Committee Chair Kass Ardinger, Jamie Burnett, Cathy Green, Patrick Griffin, Christiana Thornton, and David Westover. Other trustees present: Elizabeth Chilton and Mike Pilot. Others participating in meeting: USNH General Counsel Chad Pimentel.

Call to Order: At 10:53 am, Committee Chair Ardinger called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient to do business.

Approval of Minutes: By motion made by Trustee Green and seconded by Trustee Griffin, the Committee unanimously voted as follows to approve the minutes of its March 20, 2025 meeting:

VOTED, the Governance Committee hereby approves the minutes of its March 20, 2025 meeting as presented in the materials distributed with the agenda to this meeting.

Review of Results of Annual Trustee Self-Evaluation and Survey: The committee reviewed the responses to the annual survey and noted low scores related to trustee engagement and participation in campus events. In response, staff will attempt to curate a monthly email to board members alerting them about events on campus. The committee also noted that multiple respondents had noted a lack of background in university budgeting processes. The committee suggests that training be made available, either online or possibly at the next Board retreat, on higher education financial structures and terminology to allow trustees to better participate in budget discussions. The committee will also review the questionnaire in an effort to streamline it by removing less important or duplicative questions.

Review of Trustee Attendance Data and Related Board Policy: The committee determined that the Board policy on trustee attendance should be updated in order to better encourage in-person attendance at meetings and discourage unexcused absences from meetings. The General Counsel will draft proposed revisions and bring them to the committee and board for review and approval at the next board business meeting.

Review of Committee Charter Workplan: The Committee reviewed and accepted its proposed work plan for the coming year as presented in the meeting materials. The committee also determined that no changes were needed to its charter.

Discussion on Structure of UNH Chancellor Position: The Governance Committee maintains this as a standing annual agenda item on this issue each June. The committee noted that this issue will be discussed by the full Board when it meets later in the day, and so did not engage in substantive discussion about the options for the structure of the Chancellor role. However, at the suggestion of Board Chair Pilot, following the discussion at the board meeting the committee will plan to develop recommendations for possible changes to the role of the Chancellor (if needed) prior to the Board's retreat in September.

Diversity on the Board of Trustees (Standing Item): The committee received an update from the General Counsel on a pending bill that could affect the Board's work in this area and determined that it should keep the topic as a standing agenda item.

Adjourn: At 12:14 pm, Chair Ardinger called for further business and, hearing none, adjourned the meeting.