Governance Committee Meeting

October 22, 2026

10:45 am - 12:15 pm

Memorial Union Building, Room 330

University of New Hampshire

https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/243046650898089?p=xHKIHXAgiZVLQeWuyc

Meeting ID: 243 046 650 898 089 Passcode: Hq6ff37R

2026 October 22 - Governance Committee Meeting

Agenda and Materials

I. Committee Roster
Kass Ardinger (Chair),
Christiana Thornton (Vice Chair),
Maureen Beauregard,
Jamie Burnett,
Brendan Finn,
Patrick Griffin

II. Call to Order
Determine the presence of a quorum sufficient for the conduct of business and take attendance of all meeting participants.

1 minute	III. Approval of Meeting Minutes Proposed Motion: MOVED, the Governance Committee hereby approve the minutes of its June 2026 meeting as presented in the materials distributed with the agenda to this meeting.	Approve	
	A. June 2026 - Governance Committee - Regular Meeting - Minutes - DRAFT for review and approval.docx		4
15 minutes	IV. Review updated Board Inventory of Experience, Skills, and Interests Chad Pimentel Discuss report	Receive report	
	A. 2026-10-22 BOT Inventory of Experience, Skills, and Interests.pdf		7
5 min	V. Identify Experience, Skills, and Interests gaps and transmit to Nomination Committee Chad Pimentel Identify gaps for transmission to the Nomination Committee	Discuss	
5 Minutes	VI. Update on The Edge Chad Pimentel	Discussion	
20 Minutes	VII. Discussion on Potential Addition of Public Comment to Board Meetings Chad Pimentel	Discuss and Give Direction to Staff	
	A. Item Sheet		11
	B. Maine System Public Comment at Board Meetings		13
	C. Maryland System Guidelines_for_Public_Comment_at_Board_Meetings		14
	D. UC Regents Policy 1302_ Policy on Public Comment		15
	E. WSU Public Comment Period		17
10 Minutes	VIII. Discussion re Board and Committee Meeting Schedule	Discuss and give direction to staff	
5 Minutes	IX. Update on Trustee Orientation Process Chad Pimentel	Discuss	
5 minutes	X. Review Committee Work Plan for GY26-27 Chad Pimentel Review committee work plan - adjust, if needed	Review and Amend as Needed	
	A. GY26-27 Governance Committee Workplan Updated October 2026		18
5 minutes	XI. Diversity on the Board of Trustees Standing item on committee work plan for review and discussion, as needed.	Discuss	

XII. Call for Further Business
Old business, new business, and Chair's closing comments.

XIII. Adjourn

University System of New Hampshire

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting Held at Memorial Union Building
University of New Hampshire, Durham, NH
June 26, 2026

Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

In Attendance: Governance Committee members present at meeting location: Committee Chair Kass Ardinger, Committee Vice-Chair Christiana Thornton, Maureen Beauregard, Jamie Burnett, and Brendan Finn. Committee members absent: Patrick Griffin. Other trustees present: Matthew Ash, James Gray, Tim Hoheneder, Rick Ladd. Others participating in meeting: USNH General Counsel Chad Pimentel, USSB Member Evan Christensen.

Call to Order: At 8:05 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 Thornton and seconded by Trustee Burnett, the Committee unanimously voted as follows to approve the minutes of its most recent meeting:

> ***VOTED***, the Governance Committee hereby approves the minutes of its March 16, 2026 meeting as presented in the materials distributed with the agenda to this meeting.

Review of Annual Trustee Self-Evaluation Survey: Chair Ardinger reviewed this item. She noted that the response rate among trustees was the highest for five years, but that overall ratings of the Board's effectiveness declined from last year to this year. Committee members discussed possible reasons for the decline, with a consensus forming that the difficulty of the work facing the Board and System likely contributed to frustrations among Board members. Chair Ardinger also noted that several trustees had questioned whether an additional Board meeting ought to be scheduled to smooth out the work facing trustees and ensure that all are up to date on System issues. Options discussed included adding a shortened, one-day winter Board meeting or adding an off-cycle Financial Affairs Committee meeting. Board officers will review the matter with staff. Trustees also noted confusion among trustees regarding the committee appointment process. Staff will re-issue a questionnaire previously sent in the Fall to seek out trustee committee preferences and will include a summary of the selection process in that communication. The Committee also decided that next year it should discuss the question of whether the Nomination Committee should continue to exist as a separate committee.

