BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Emergency Meeting

USNH System Office
5 Chenell Drive
Concord, NH

(March 16, 2020)

Meeting Minutes
(Draft for Approval)

In Attendance: Trustees (via teleconference): Chair Joseph Morone, Vice Chair Jamie Burnett, Secretary Kass Ardinger, Jackie Eastwood, Chris Pope, Morgan Rutman, and Chancellor Todd Leach. Also participating (from the physical meeting location in the Board Room, 5 Chenell Drive, Concord, NH): Ron Rodgers.

Call to Order: At 5:00 pm, Chair Morone called the meeting to order, called the roll, and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient for the conduct of business.

Determination of Conditions Necessary for the Conduct of a Telephonic Meeting: Chair Morone made the following findings and declaration, sufficient for the conduct of a telephonic meeting, counting all members toward the quorum requirement whether or not physically present in the meeting location:

Under the NH Right to Know Law, RSA 91-a:2, III (b), a governmental body such as this Board of Trustees is authorized to meet by conference call when “immediate action is imperative and the physical presence of a quorum is not reasonably practical within the period of time requiring action.” In consultation with USNH General Counsel, it is my determination that a meeting by conference call is justified on the basis of the following facts:

- The individual members of this Board live and work in locations remote to any single meeting place;
- The Governor’s declaration of emergency and Executive Order 2020-04, dated March 13, 2020, permits and encourages governmental bodies to conduct public meetings on an emergency basis using telephonic communications;
- Given the members’ various professional and personal schedules it is not reasonably practical to gather a quorum of the Board members in a single place for a physical meeting;
• The matter to be considered at this meeting developed only very recently;

• The interests of USNH, its students, faculty, and staff, and the State of New Hampshire will be best served by Board’s expeditious consideration of and decision on the matter presented; and

• The notice of the meeting was posted and members of the public are permitted to observe and listen to the proceedings at the Board Room at the System Office at 5 Chenell Drive in Concord, NH.

Discussion: Chair Morone reviewed for the Executive Committee a public statement prepared by the Chancellor’s Office for dissemination by 6:00 pm, this evening. Trustee Eastwood moved approval of the proposed statement and Trustees Burnett and Ardinger seconded the motion. Following a brief discussion, the members of the committee participating in the meeting voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Adjournment: At 5:10 pm, on motion duly moved and seconded, Chair Morone adjourned the meeting of the Executive Committee. The next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 19, at 4:00 pm, at the System Office, 5 Chenell Drive, Concord, NH.