University System of New Hampshire

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 22, 2026

UNIVERSITY IF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DURHAM, NH

MEETING MINUTES
Draft

Attendance

Voting members present: Patrick Griffin, chair; Maureen Beauregard, vice chair (remote); Matthew Ash; Ludmilla Cejka; Shawn Jasper; Tessa Lancaster; Jennifer Higgins Pitre; Wayne Semprini; Christiana Thornton; David Westover

Nonvoting members present: Aidan Bearor, Evan Christiansen, Rosella Rentas-Ubeda, Jozuwe Tunguru

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

Other participants: Nathaniel Bowditch; Kimberly DeRego, Matthew MacManes, Jeanette Riley, Kirsti Sandy

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Call to Order

Committee Chair Griffin called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and called attention to the occupational and program demand information in the materials. With one member present by videoconference, roll call attendance was taken and determined that a quorum was physically present.

Consent Agenda

Approval of the consent agenda containing the following item was duly moved, seconded, and approved by roll call vote.

Consent Items
- Action – Approval of Minutes June 25, 2026
- Information – Academic Program Changes

University System Student Board (USSB)

Evan Christensen, USSB chair, led the student trustees and representatives in presenting information about student retention and USSB plans to gather data and explore student experiential perspectives for the purpose of improving persistence. Anecdotal concerns about the condition and quality of some campus facilities and residence halls were shared as examples of conditions that may impact current student satisfaction, and thus retention, and prospective student perceptions of quality. Following a robust discussion, Chair Griffin charged the provosts and the USSB (1) to work together in the coming months to identify potential opportunities for deploying designated deferred maintenance resources to ensure building safety and soundness, and (2) to report on progress at the March committee meeting.

Enrollment Update

Kim DeRego, vice provost for enrollment management, reported on the fall 2026 enrollment census, noting that while PSU's experimental approach to opening "direct admission" to all states did not yield additional enrollment,

it was useful to inform admission strategy for all three institutions going forward. She also presented information about the NH Promise Program, a modified version of the Granite Guarantee, that offers final dollar awards to eligible NH students to fully cover tuition. The modification shifts Pell-eligibility under the Granite Guarantee to family income eligibility under the NH Promise, to simplify communication of financial aid offers and to allow financial decision-making by families earlier than Pell-eligibility determination allowed. Discussion focused on the program's financial sustainability and on increasingly competitive market pressures.

UNH Dashboard and Academic Portfolio Review

Provost Riley and Vice Provost MacManes provided an overview and demonstration of a newly developed dashboard at UNH that integrates academic data from disparate campus sources with instructional finance data to support decision-making at the program, department, college, and institution levels. It was explained that the metrics, such as section, enrollment, credit hour, and faculty counts and direct expense per credit hour, would be combined with additional quantitative data, such as retention and time to degree, and with qualitative information, such as future outlook and alignment with workforce and institutional mission, to inform portfolio review and strategic deployment of resources. It was noted that the dashboard architecture will be replicated at PSU and KSC pending resolution of some technical issues.

Closing Remarks

Chair Griffin recapped the meeting's discussions and affirmed that student retention would continue to be a focus at the March meeting.

Adjournment

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.