



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APRIL 20, 2018

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

REPORT OF MEETING

*Approved June 22, 2018*

Trustees present: Chair John Small, Vice Chair Joseph Morone, Secretary Amy Begg, Cassandra Spanos Ardinger, Robert Baines, Donald Birx, Todd Black, James Burnett III, Frederick Dey, M. Jacqueline Eastwood, Frank Edelblut, Ricky Fife, Suzanne Foster, Adam Geddis, Senator James Gray, Mark Huddleston, Shawn Jasper, Todd Leach, Scott Mason, Kenneth Moulton, Christopher Pope, J. Morgan Rutman, Mark Rubinstein, Melinda Treadwell, Alexander Walker Jr.

Participants: Rhonda Hensley, Governor Sununu designee; Alexis Gray, UNH student; Ronald Rodgers, USNH general counsel; Deborah Merrill-Sands, UNH dean; Nathaniel Stafford, USSB chair; P.T. Vasudevan, UNH professor

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**Chair's Welcome and Remarks**

Chair Small called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Campus Update**

President Huddleston invited Dean Merrill-Sands, Professor Vasudevan, and student Alexis Gray to provide an overview of UNH's First-year Innovation and Research Experience (FIRE), a team-based, game-like experience guided by alumni and peer mentors to actively engage first-year students in innovation and research practices. Through a series of real-world problem-solving challenges, students develop critical thinking, project management, and communication skills, culminating in competitive presentations of team research and business plans. Launched as a pilot at the Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics, FIRE will be rolled out campus-wide with plans for eventual commercialization and revenue generation.

**Chancellor's Report**

Chancellor Leach provided updates on System Office and Administrative Board activities, and he reported on the work underway to respond to the Board of Trustees' charge to leverage the system structure to achieve operational efficiencies for cost reduction across institutions. A discussion of pace and exigency concluded with a further charge by the Board of Trustees to the Administrative Board to develop a plan by the September 2018 retreat for implementing in FY19 at least two concrete initiatives that will reduce the cost structure while preserving academic quality, the student experience, and the individual identities of the institutions. The plan should identify at least one backroom and one academic function that involves all four institutions.

**University System Student Board (USSB) Update**

Nathaniel Stafford, USSB chair and UNH graduate student representative, commented on the USSB's continued efforts to maximize its effectiveness. He described USSB involvement in campus climate education and outreach activities, such as the cross-system "See Something Say Something" campaign, in coordination with campus residential life and Title IX officials, student government, and the Audit Committee.

**Board Minutes**

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

*VOTED, that the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the meetings held on February 2, 2018, March 15, 2018, and April 3, 2018.*

**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. He noted that top 10 systemwide risks identified in the annual January 2018 Enterprise Risk Management report were assigned to the appropriate Board committees as recommended by the Audit Committee.

### ***Governance Committee***

Trustee Moulton, committee vice chair, provided an overview of the meeting, which had no action to bring before the Board. He stated that the KSC after action report will be redistributed to trustees for review prior to the June meeting and that notice of the annual board self-evaluation will be forthcoming. He urged all trustees to complete the surveys to support a facilitator analysis of results at the fall retreat.

### ***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***

Vice Chair Morone, committee chair, provided an overview of the meeting and introduced the following action.

#### **Increase in Project Budget for the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies**

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

*VOTED, on recommendation of the KSC President, that a revised project budget of \$5.5 million for the renovation and expansion of the Cohen Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies be approved, AND FURTHER, that the source of the \$1 million increase in the budget will be funded by private donation.*

### ***Finance Committee for Investments***

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

### ***Audit Committee***

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

### ***Nominations Committee***

Trustee Moulton, committee chair, stated that a proposed slate of officers will be sent to trustees prior to the June meeting.

## **Discussion: The State of Higher Education**

Chancellor Leach led a discussion of higher education market dynamics with an overview of national trends and regional public system competitive practices involving consolidations, cost-savings initiatives, and pricing incentives. He reviewed New England public postsecondary trends in freshman admissions and yield, noting evidence of the competitive pressures caused by shifting demographics and constricting resources across the region.

## **Public Hearing: Rules for Classification of Students for Determining Eligibility for In-state Tuition**

General Counsel Ron Rodgers referenced State law governing the rulemaking process as relates to the Board's authority to establish criteria for determining whether students shall be classified as in- or out-of-state students for tuition purposes. Pursuant to the NH Administrative Procedure Act, the residency classification policy is subject to periodic review and re-adoption with a provision for public hearing and comment. Chair Small opened the floor for public comment. No comment was offered. Chair Small closed the public hearing and noted for the record no comments were offered. The opportunity for public comment is also available through April 27, as announced in the State's rulemaking register (agency rule Un 811).

## **Adjournment**

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