Proposed Amendment to Board Policy on Student Trustee Elections: Chad Pimentel presented this item. Trustee Hoheneder and USSB Member Christensen had each flagged that the current Board policy on student trustee elections was out-of-date and unevenly applied. GC Pimentel reported that

campus leaders responsible for managing the trustee process believed that the current one-size-fits-all eligibility requirements in the policy created unnecessary barriers to entry to students and also were more difficult to achieve for students at KSC and PSU or smaller colleges within UNH.

Following discussion, the following motion was moved by Trustee Thornton, seconded by Trustee Finn, and approved vote with no dissenting votes:

> ***VOTED,*** that the Governance Committee recommend Board approval of the amended Board Policy BOT.I.A. set out the materials for this meeting.

Proposed Amendment to Board Policy on System-Wide Effect of Student Discipline Actions: Chad Pimentel presented on this item. Current policy specifies that students who are suspended or expelled from one System institutions are barred from acceptance at all other System institutions. However, the current policy is unclear if a student withdraws from an institution before disciplinary proceedings are completed. This proposed change would clarify that a student who withdraws during the pendency of a disciplinary proceeding is barred from attendance at other System institutions if the disciplinary proceeding was of sufficient seriousness that it could have led to suspension or expulsion at the student's former institution.

Following discussion, the following motion was moved by Trustee Beauregard, seconded by Trustee Thornton, and approved vote with no dissenting votes:

> ***VOTED***, that the Governance Committee recommends Board approval of the amended policy BOT.VII.A. as set out in the attached materials.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws of Keene Endowment Association: The Keene Endowment Association requires USNH Board approval in order to amend its bylaws. KEA recently approached System staff with a proposed change. The change would exclude time spent serving as a KEA board officer from the term limits for board members set out in the KEA bylaws. KEA sought this change because currently their board officers frequently leave the board immediately upon the end of their term as officers, depriving the board of experience and continuity.

Following discussion, the following motion was moved by Trustee Thornton, seconded by Trustee Finn, and approved vote with no dissenting votes:

> ***VOTED***, that the Governance Committee recommend Board approval of the amended KEA bylaws set forth in the attached materials.

Update on The Edge: Chad Pimentel reported on the status of the governance project associated with the proposed development at The Edge. He noted that the agenda for the June meeting did not have space to permit any material action on The Edge, but that previously approved pre-development work continued apace.

Review of Committee Workplan: The Committee reviewed its proposed work plan for the coming year as presented in the meeting materials. As noted above, in addition to its usual work, the Committee plans to discuss the Board meeting schedule and the future structure of the Nomination Committee.

Diversity on the Board of Trustees (Standing Item): Chair Ardinger noted the continuing importance of efforts to ensure that the Board has a broad range of experiences, strengths, and backgrounds so that it can best carry out its statutory mandate.

Adjourn: At 8:40 am, Chair Ardinger called for further business and, hearing none, adjourned the meeting.

USNH Board of Trustees
Inventory of Experience, Skills, and Interests
Worksheet

	Totals	Max Year-End Loss																						
Legend: Term Ends This Year, Term Limited																								
Term: Ends This Year Unless Reapp't																								
Occupation/Expertise: N ≤ 1																								
Occupation/Expertise Back Above 1																								
End of Term (yy)			28	28	NA	30	NA	29	29	NA	30	27	27	28	NA	28	30	29	27	29	NA	27	27	29	27
ACKGROUND																								
Age																								
70 and over	6	3			x					x					x			x				x			x
60-69	6	1	x	x									x						x		x		x		
45-59	6	2				x						x		x		x				x				x	
30-44	2	0							x								x								
Under 30	0	0																							
Length of Service																								
More than 10 years	4	1	x		x	x							x												
6-10 years	7	4								x		x		x	x				x				x		x
2-5 years	10	1		x			x		x		x					x	x	x			x	x		x	
Less than 2 years	2	0						x												x					
Alumnus/a	13	4		x		x			x				x	x		x	x	x	x	x		x	x		x
Parent of Student or Alum	7	3				x							x					x		x		x	x		x
Veteran	4	1							x	x					x			x							
Residence (County/State)			M	S	G	M	S			S		C	H	D	C	B	MA	S	D		R	R	C	M	CH
Gender																									
Female	7	0	x	x			x	x												x	x			x	
Male	16	6			x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x		x

(October 22, 2021)

