



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

APRIL 26, 2019

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DURHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

REPORT OF MEETING

Draft for Approval

Trustees present: Chair John Small, Vice Chair Joseph Morone, Secretary Amy Begg, Cassandra Spanos Ardinger, Robert Baines, Donald Birx, Todd Black, James Dean, Jr., Frederick Dey, M. Jacqueline Eastwood, Cathy Green, Nadia Hasan, Shawn Jasper, Todd Leach, Scott Mason, Christian Merheb, Kenneth Moulton, Christopher Pope, Mark Rubinstein, J. Morgan Rutman, Representative Marjorie Smith, Wallace Stevens, Melinda Treadwell, Alexander Walker

Participants: UNH students Jacob Bennett, Sydney Birch, Vanessa Croteau, Srigana Padamati; UNH faculty Alynna Lyon, Neil Niman, Kerry Nolte, Nathan Schwadron; Provost Wayne Jones; Brendon Martin, Sightlines; Matthew Purcell, System Office

Call to Order

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

Campus Presentation

President Dean reviewed the strategic priorities guiding UNH toward its goal of being among the top 25 public universities in the country as measured by academic performance. He provided an overview of the performance metrics and invited trustees to learn more on “The Future of UNH” web page (<https://www.unh.edu/main/future-of-unh#enh>). Provost Jones presented information about UNH’s research mission and recent “Research I” Carnegie designation. Student and faculty presenters – Sydney Birch, Vanessa Croteau, Alynna Lyon, Nathan Schwadron, Kerry Nolte, Srigana Padamati, and Neil Niman – shared information about research activities and business partnerships in a variety of fields in the sciences and humanities.

Chancellor’s Report

Chancellor Leach presented information about recent developments in areas of resource management and savings, the NH College and University Council’s campaign to retain more college-going students in NH, incoming community college transfer activity, and potential statutory changes to NH’s UNIQUE/529 Savings program. He introduced the USNH electronic legislative newsletter, noting that trustees will be added to distribution. He presented Moody’s projections for capacity in the online education market and noted that the Administrative Board will discuss potential growth opportunities for USNH.

University System Student Board (USSB) Update

Jacob Bennett, USSB graduate student representative for UNH, reported on behalf of USSB Chair Christian Merheb. He provided an update on ongoing efforts to enhance transition and continuity in student representation on the Board, to include seeking greater integration with the full Board and delegation of USSB eligibility criteria to the individual institutions.

Presidents’ Reports

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

Board Minutes

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

VOTED, that the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the meetings held on January 18, 2019.

Committee Reports

Chair Small called attention to the prior day’s committee meeting reports posted on the Board portal.

Executive Committee

Chair Small called attention to the draft meeting report and introduced the following action.

Amendments to the Keene Endowment Association's Bylaws

The following motion, made by Chair Small, was duly seconded, discussed, and approved, with no votes opposed or abstained.

VOTED, on recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board of Trustees hereby approves the proposed amendments to the Keene Endowment Association's bylaws, as set forth in the materials attached to the agenda.

University of New Hampshire School of Law Name Change

The following motion, made by Chair Small, was duly seconded, discussed, and approved, with no votes opposed or abstained.

VOTED, on recommendation of the Executive Committee, the Board of Trustees hereby changes the name of the University of New Hampshire School of Law to the University of New Hampshire Franklin Pierce School of Law and authorizes UNH President James Dean to take or cause to be taken all such steps as may be necessary or desirable to effect such change.

Governance Committee

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

Amendments to the Board Policy on Conflicts of Interests

The following motion, made by Chair Small, was duly seconded, discussed, and approved, with no votes opposed or abstained.

VOTED, on recommendation of the Governance Committee, the Board of Trustees hereby approves the proposed amendments to the policy on conflicts of interests, BOT III.I, as set forth in the materials attached to the agenda.

Trustee Ardinger called on all trustees to complete the annual Board, committee, and trustee evaluations slated for May distribution, stating that accreditation standards require demonstration of effective governance and self-evaluation.

Trustee Stevens voiced his support for the USSB's request for formal assignment to additional committees as nonvoting members. The students are currently voting members of the Educational Excellence Committee.

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

Finance Committee for Investments

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

He noted that an upcoming Prime Buchholz portfolio session, to which all trustees were invited, would be purely for educational purposes and no action would be taken or decisions made at the session.

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 the FY20 Board officer nominations will be circulated three weeks prior to the June Board meeting.

IT Optimization and Synergies Update

Chancellor Leach recapped activities to date and, referencing the recent departures of both the UNH CIO and the interim USNH (systemwide) CIO, announced the Administrative Board's decision to combine positions into one, with a national search for the single position underway. The new CIO will report to the UNH president and will have oversight of IT staff and operations across the system. Russell Battista, System Office CIO, provided an overview on his work on an interim basis with the IT Steering Committee to keep identified synergy projects moving forward. It was noted that senior leadership support and compliance with systemwide IT standards will be critical for success. The Board expressed its expectation that the Administrative Board understood and supported the imperative for IT optimization.

Sightlines - FY18 Update

Brendon Martin, Sightlines senior account manager, presented the results of the updated facilities benchmarking analysis which found space growth outpacing enrollment, with an overall density factor for the system below that of its peers. He provided an overview of the system's space profile and net asset value, which found renovations of existing facilities have given USNH a well-distributed age profile and the highest net asset value among its peers. He presented solutions for slowing the growth of backlog and for strategically targeting capital investments to mission. Trustees discussed the pros and cons of public-private partnerships and facilities demolition. Matthew Purcell, USNH director of capital planning and development, noted that the analysis was consistent with the five-year capital plans.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.