



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FEBRUARY 2, 2018

PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY
PLYMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE

REPORT OF MEETING

Approved April 20, 2018

Trustees present: Chair John Small, Secretary Amy Begg, Kassandra Spanos Ardinger, Robert Baines, Donald Birx, Todd Black, James Burnett III, Frederick Dey, M. Jacqueline Eastwood, Frank Edelblut, Senator James Gray, Adam Geddis, Cathy Green, Mark Huddleston, Shawn Jasper, Representative Rick Ladd, Todd Leach, Scott Mason, Christopher Pope, J. Morgan Rutman, Mark Rubinstein, Wallace Stevens, Melinda Treadwell, Alexander Walker Jr.

Participants: PSU students Maddisyn DeCormier, Cameron Foote, Emily Maloney, Gabriel Rendek, Tyler Stoever; PSU faculty Kathryn Elvey, Elisabeth Johnston; Governor Sununu designee Rhonda Hensley; UNH Professor John Greabe; USNH General Counsel Ronald Rodgers; USSB Chair Nathaniel Stafford

Chair's Welcome and Remarks

Chair Small called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. He encouraged trustees to ask questions whenever needed to better inform their understanding of the matters before the Board.

Campus Update

President Birx described PSU's transition from 24 academic departments to 7 interdisciplinary clusters that integrate the arts and humanities with technology. He described the cluster structure as designed to provide an integrated approach to career preparation using four key tools: the first-year experience, themed general education courses, open labs, and a junior/senior capstone experience. He introduced first-year seminar students and faculty who described project-based learning experiences that brought together students with different interests to explore solutions for difficult societal problems.

Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Leach commented on the expansion of the Granite Guarantee financial aid program and presented information about factors that influence tuition rate levels, such as state support, enrollment and demographic pressures, and regional competition. He commented on the status of Enterprise Performance Management implementation and displayed a sample EPM report to demonstrate the type of analytics that can be run when the system is fully functional.

University System Student Board (USSB) Update

Nathaniel Stafford, USSB chair and UNH graduate student representative, described the USSB's work to continue to improve its effectiveness and to contribute to efforts that promote awareness of campus climate and Title IX matters. He thanked Trustee Stevens for his guidance as trustee liaison to the USSB.

Board Minutes

The following motion was made by Trustee Baines, duly seconded, and approved.

VOTED, that the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the meeting held on October 20, 2017.

Presidents' Reports

Chair Small called attention to the presidents' reports provided in the advance meeting materials.

Committee Reports

Chair Small stated that draft reports of the prior day's committee meetings were available on the Board portal.

Executive Committee

Chair Small provided an overview of the meeting, which had no action to bring before the Board.

Governance Committee

Trustee Ardinger, committee chair, provided an overview of the meeting, which had no action to bring before the Board. In reference to the KSC after action review, she stated that the compilation of interviews will be made available to all trustees.

Educational Excellence Committee

Trustee Dey, committee chair, provided an overview of the meeting, which had no action to bring before the Board.

Financial Affairs Committee

Trustee Black, committee vice chair, provided an overview of the meeting and introduced the following action.

Tuition Rates for FY19

The following motion, made by Trustee Black, was duly seconded, discussed, and approved.

VOTED, on recommendation of the Financial Affairs Committee that, effective for academic year 2018-19, the FY19 tuition rates as presented on the attached schedule be adopted as the maximum amounts authorized. Attachments for this item can be found in the Financial Affairs Committee materials.

FY19 Mandatory Fees and Room & Board

The following motion, made by Trustee Black, was duly seconded, discussed, and approved.

VOTED, on recommendation of the Financial Affairs Committee that, effective for fall semester 2018, mandatory student fees be adopted in amounts not to exceed \$3359 at UNH; \$2744 at KSC; and \$2520 at PSU; AND FURTHER, that housing and dining rates be adopted as per the attached schedule. Attachments for this item can be found in the Financial Affairs Committee materials.

Finance Committee for Investments

Trustee Rutman, committee chair, provided an overview of the meeting, which had no action to bring before the Board. He commented that the January 24 “emergency” meeting, as so defined under RSA 91-A, was conducted by telephone to discuss a time sensitive investment opportunity.

Audit Committee

Trustee Black, committee chair, provided an overview of the meeting, which had no action to bring before the Board.

Freedom of Speech and Non-discrimination in Higher Education

Ron Rodgers, USNH general counsel, called attention to the AGB Freedom of Speech on Campus guidelines for governing boards provided in the advance meeting materials, and he introduced Professor John Greabe, associate dean for faculty research and development at the UNH School of Law and an expert in constitutional law. Professor Greabe provided historical context for the First Amendment to the Constitution, explained the nuances of its terminologies, and differentiated the rights and responsibilities of the University System between its role as regulator and its role as speaker. During discussion by trustees, Professor Greabe responded to questions about federal law and deferred to Mr. Rodgers on matters of state law.

Other Business

Comments/questions about the following topics were raised: the University System’s relationship with state government, faculty termination, teacher preparation program accreditation, and campus support for the transitional leadership at KSC.

Chair Small announced that Trustees Baines, Eastwood, Edelblut, and Jasper will meet with the Administrative Board to discuss enrollment.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.