USNH Board of Trustees
Inventory of Experience, Skills, and Interests
Worksheet

Legend:	Term Ends This Year, Term Limited
	Term: Ends This Year Unless Reapp't
Occupation/Expertise: N ≤ 1	
Occupation/Expertise Back Above 1	

End of Term (yy)			28	28	NA	30	NA	29	29	NA	30	27	27	28	NA	28	30	29	27	29	NA	27	27	29	27
Race/Ethnicity																									
African American	1	0															x								
Asian/Pacific Islander	0																								
Latino/Hispanic	0																								
Native American	0																								
White	21	6	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Other	0																								
Education																									
Bachelor's	13	5							x	x	x	x		x		x	x		x	x		x	x	x	x
Master's	9	1		x	x	x		x	x						x			x		x	x					
Ph.D.	2	0			x		x																		
Other	2	0	x										x												
OCCUPATIONAL AND GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE																									
Occupation																									
Agriculture	2	1											x												x
Accounting/Audit	3	1																x					x		
Architecture	0	0																							
Arts and Letters	1	0				x																			
Banking/Investment Mgmt	4	1				x												x					x	x	
Education	10	0	x		x	x	x	x			x						x	x			x			x	
Emergency Management	0																								
Engineering	3	0			x					x							x								
Finance	7	4			x							x		x	x			x	x				x		
Hospitality/Tourism	1	0																x							

(October 22, 2021)

USNH Board of Trustees
Inventory of Experience, Skills, and Interests
Worksheet

Legend:	Term Ends This Year, Term Limited
	Term: Ends This Year Unless Reapp't
Occupation/Expertise: N ≤ 1	
Occupation/Expertise Back Above 1	

End of Term (yy)			28	28	NA	30	NA	29	29	NA	30	27	27	28	NA	28	30	29	27	29	NA	27	27	29	27
Human Resources	1	0																						x	
Information Technology	1	0															x								
Insurance/Risk Mangement	3	1																x						x	x
Investments	4	2												x				x	x				x		
Law	1	0	x																						
Leadership	14	2	x	x		x	x	x	x		x		x	x				x	x		x		x	x	
Legislative	7	2				x					x	x	x		x			x						x	
Manufacturing	2	1			x							x													
Marketing/Advertising	5	1				x						x						x	x						
Media	0																								
Medical/Health Care	3	1												x						x		x			
Nonprofit	6	1		x		x												x		x			x	x	
Public Relations	3	0				x					x					x									
Public Sector	4	0	x			x			x				x												
President/CEO	12	4		x	x						x	x	x				x	x	x		x		x	x	x
Real Estate	5	2		x								x	x					x				x			
Retail	1	1																				x			
Safety and Security	1	0											x												
Governance Experience																									
Community/Nonprofit	14	3	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x				x				x		x	x	x
For-profit	5	3				x						x		x					x			x			
Foundation/Trust	11	4		x		x					x	x		x	x			x	x		x		x	x	
Compensated Board	5	2				x												x	x				x	x	
Other	3	1								x			x		x										

(October 22, 2021)

USNH Board of Trustees
Inventory of Experience, Skills, and Interests
Worksheet

Legend:	Term Ends This Year, Term Limited
	Term: Ends This Year Unless Reapp't
Occupation/Expertise: N ≤ 1	
Occupation/Expertise Back Above 1	

End of Term (yy)			28	28	NA	30	NA	29	29	NA	30	27	27	28	NA	28	30	29	27	29	NA	27	27	29	27
FUNCTIONAL EXPERTISE																									
Accounting	4	1											x					x			x		x		
Audit	2	1																			x		x		
Banking/Financial Mgmt	5	2								x											x	x	x	x	
CEO/President	12	4		x	x		x				x	x	x			x		x	x				x	x	x
Education	8	1	x			x	x	x								x					x			x	x
Facilities Mgmt/Real Estate	7	2		x		x				x		x	x					x				x			
Governance	11	4	x	x		x	x						x		x				x		x		x	x	x
Government	9	0				x			x	x	x	x	x			x					x			x	
Human Resources	1	0																						x	
Information Technology	3	0								x							x							x	
Insurance/Risk Management	2	1				x																		x	x
International	1	1																							
Law	4	1	x			x																	x	x	
Marketing/Advertising	3	2				x													x			x			
Nonprofit Mgmt	5	1		x		x														x		x		x	
Public Relations	6	2		x		x					x	x				x						x			
Special Events	2	0				x														x					
Strategic Planning	12	3		x	x	x						x	x	x			x	x	x			x		x	
Teamwork	5	2		x									x						x				x	x	
Other	5	0				x			x				x	x							x				

