



EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 19, 2017

KEENE STATE COLLEGE

KEENE, NH

MEETING MINUTES

Approved February 1, 2018

Committee members present: Frederick Dey, chair; Robert Baines, vice chair; Amy Begg; B Cole; Frank Edelblut; Ricky Fife; Adam Geddis; Todd Leach; Christian Merheb; Atticus Rollins; Nathaniel Stafford; Michael Whaland

Nonmember participants: Speaker of the House Shawn Jasper; Robyn Parker; William Seigh; Scott Stanley; Nancy Targett; Melinda Treadwell

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**Call to Order**

Committee Chair Dey called the meeting to order at 8:30 A.M.

**Approval of Minutes**

The following motion was made by Trustee Begg, duly seconded, and approved by committee vote, with one abstention, by Trustee Edelblut who was not present at the prior meeting.

*VOTED, that the minutes of the June 22, 2017, Educational Excellence Committee meeting be approved as presented in the meeting materials.*

**Information**

***Chancellor's Update:*** Chancellor Leach presented information about the nursing programs at KSC and PSU, graduation rates, fall enrollment levels, enrollment trends, and average in-state undergraduate net price of attendance as reported by the U.S. College Scorecard. Based on the recent Scorecard data, the four USNH institutions are positioned as the most affordable four-year postsecondary options in the state.

***University System Student Board (USSB):*** USSB Chair Stafford discussed efforts to maximize the student board's effectiveness, which he expected would be aided with the designation of a trustee liaison to the USSB. He recognized USSB Representative Whaland, assistant principal at the Lancaster School, for receiving the 2017 Role Model Award by the NH Association of School Principals. Trustee Fife called attention to Granite State College's ranking by the Washington Monthly as 1st in the state and 13th in the nation among America's Best Colleges for Adult Learners. At Chair Dey's invitation, the students commented on campus diversity and freedom of speech.

***Academic Program Additions/Deletions:*** Chair Dey called attention to the information provided in the advance meeting materials. No new degree program additions or deletions were presented in the information.

***Academic Program Quality Assurance:*** An update on KSC and PSU nursing program status was provided in the Chancellor's Update.

## Discussion

*Trends in Higher Education:* Chancellor Leach presented an overview of national trends in higher education, which included stackable credentials, college-career connections and work-based learning, competency-based and prior learning assessment, diverse delivery modalities, open education, consumer expectations around cost and quality, sliding enrollment and increasing competition, increased focus beyond access to attainment, and the role of analytics in decision making in virtually all aspects of the enterprise. The provosts highlighted campus programs and strategies in place or in process to respond to emerging trends and to improve readiness for response as trends shift. They presented information describing multi-modal learning environments, active and experiential learning opportunities, interdisciplinary programming, open labs, corporate partnerships, career and professional development support, and open education pedagogy.

## New Business

Provost Targett announced three national distinctions achieved by UNH: the Outstanding Emerging Entrepreneurship Center Award from the Global Consortium of Entrepreneurship Centers; a STARS Platinum rating for sustainability from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (UNH is one of three postsecondary institutions to achieve this rating); and the designation as an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University by the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities.

Interim President Treadwell described preparations and safety precautions for the upcoming Keene Pumpkin Festival. She clarified that the long-standing “no guest” policy during the festival was specific to overnight guests in the residence halls and did not prohibit students from inviting family and friends to the festival.

Speaker Jasper raised concerns about three UNH issues: the absence of a policy addressing credit hour activity lost due to weather-related class cancellations; and the absence of a public response by UNH administration to a racially provocative social media posting by the Black Student Union and to a call for stricter gun control by a professor in the classroom. He framed his concerns in terms of the visibility of the issues and their potential to perpetuate negative perceptions of public higher education. Due to the time constraint, Chair Dey stated that the topics would be placed on the next meeting agenda (and that generally more time would be allocated for new business on future agendas). Provost Targett stated that UNH had recently implemented a cancelled class make-up policy, and she offered to meet with Speaker Jasper to discuss his concerns.

## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 A.M.