EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 24, 2019
KEENE STATE COLLEGE
KEENE, NH
MEETING MINUTES
Approved January 16, 2020

Committee members present: M. Jacqueline Eastwood, chair; Amy Begg; Jacob Bennett; Victoria Bergstrom; Frank Edelblut; Cailee Griffin; Aura Huot; Shawn Jasper; Aaron Keaton; Todd Leach; Tyler Minnich; Joseph Scala; Leo Shattuck; David Westover
Nonmember participants: Kassandra Spanos Ardinger; Donald Birx; James Burnett, III; James Dean, Jr.; Robin Dorff; George Hansel; Rhonda Hensley; Ockle Johnson; Wayne Jones; Joseph Morone; Christopher Pope; Mark Rubinstein; Representative Marjorie Smith; Scott Stanley; Melinda Treadwell; Alexander Walker, Jr.

Call to Order
Committee Chair Eastwood called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Consent Agenda
Approval of Minutes
Moved by Trustee Mason, duly seconded, and approved:

VOTED, that the minutes of the June 27, 2019, Educational Excellence Committee meeting be approved as presented in the meeting materials.

Approval of KSC Promotion Recommendations
Moved by Trustee Westover, duly seconded, and approved:

VOTED, on recommendation of President Treadwell, that the promotion recommendations for four individuals at Keene State College be approved as presented in the meeting materials.

Fall Enrollment
Chancellor Leach reviewed the fall enrollment summary included in the meeting materials. Given campus objectives to grow graduate student enrollment, this population will be broken out of total enrollment going forward. It was noted that future year enrollment projections are provided to the Financial Affairs Committee as part of the budget process, with budget-to-actual updates presented throughout the year.

University System Student Board (USSB)
Student Trustees Scala and Griffin described USSB plans for the year to engage in campus climate surveys, actively collaborate with student governments, and continue refining USSB transition practices. Student government collaboration goals include strengthening election integrity and diversity and assessing metrics in common across campuses.
**Nursing In-depth**

*Nursing Supply and Demand.* Chancellor Leach described the evolution of nursing programming within the University System in response to workforce needs. He presented information on projected demand for nurses, current nurse education programs in the state, and the insufficiency of these programs at current levels to support demand. The provosts indicated that simulation lab capacity and clinical placement availability are the primary impediments to program expansion. Other challenges include the high expense of nursing education (relative to liberal arts expense, upon which tuition rates are generally based) and, for PSU and KSC in particular, the availability of qualified nursing faculty. Strategies to mitigate the challenges were discussed.

**KSC and RVCC Collaboration.** Interim Provost Johnson provided an overview of Keene State’s co-location partnership with River Valley Community College to reduce cost and create a seamless RN-to-BSN-like transfer pathway and more efficient credentialing across a range of nursing programs. The two colleges newly share simulation lab and classroom space. The nursing program directors are working closely together to coordinate programming and to address collaboration challenges. Both colleges expect to double their current enrollment capacity to 64 students combined.

**UNH Health Sciences.** Provost Jones described the purpose of the state’s $9 million support for the UNH nursing program to increase the number of graduates in nursing and speech and language pathology programs; to add nurse practitioner specializations in acute care and psychiatric mental health; and to add occupational therapy programs. Discussion centered on current and potential health programming synergies among USNH institutions and with the community colleges and health care employers. UNH will host a Health Care Summit in the spring to bring together members of the two public higher education systems and the health care industry to identify needs, gaps, and strategies for leveraging resources to best meet workforce needs.

**KSC and PSU Nursing Program Approval.** Chair Eastwood congratulated both institutions for the success of program improvement efforts to achieve unqualified approval by the New Hampshire Board of Nursing. She affirmed that required progress reporting to the USNH Board of Trustees was thereby discontinued.

**New Hampshire Top 10 Jobs**

Chancellor Leach reviewed the list provided in meeting materials of New Hampshire Employment Security’s projected top occupations by education level in terms of growth and annual openings. Discussion centered on opportunities to support workforce needs in alignment with USNH missions.

**Top Areas of Focus for the Year**

Chair Eastwood opened the floor for committee topics for the remaining fiscal year. Upon discussion, the following topics were selected: micro- and alternative credentialing offerings and opportunities; the value of liberal arts education in the workforce; and mental health program offerings and opportunities.

*Post-meeting note:* During the committee report at the October 25 Board meeting, it was decided by trustees that the committee will additionally undertake a discussion of the opportunities and obstacles to a developing a systemwide common application. Pelema Morrice, vice president of enrollment management at UNH, will be asked to lead the discussion.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.