



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

August 4, 2020

Special Meeting held via Zoom

Meeting Minutes

August 4, 2020

In Attendance: Trustees: Chair Joseph Morone, Vice Chair Jamie Burnett, Secretary Cassandra Ardinger, Amy Begg, Don Birx, Todd Black, Jim Dean, Jackie Eastwood, Cathy Green, George Hansel, Shawn Jasper, Todd Leach, Scott Mason, Tyler Minnich, Mike Pilot, Chris Pope, Mark Rubinstein, Morgan Rutman, Michael Shannon, Marjorie Smith, Donna Soucy, Wally Stevens, Governor Chris Sununu, Melinda Treadwell, Alex Walker, and David Westover.

Call to Order: At 4:00 pm, Chair Morone called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient for the conduct of business.

Conduct of a Public Meeting via Video Conference: At Chair Morone's invitation USNH Secretary Rodgers made the following announcement regarding the conduct of this meeting via video conference:

This meeting is being held by electronic means in conformance with the Governor's emergency declaration of March 13, 2020, and subsequent emergency orders, as well as the applicable provisions of the New Hampshire Right-to-Know Law, RSA 91-A. If during the conduct of this meeting, anyone has difficulty connecting or staying connected to the video or audio feed please contact Tia Miller at tia.miller@usnh.edu. In the unlikely event of a Zoom call failure, we'll reconvene using the teleconference numbers provided in Item II of the agenda for this meeting.

This is a public meeting of the USNH Board of Trustees. We welcome the guests with us this afternoon to observe and listen to the meeting. This is not a public hearing and the Board will not be taking questions from the audience. All guests have been put on mute and we ask that you stay on mute to reduce the amount of background noise. Following the meeting, you may send your questions to our Director of Communications, Lisa Thorne. Lisa's email address is lisa.thorne@usnh.edu.

Discussion of Agenda and Goals for this Board Meeting: Chair Morone described the order of business, significant agenda items, and expectations for the meeting. He then described the substantial work that has led USNH to this point, including contributions by the Board, the state and federal governments, and, most especially, the presidents and their teams. With that, Chair Morone introduced Governor Sununu and invited him to offer his comments and views on the plans pending for the Board's consideration.

Governor Sununu's Remarks: Governor Sununu expressed his appreciation for the hard work by each of the USNH institutions to plan for opening their campuses for in-person educational programming in the fall. He also noted the importance and value of the close collaboration between the institutions and state public health officials. The Governor said the goal is not only to open for the fall, but to stay open for the entire semester. That will require flexibility and persistence. In his words, "there is no playbook, we have a long way to go to the goal." Governor Sununu finished by expressing his support for the plans to open for the fall semester, pledging his support and that of the state public health officials, and wishing USNH well and much success in the work ahead of it.

Chair Morone thanked Governor Sununu for taking time out of his busy schedule to attend the meeting and express his views on the question and, most especially, for his support throughout the development of the institutions' plans.

Presidents' Summary of their Institution's Plan and Attestation to the Checklist of Conditions for Opening: Chair Morone called on each of the president to summarize their plan for the fall semester and attest to their compliance with the Board's checklist of necessary conditions, a copy of which was included in the agenda for this meeting.

UNH President Dean went first, describing the amount of time, effort, and resources that have gone into preparing the UNH plan, recognizing that it is only a plan and will have to be modified as the semester progresses. PSU President Birx described the PSU plan and emphasized the strong support for returning to in-person programming by the students and communities surrounding the university. KSC President Treadwell described the KSC plan as well as the work done by the system-wide COVID Coordinating Committee, which she co-chaired with Paul Dean from UNH. President Treadwell focused the remainder of her presentation on the testing and tracing plans developed for KSC and the other institutions. The trustees then asked each of the presidents a variety of questions on their plans; the presidents responded to each inquiry.

Chair Morone thanked each of the presidents for their presentations attesting to compliance with the checklist of conditions for fall semester opening. For the sake of the members of the public observing the meeting, Chair Morone described the many – essentially weekly - Executive Committee and full Board meetings conducted during the spring and summer at which the Board exhaustively reviewed each institution's plans for the fall, working closely with the presidents to ensure those plans met the requirements of the Board's checklist of conditions and were fully prudent and reasonable.

Board Resolution: Chair Morone called for a motion and Trustee Rutman moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Trustee Jackie Eastwood, and voted by roll call vote:

***BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Board of Trustees supports the Presidents' decisions to open their institutions to on-campus and in-person education programming, including living and dining, for the coming fall semester, with the understanding the Presidents will continue to monitor the evolving conditions and medical guidance, keep the Board apprised of the conditions at their institutions and in their communities, and work with the Board to modify their plans as appropriate.*

With the Presidents and Chancellor having recused themselves, the Board voted, 18 in favor to 1 opposed, to adopt the resolution as proposed.

Schedule of Future Board Meetings: Chair Morone announced the scheduling of a special meeting of the Executive Committee for Thursday, August 13, at 4 pm, the primary purpose of which is to begin the annual performance evaluations of the Presidents and Chancellor. All trustees are encouraged to attend the meeting and participate in the discussion. The following Thursday, August 20, will be a regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee, beginning at 4 pm.

Adjournment: At 5:51 pm, on motion duly moved and seconded, Chair Morone adjourned the meeting of the Board of Trustees.