EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
APRIL 23, 2020

MEETING BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEETING MINUTES
Approved June 25, 2020

Participants
Committee members: M. Jacqueline Eastwood, chair; Cathy Green, vice chair; Amy Begg; Jacob Bennett; Victoria Bergstrom; Frank Edelblut; Cailee Griffin; Aura Huot; Shawn Jasper; Todd Leach; Tyler Minnich; Joseph Scala; Leo Shattuck; Wallace Stevens; David Westover
Other trustees: Donald Birx; James Burnett, III; James Dean, Jr.; George Hansel; Joseph Morone; Michael Pilot; Christopher Pope; Mark Rubinstein; Morgan Rutman; Representative Marjorie Smith; Melinda Treadwell
Other nonmembers: Marlin Collingwood; Robin DeRosa; Joseph Dwyer; Michael Fazi; Heidi Hedegard; Ockle Johnson; Wayne Jones; M.B. Lufkin; Tia Miller; Ann McClellan; Cathy Provencier; Ron Rodgers; Lisa Shawney; Scott Stanley

Call to Order
Committee Chair Eastwood called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and called attention to information about the state’s current employment needs. Meeting participants were recognized.

Consent Agenda
Moved by Chair Eastwood, duly seconded, and approved.

VOTED, that the Educational Excellence Committee approve the consent agenda containing the January 16, 2020, meeting minutes, the appointment of one professor with tenure at the University of New Hampshire, and the academic program change information.

Consent Items:
- Minutes January 16, 2020
- UNH Appointment with Tenure Recommendation
  Motion, on recommendation of President Dean, that the Educational Excellence Committee recommend for approval by the Board of Trustees the appointment of one professor with tenure at the University of New Hampshire, as presented in the supporting material.
- Information: Academic Degree Program Additions and Deletions
  UNH Addition: MS in Business Analytics
  UNH Deletions: AS in Civil Technology
  AS in Horticultural Technology
  AS in Culinary Arts and Nutrition
  AS in Integrated Agricultural Management

University System Student Board (USSB)
Trustees Scala and Griffin, on behalf of the USSB, talked about how students are coping with the mid-term shift to remote learning and social distancing and their expectations generally for fall. The USSB is working to address the potential impact of the pandemic on the onboarding process for next year’s members. Chair Eastwood thanked the students their insights and she suggested that the campuses utilize USSB members as a resource in the development of fall messaging.
**Spring Survey Results and Fall Admissions**

The provosts provided context for fall admissions numbers, noting that it was relatively early in the process given the deposit deadline delay and public uncertainty around near-term plans. They provided an overview of findings from surveys designed to gauge the effects of the COVID-19 disruption on faculty and students’ abilities to teach and learn and their overall sense of well-being. Campuses are using the results to guide immediate actions to improve the distance education experience in the remainder of the spring term. The results will also be used to inform faculty development and training over the summer to improve remote instruction skills; for facilitating the readiness to stand up a higher quality distance learning model in the fall if conditions necessitate; and for developing the capacity to optimize a hybrid format that offers the most instructional options for students going forward. Observations included that an emergency remote instruction was not the same as intentionally designed online learning; that student perspectives were naturally reflective of overall frustration with the wide-ranging effects of the pandemic; and that undergraduate and graduate students may be experiencing the disruption in different ways.

**Distance Learning**

Chancellor Leach provided an overview of the systemwide plan for centralized online support and delivery and coordinated online content. Development of the plan was supported by the Administrative Board in response to the Board’s designation of online strategy as a high priority. Chancellor Leach presented four recommendations for the Board’s consideration: (1) Create New Hampshire Online, a centralized delivery hub that would operate like an in-house online program management (OPM) service by aligning reporting structures for key OPM functions, including call and digital communications center, CRM capabilities, common LMS, and systemwide instructional design; (2) Create a portfolio of online undergraduate courses addressing short-term utilization and sharing of existing online classes while protecting campus brands/identities; (3) Stand up hybrid/blended classroom capability for fall; and (4) Support summer faculty development to strengthen online and blended delivery, and develop a certification process for online facilitators of NH Online courses and robust instructional design support plans for master teachers. It was noted that the plan did not intend to replace the traditional residential model but to strengthen the system’s capacity to expand its market to reach nontraditional, largely adult learners. Further consideration of the plan is expected to occur at the full Board of Trustees meeting.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.