(October 22, 2021)

University System of New Hampshire

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Governance Committee

Item Sheet: **Potential Addition of Public Comment Period to Future Board Meetings**

POTENTIAL ACTION AND RATIONALE

The State Right-to-Know Law (R.S.A. § 91-A) requires specified public bodies to make their meetings and records open to the public. The Board and its committees are among the public bodies covered by the law. Unlike many states, the New Hampshire Right-to-Know Law does not require an opportunity for public comment at meetings.

Despite the lack of a public comment provision in the law, over the past year the Board received a number of requests from employee and community groups asking for an opportunity to address the Board directly. Given this increase in requests, Board leadership asked that the Governance Committee to consider whether the Board should allow for a public comment process at meetings and, if so, what form that process should take. The meeting materials include examples of public board comment processes in place at other public universities. Questions to be resolved include:

1. Would a public comment process aid the Board in its work?
2. What if any limits should exist on topics to be brought forward during any comment period?
3. Should employee representative groups (i.e. faculty and staff senates) receive preferential or guaranteed access to the comment process?
4. If a public comment process is allowed, how long should it be and who would be in charge of developing procedures to implement the process?

REQUSTED COMMITTEE ACTION

At this time the committee is asked only to give direction to staff on whether to develop a concrete proposal for a comment period. If the committee does give that direction, it is further asked to provide its thoughts on the questions set out above (plus any additional relevant question) to help staff craft that proposal in line with the committee's preferences.

SUBSEQUENT ACTION REQUIRED

If the committee does not wish to move forward with idea, no further action will be needed. If the committee does wish to move forward, staff will draft a proposal and bring it back to the committee in March. Any such proposal would require approval by the full Board as it would require a change to Board policy.

SUBMITTED BY:

Chad Pimentel	Date Prepared:	October 13, 2026
General Counsel	For the Meeting:	October 22, 2026

MAINE'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM

Public Comment at Board Meetings

The Board of Trustees will set aside time for public comment prior to the business agenda at each Board meeting. The Chair of the Board will establish time limits (usually three minutes per person) and total time for public comment, and determine any questions of appropriateness and relevancy.

Personnel decisions, collective bargaining issues, grievances, litigation and other areas excludable from public discussion under the Maine Freedom of Access Law shall not constitute appropriate matters for such input. A person who wishes to speak in person during the public comment period should arrive prior to the meeting start time and sign up on a sheet provided, indicating name and topic of remarks.

For Board Meetings, a link will also appear in this box that will allow you to virtually sign up to provide Public Comment via zoom.

Guidelines on Public Comment at Board Meetings

The 2019 University System of Maryland Board of Regents Transparency and Oversight Bill requires that the board "shall allow time at each open meeting for public comment."

The Board Bylaws currently allow for public comment and require submission of requests to the Chancellor at least 48 hours prior to a board meeting. USM employee requests are considered by the Chancellor; requests by non-USM employees are submitted to the Chancellor and acted upon by the Board Chair (the Chair may deny, refer to committee, or recognize the request). The current Bylaws do not provide for time during Board meetings for public comment.

The following procedures are recommended to facilitate an orderly and efficient public comment period during open meetings of the Board of Regents:

1. At each meeting of the Board, the agenda will provide 15 minutes for public comment on topics included in the current meeting agenda. The period for public comment will precede the consent agenda and committee reports in order to afford the speaker(s) the opportunity to be heard prior to Board action or discussion on an agenda item. This portion of the agenda is designated for comments from the public and, as such, the Board will listen but not engage in debate.
2. A speakers' sign-up list will be available 15 minutes prior to the start of each Board meeting and will close once the meeting begins. Individuals who wish to make public comments must sign the speakers' sign-up list and include their name, email address, and the subject matter that will be addressed. Ordinarily, speakers will be allowed to speak in the order in which they sign-up, but the Board Chair may elect to group speakers by subject matter.
3. Each speaker will have three minutes to address the Board.
4. Public comments should not address personnel matters or complaints about individuals. The Board Chair has the discretion to interrupt a speaker in the event the individual's remarks are disruptive or lack public decorum. The Board Chair also may refer topics to the Chancellor for investigation and follow-up.
5. Public comments should address only topics on the current agenda. To address the Board on a topic that is not on the current agenda, please send an email to Regents@usmd.edu.
6. The Board Chair may waive or modify any of the Guidelines on Public Comment during Board Meetings, balancing the efficient operations of the Board and the Board's desire to provide an opportunity for meaningful public input into matters under consideration by the Board.

