BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Regularly Scheduled Meeting,
Held by Emergency Teleconference

Physical Meeting Location:
USNH System Office
5 Chenell Drive
Concord, NH

(March 19, 2020)

Meeting Minutes
(Draft for Approval)

In Attendance: Executive Committee Members (via teleconference): Chair Joseph Morone, Vice Chair Jamie Burnett, Secretary Kass Ardinger, Todd Black, Jackie Eastwood, Chris Pope, Morgan Rutman, and Alex Walker. Other Trustees: Don Birx, Jim Dean, Cathy Green, Shawn Jasper, Todd Leach (from the physical meeting location in the Board Room, 5 Chenell Drive, Concord, NH), Mark Rubinstein, Rhonda Hensley (for Governor Sununu), Melinda Treadwell, and David Westover. Also participating (via teleconference): Cathy Provencher, Jim McGrail, and Ron Rodgers.

Call to Order: At 4:15 pm, Chair Morone called the meeting to order, called the roll, and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient for the conduct of business.

Determinaton of Conditions Necessary for the Conduct of a Telephonic Meeting: Chair Morone made the following findings and declaration, sufficient for conducting a telephonic meeting and 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.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: On motion moved by Trustee Ardinger and seconded by Chris Pope, the committee voted unanimously by roll call to approve the minutes of the previous committee meeting:

VOTED, that the Executive Committee approve the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of January 16, 2020, as presented.

Nonpublic Session: At 4:20 pm, on motion moved by Chair Morone and seconded by Vice Chair Burnett, the committee voted unanimously by roll call to go into nonpublic session for the purposes indicated:

VOTED, that the Executive Committee go into nonpublic session for the purpose of discussing: (1) matters relating to strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining, (2) the hiring and compensation of public employees, and (3) confidential matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of persons other than a member of the Executive Committee as authorized by RSA 91-A:2, I (a) and RSA 92-A:3, II (a), (b), and (c).

Return to Public Session: At 4:40 pm, on motion moved by Trustee Rutman and seconded by Trustee Eastwood, the committee returned to public session. Chair Morone announced the three votes taken and decisions made by the committee while in nonpublic session:

Interim Appointment for PSU Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs: On motion made by Vice Chair Burnett and seconded by Trustee Eastwood, the committee voted unanimously by roll call to approve the appointment:

VOTED, on recommendation of Donald Birx, President of Plymouth State University, with endorsement of the Executive Compensation and Performance Review Committee, that the Executive Committee hereby recommends the approval of the appointment of Dr. Ann McClellan to the role of Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Plymouth State University, contingent upon the terms outlined below.

Ratification of the Tentative Agreement with the UNH Lecturers United – AAUP (UNHLU): On motion made by Trustee Rutman and seconded by Secretary Ardinger, the committee voted unanimously by roll call to ratify the tentative agreement:
**VOTED**, on recommendation of the President of the University of New Hampshire, that the Executive Committee ratify the tentative agreement between the AAUP-UNH (American Association of University Professors – University of New Hampshire) Lecturers and the Board of Trustees/UNH as described in the attached document, **AND FURTHER**, hereby authorizes the President of the University of New Hampshire to sign and execute the 2017-2022 collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

**Recommend the Appointment of External Auditors:** On motion moved by Trustee Black and seconded by Trustee Eastwood, the committee voted unanimously by roll call vote to appoint external auditors:

**VOTED**, on recommendation of the Audit Committee that the Executive Committee approve, for concurrence by the Governor, the appointment of CliftonLarsonAllen LLP as the external auditors for the University System of New Hampshire for a term up to seven years, subject to annual confirmation by the Audit Committee, **AND FURTHER**, that, if approved, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP be the external auditors for USNH to provide audit services for FY2020.

**Discussion Items:** The presidents each updated the committee on current conditions and the planning for and responding to the coronavirus outbreak. Trustee Pope described his involvement with the work being done by President Treadwell and the Task Force on Campus Safety, including daily conference calls with the state’s emergency response public officials. Chair Morone announced the formation of an eighth systemwide task force on governmental relations for the purpose of staying abreast of the emerging federal and state recovery funding opportunities. Chancellor Leach will chair the task force, Trustees Burnett and Green will be members along with selected individuals from the institutions.

**Action Item:** Chair Morone introduced the proposed action item relating to FY21 tuition rates for the UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law.

**Approve UNH School of Law Tuition Rates for FY21:** On motion moved by Chair Morone and seconded by Trustee Eastwood, the committee approved the tuition rates:

**VOTED**, on recommendation of the UNH President that, effective for academic year 2020-21, the non-standard tuition rates for UNH Law as presented on the attached schedule be adopted as the maximum amounts authorized.

**Nonpublic Session:** At 4:55 pm, on motion moved by Chair Morone and seconded by Vice Chair Burnett, the committee voted unanimously by roll call to go into nonpublic session for the purposes indicated:

**VOTED**, that the Executive Committee go into nonpublic session for the purpose of discussing matters relating to strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining and confidential financial and strategic matters which, if discussed in public, likely would advantage one or more private parties to the detriment of the public interests of the state of New Hampshire, as authorized by RSA 91-A:2, I (a) and RSA 92-A:5, IV.

**Return to Public Session:** At 5:20 pm, on motion moved by Chair Morone and seconded by Secretary Ardinger, the committee returned to public session. Chair Morone announced the committee did not take any votes or make any decisions while in nonpublic session.
**Action Item:** Chair Morone introduced the proposed action item related to the USNH capital budget appropriation request for FY26-27.

**Approval of Capital Budget Request:** On motion made by Chair Morone and seconded by Trustee Eastwood, the committee unanimously approved by roll call vote the proposed capital budget request as presented:

*VOTED, on recommendation of the Administrative Board, that a request of $20 million for FY26-27 be included in the required submission to the Governor of the six year capital projects plan for FY22-FY27 for the following projects: $12 million for UNH Nesmith Hall renovation; $4 million for the KSC Elliott Student Services Center/Joslin Hall renovation; and $4 million for the renovation to Hyde Hall. AND FURTHER, that the Chancellor is authorized prepare the final document for submission to the State on April 3, 2020.*

**Adjournment:** At 5:45 pm, Chair Morone called for further business to come before the committee and, hearing none, accepted a motion to adjourn, duly seconded and approved by the committee, and adjourned the meeting of the Executive Committee. The next regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, at 4:00 pm, at the System Office, 5 Chenell Drive, Concord, NH.