University System of New Hampshire

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
JUNE 25, 2026

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DURHAM, NH

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance

Committee members present: Patrick Griffin, chair; Wayne Semprini, vice chair; Matthew Ash; Ludmilla Cejka; Jennifer Higgins Pitre; Christiana Thornton; David Westover

Other trustees present: Kassandra Ardinger; Maureen Beauregard; Donald Birx; James Burnett, III; Elizabeth Chilton; Brendan Finn; James Gray, designee for the president of the NH Senate; George Hansel (remote); Kevin Knarr (remote); Brian McCabe; Joel Nkounkou; Peter Paul; Michael Pilot; Catherine Provencher

Other participants: Jess Bacon, Nathaniel Bowditch; Kirsten Corazzini, Marguerite Corvini, Kimberly DeRego, Jennifer Frye, Anne Meginnis, Keri Miloro, Gabby Petruccelli, Jeanette Riley, Kirsti Sandy

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Call to Order

Committee Chair Griffin called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and identified changes to the order of agenda items due to the delayed start.

Rural Health Transformation Program

Kirsten Corazzini, dean of the UNH College of Health and Human Services, presented information about the state's Rural Health Transformation (RHT) Program that seeks to expand access to affordable and innovative health care in rural areas across the state. The program is supported by an award of $200 million per year for five years from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), with program oversight conducted by GO-NORTH, an independent unit authorized for the purpose by the Governor's Office. Dean Corazzini described USNH's role, in partnership with CCSNH and other organizations, in building NH's health care workforce pipeline by creating a both fixed and mobile clinical education simulation network, participating in the Governor's Health Scholars Award Program, and creating education-to-career pathways that align curricula with rural workforce needs. In March 2026, the NH Executive Council approved the first cycle of $15.6 million RHT funds to UNH on behalf of USNH, with potential allocation of $97 million over the five years.

UNH faculty joining Dean Corazzini to present clinical simulation demonstrations were Marguerite Corvini (nursing, director of SIM core), Keri Miloro (speech-language pathology), Anne Meginnis (nursing), Jess Bacon (nursing), Gabby Petruccelli (occupational therapy), and Jennifer Frye (recreational therapy, director of clinical placements).

Consent Agenda

Approval of the consent agenda containing the following items was duly moved, seconded, and approved.

Approved action:

- Minutes March 19, 2026

- Promotion & Tenure Awards
  University of New Hampshire

  Promotion: Professor

  Orly Buchbinder
  Karen Collins
  Sherine Elsawa
  Jeffrey Garnas
  Jessica Lepler
  Mark Lyon
  Mihail Miletkov
  Weiwei Mo
  Wendy Pothier
  Samantha Seal

  Award of Tenure

  Sophia Min
  Adam Wymore

  Promotion: Associate Professor with Tenure

  Marcy Ainslie
  Thomas Alsip
  Mike Alvarez
  Analena Bruce
  Aleksey Charapkov
  Cain Edie-Michell
  Pei Geng
  Crystal Hendricks
  Trish Kelshaw
  Amy Kotsonis
  Karolina Kwasek
  Linqing Li
  Tracy Mandel
  Amy Michael
  Bridget Nolan
  Nate Oldenhuis
  Justin Pomerance
  Jen Spindel
  Jill Thorson
  Nikhil Tomar
  Jing Wang
  Easton White
  Ermira Zifla

  Keene State College

  Promotion: Professor

  Harlan Fichtenholtz
  Ashley Greene
  Cynthia McLaughlin

  Award of Tenure

  Lito Amit
  Paul Fowler

  Plymouth State University

  Promotion: Professor

  Elisabeth Johnston
  Mike Son

  Promotion: Associate Professor with Tenure

  Sara Scribner
  Melissa Paiva-Salisbury
  Alison Mitchell
  Vincent Nocera

- Appointment: Professor with Tenure

  University of New Hampshire

  Christopher Parrish
  Alexei Tulin

Information:

- Campus Behavioral Health Update
- Annual Academic Reports
  - Academic Plan and Program Review
  - Academic Quality Metrics
- Academic Program Changes

University System Student Board (USSB)

Student trustees and USSB representatives reported on the second USSB-led forum that brought student leaders together to collaborate on shared issues systemwide and to test a repeatable feedback model for providing student insights to the Board of Trustees, a noted key role of the USSB. Building on the first forum outcomes that prioritized student communications, the second forum delved further into the topic, finding high satisfaction in the volume and accuracy of information received, but with a desire for more proactive outreach and deeper rationale for decisions being made. Actions to address the identified gaps were proposed. Chair Griffin thanked the students for their contributions, congratulated the newly graduated students, and welcomed incoming USSB representatives.

Enrollment Management Strategy

At the chair's request due to time constraints, Kim DeRego, vice provost for UNH enrollment management, focused attention on the institutions' anti-melt strategies that included direct parent engagement; individualized, multi-modal communications and outreach; sustained campus events spanning the summer; application process

milestone monitoring and high-risk melt interventions; and structured coordination, with formal anti-melt committees at UNH and PSU and campuswide assignments involving numerous functional areas at KSC.

UNH Online

Provost Riley provided an overview of plans to restructure UNH online program delivery, noting that the merger with Granite State College in 2023 did not operationally consolidate online programming offered across the university. The new UNH Online model is designed to unify undergraduate online program delivery; integrate online delivery for the Graduate School and School of Law, with active oversight of graduate program development by the relevant UNH colleges; centralize instructional design and faculty development; serve as a shared services hub for online program recruitment, marketing, and student support; and eventually expand support to KSC and PSU. In response to a question about cost-benefit analysis, President Chilton stated that information from UCEA's recent assessment of UNH's online structure, along with estimated cost reductions and projected impact on enrollment, would be provided to trustees.

Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.