



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

USNH SYSTEM OFFICE  
FARNUM HALL  
28 COLLEGE DRIVE, CONCORD, NH

MEETING MINUTES  
**November 20, 2025**

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**Attendance**

Committee members present at meeting location: Acting Chair Kass Ardinger, Jamie Burnett, Gregg Tewksbury

Committee members participating remotely: Kevin Knarr, Peter Paul

Committee members absent: Patrick Griffin, Mike Pilot

Other trustees participating: Maureen Beauregard, Don Birx (remote), Elizabeth Chilton (remote), Caitlin Davis (remote), James Gray (remote), Tim Hoheneder (remote), Shawn Jasper, Brian McCann (remote), Jennifer Higgins Pitre (remote), Catherine Provencher, Wayne Semprini (remote), David Westover (remote)

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**Call to Order**

Acting Committee Chair Ardinger called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient to do business.

**Approval of Minutes**

The following motion was moved by Trustee Tewksbury, seconded by Trustee Burnett, and approved by roll call with no dissenting votes:

***VOTED**, that the Executive Committee approve the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting on August 28, 2025, as presented.*

**Preliminary Project Approvals & Approval to Issue Debt for UNH Williamson Hall and UNH Christensen Hall Renovations**

Vice Chancellor for Financial Affairs and Treasurer Karen Benincasa introduced a presentation on a proposal for USNH to refinance existing debt for past projects and simultaneously issue new debt in order to finance high-priority capital projects at two UNH residence halls. The UNH facilities considered for upgrade form part of UNH's residence hall plan even as enrollment declines in the future. Staff believe that combining the refinancing and new debt will result in reduced cost and effort as compared to separate issuances. Final approval of the project would come at a future meeting. Should the projects

not receive final approval, no new money debt will be issued

UNH Campus Architect Ken Weston reviewed the proposed scope of the project, which is designed to modernize and address deferred maintenance issues at the two residence halls. Trustees discussed the choice of project and project details, including how students would be accommodated in housing during construction.

After discussion, the following motion was moved by Trustee Ardinger, seconded by Trustee Burnett, and approved by roll call with no dissenting votes:

***VOTED**, on recommendation of the Chancellor, that the renovations for UNH Williamson and Christensen Halls be approved in concept, with final/detailed project approvals to be requested in December 2025;*

***AND FURTHER**, the bond resolution appended to the agenda for this meeting to authorize the issuance of bonds and delegate authority to USNH Officials be approved;*

***AND FURTHER**, the declaration of official intent and delegation appended to the agenda for this meeting be approved.*

### **Enterprise Risk Management ("ERM") Annual Report and Assignment of Risks**

Chancellor Provencher presented this item. Each year, the System creates a list of the top risks facing the institution and assigns out responsibility for mitigating those risks to staff. As part of that process, the System also assigns oversight responsibility for monitoring each risk to a Board committee. This item makes those committee assignments for the current fiscal year.

After the presentation, the following motion was moved by Trustee Ardinger, seconded by Trustee Tewksbury, and approved by roll call with no dissenting votes.

***VOTED**, on recommendation of the Audit Committee, that the Executive Committee hereby formally assigns the top system-wide risks identified in the GY 2026 annual ERM report to the appropriate Board committees, as specified in the attachment included with the agenda for this meeting, for purposes of oversight.*

### **Update from Presidents' Council**

Chancellor Provencher updated the committee on recent turnover in leadership across the institution. The search for a new System CIO is drawing to a close, with a hire expected soon. The EVPFAs at both UNH and Plymouth State are departing in the next week, with UNH already underway with its search for a replacement. The Chancellor then noted that the System has also received a number of requests for fiscal notes on bills to be considered by the Legislature in the upcoming session. President Chilton noted that early application data shows that efforts made by other states to retain students has further increased competition for incoming first-year students.

### **Nonpublic Session**

At 4:45 p.m., on motion moved by Trustee Ardinger and seconded by Trustee Tewksbury, the committee voted unanimously by roll call to go into nonpublic session for the purposes indicated:

***VOTED**, that the Executive Committee enter nonpublic session for the purposes of considering: (1) matters which, if discussed in public, would likely adversely affect the reputation of a person or entity other than a member of the Committee; (2) consideration of confidential financial information; and (3) consultation with legal counsel, as authorized by RSA 91-A:3.II.(c) and (j) and RSA 91-A:2.I.(b).*

### **Return to Public Session**

At 5:07 p.m., on motion duly moved and seconded, the committee voted unanimously to return to public session.

### **Sealing of Nonpublic Minutes**

The following motion was made by Trustee Ardinger, seconded by Trustee Tewksbury, and approved by roll call with no dissenting votes.

*VOTED, pursuant to RSA 91-A:3.III, that the minutes of the nonpublic session be sealed until the Chancellor determines that divulgence of the action would no longer adversely affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the Committee or render the action ineffective.*

### **Other Business**

Chancellor Provencher thanked the Board for its support as the work facing the System increases in scope and complexity and thanked outgoing EVPFAs Aaron Howell and Tracy Claybaugh for their service to the System.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.