



**EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE**

**APRIL 25, 2019**

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
DURHAM, NH

MEETING MINUTES  
*Draft for Approval*

Committee members present: Frederick Dey, chair; Jacob Bennett; Frank Edelblut; Cathy Green; Hilary Grubbs; Nadia Hasan; Timothy Herbert; Shawn Jasper; Aaron Keaton; Todd Leach; Scott Mason; Christian Merheb; Mackenzie Murphy; Joseph Scala; Wallace Stevens

Nonmember participants: Amy Begg; Donald Birx; Todd Black; James Dean; Robin Dorff; M. Jacqueline Eastwood; Nancy Fey-Yensan; Rhonda Hensley; Wayne Jones; Ronald Rodgers; Mark Rubinstein; John Small; Representative Marjorie Smith; Scott Stanley; Melinda Treadwell

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**Call to Order**

Committee Chair Dey called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

The following motion was made by Chair Dey, duly seconded, and approved by committee vote.

*VOTED, that the minutes of the January 17, 2019, Educational Excellence Committee meeting be approved as presented in the meeting materials.*

**Discussion**

***Student Success: High-touch and high-tech approaches:*** The provosts presented information about strategies designed to build a campus culture of student engagement to positively influence persistence and success. The most effective strategies involve faculty, in concert with student support and residential life staff, to develop students' self-directed learning skills and sense of community early on and ongoing. "High touch" begins with new student orientation and first-year experience, continues with team projects and active engagement in undergraduate research and applied learning. "High tech" involves predictive analytics and early warning systems that rely on faculty input and identify students at risk of academic difficulty, and at the same time can identify structural barriers impeding success more broadly. Faculty development in areas of coaching, advising, and mentoring is ongoing and increasingly led by faculty peers with experience and expertise. Student success was defined as a demonstration of competency and capacity for personal and professional growth beyond college rather than the culmination of a grade. It was noted, considering declining enrollment, increasing budget constraints, and the investment of resources associated with obtaining a new student (recruitment, marketing, admissions, aid), that even modest improvement in retention can translate to critical additional revenues.

## **Information**

***Free Speech Executive Order:*** General Counsel Ron Rodgers addressed the free speech component of the U.S. president's executive order on Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities. He stated that no new requirements pertaining to free speech were set forth in the order, although it did institute new enforcement mechanisms. USNH institutions follow best practice in compliance with law and have earned the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education (FIRE)'s Green Light rating. Trustees were asked, if alerted by constituents of free speech concerns, to relay the issue directly to the institution.

***Chancellor's Update:*** Chancellor Leach provided information about regional higher education developments, including UMaine's effort to obtain system-level regional accreditation that would facilitate transferable financial aid and the sharing of students and courses across institutions. He reported a decline in CCSNH transfer students enrolling at USNH institutions in FY18, noting increasingly aggressive competition for those students by UMaine and SNHU.

***University System Student Board (USSB):*** Student trustees and representatives provided information about recent campus activities related to student governance, campus housing, academic programming, and student research conferences.

***CCSNH Transfer Activity:*** Chair Dey called attention to the information in the advance meeting materials and invited questions; none were raised.

***Academic Program Additions/Deletions:*** Chair Dey called attention to the information in the advance meeting materials and invited questions; none were raised.

***Academic Program Quality Assurance:*** No updates for this meeting.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.