

EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 1, 2018

PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY  
PLYMOUTH, NH

MEETING MINUTES

*Approved April 19, 2018*

Committee members present: Frederick Dey, chair; Robert Baines, vice chair; Bill Cole; M. Jacqueline Eastwood; Frank Edelblut; Adam Geddis; Todd Leach; Scott Mason; Christian Merheb; Nathaniel Stafford; Wallace Stevens; Michael Whaland

Nonmember participants: Donald Birx, Rhonda Hensley; Representative Rick Ladd; Robyn Parker; Mark Rubinstein; 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 Geddis, duly seconded, and approved by committee vote.

*VOTED, that the minutes of the October 20, 2017, Educational Excellence Committee meeting be approved as presented in the meeting materials.*

**Information**

***University System Student Board (USSB):*** USSB representatives and trustees provided information about a variety of campus activities that included Student Senate actions, research conferences, student and alumni engagement, professional development services, and the expansion of the Granite Guarantee financial aid program to students at KSC and PSU. Chair Dey thanked the students for their continued attention to access and affordability issues.

***Enterprise Risk Management:*** Chancellor Leach referenced the process undertaken to identify top system-wide risks, which included academic programming and enrollment as potential risks to long-term financial stability. He called attention to the risk management plans in the meeting materials and presented information about regional trends in admissions and enrollment, competitive pressures, and demographic projections.

***Academic Program Additions/Deletions and Academic Program Quality Assurance:*** Chair Dey called attention to the information provided in the meeting materials and, noting time constraints, asked that questions be directed to the provosts outside of the meeting.

## Discussion

***Campus Closure Policy for Making Up Seat Time:*** Discussion touched on seat time as an anachronistic concept given expanding options for education delivery and the elevation of knowledge and skills acquisition over lecture time. The provosts reported that faculty across the campuses have flexibility to determine the appropriate method for class make up. Methods were described to include online instruction, video streaming and conferencing, and supplemental assignments. Provost Targett stated that the UNH Faculty Senate recently adopted guidelines for making up canceled classes.

***Response to Controversial Open Expression:*** Provost Targett referenced guidelines for freedom of expression in the classroom and stated that the issues raised at the last meeting had been addressed directly with Trustee Jasper. In the interest of time, she offered to take questions after the meeting. It was noted that a fuller discussion of freedom of speech was slated for the full board meeting.

***Repositioning for the Future:*** The provosts described a range of approaches designed to transform programs and services in ways that balance student demand for personalized and relevant education, workforce demand for graduates with applied skills and broad competencies, and economic pressures to deliver education more affordably while maintaining technological currency and ensuring a high level of quality. The approaches described included interdisciplinary programming that integrates liberal arts with career preparation, reallocating resources to support academic strengths, actively partnering with the business community to develop programmatic solutions for workforce needs, and using predictive analytics like the Student Success Collaborative to inform and direct student success and institutional effectiveness.

## Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:35 A.M.