regents.universityofcalifornia.edu

Policy on Public Access to Meetings and Public Comment | Board of Regents

~3 minutes

Approved January 20, 1995
Amended September 19, 1997, July 18, 2002, September 22, 2005, March 16, 2017, and September 30, 2021

The Board of Regents reaffirms its commitment to openness and transparency in the conduct of the University's business. Meetings of the Board of Regents shall be conducted in compliance with California open meeting laws applicable to the University of California. Members of the public are invited to attend open sessions of Regents meetings and may address the Regents of the University of California whenever the Board or any of its Committees meets in open session in accordance with the guidelines below. In addition, written communications to the Regents are always welcome.

1. On any day that the Board or any of its Committees meets in open session, the first open meeting will include a thirty-minute period for the purpose of hearing public comment. Individual speakers will be invited to speak for up to three minutes, depending on the number of individuals who have signed up to speak.

2. In order to accommodate those individuals wishing to speak when more people have signed up to address the Board or Committee than can be heard, the Chair may adjust the procedures at their discretion.
3. Speakers at the public comment sessions may address any University-related matter. When signing up to speak, individuals will identify the matter they wish to address.
4. Anyone who wishes to speak must contact the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff by 5 pm the day before the public comment period. Speakers may choose to attend in person or address the Regents via telephone during the public comment session.
5. To hear from as many individuals as possible, speakers may not pool their time or yield their remaining time to another speaker.
6. Written comments and materials are welcome and will be available to the Regents.
7. Attendees have the right to record the meeting, consistent with open meeting laws, as long as that activity does not constitute a persistent disruption of the proceedings.

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See also: Guidelines for Public Comment Sessions.

If you have questions, please contact the Office of the Secretary and Chief of Staff to The Regents.

Public Comment Period

The Washington State University Board of Regents will provide a public comment period at each meeting of the Board.

Unless otherwise provided on the agenda or by the chair, the public comment period will be for up to ten minutes, with a two-minute limit encouraged per speaker. Preference will be given to speakers who sign up in advance and who are speaking to matters before the Board. Comments may be presented in person or virtual.

For regular meetings, the form is available beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the Friday prior to the meeting and will close at 5:00 p.m. the Thursday before the meeting. If Friday is a holiday, the form will be available starting Thursday. For special meetings, the form will be available 24 hours before the scheduled start time.

Ways to sign up:

- On-line Request to Provide Public Comment form
    - For regular board meetings, the form will be available at 8:00 a.m. Friday the week prior to the meeting and will close at 5:00 p.m. the Thursday before the meeting. If Friday is a holiday, the form will be available starting Thursday.
    - For special meetings, the form will be available 24 hours in advance of the posted meeting start time and will close at the start of the posted meeting time.
- Email Regents@wsu.edu
- Call 509-335-4200
- In person at the meeting

Please include:

- name
- email address and/or phone number
- subject of your comments
- relationship to the University (student, faculty, staff, alumni, other)
- participation plans (in person or virtual)

University System of New Hampshire

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
DRAFT
Work Plan
GY2027

**** Denotes Tentative item**

October 2026

- Review updated BOT Inventory of Interests, Skills, and Experience
- Prepare recommended gap analysis for Nomination Committee
- Public Comment Discussion
- Meeting Schedule Discussion
- Work Plan GY2027 – Assess progress, adjust as needed
- Diversity on Board of Trustees

March 2027

- Accept and review Enterprise Risk Management plan items assigned to committee
- Plan BOT annual self-assessment surveys
- Discussion re: Future of Nomination Committee
- Public Comment/Meeting-Schedule Follow-Up**
- Work Plan GY2027 – Assess progress, adjust as needed
- Diversity on Board of Trustees

June 2027

- Review results of BOT annual self-assessment surveys
- Discussion of Structure of Chancellor Role (standing annual item)**
- Future of Nomination Committee Follow-Up**
- Review Trustee Orientation/Education Program Status
- Diversity on the Board of Trustees
- Work Plan GY2027 – Assess progress on GY26 plan, identify completed and continuing projects
- Review committee charter for continuing currency