



## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

### **Meeting by Videoconference**

#### **By Zoom Platform:**

*(Aug 27, 2020)*

#### **Meeting Minutes**

**In Attendance:** Executive Committee Members (via video conference): Chair Joseph Morone, Vice Chair Jamie Burnett, Secretary Kass Ardinger, Jackie Eastwood, Mike Pilot (for Todd Black), Chris Pope, Morgan Rutman, and Alex Walker. Other Trustees: Amy Begg, Don Birx, Jim Dean, Cathy Green, George Hansel, Shawn Jasper, Todd Leach, Scott Mason, Tyler Minnich, Mark Rubinstein, Michael Shannon, Marjorie Smith, Melinda Treadwell, Gregg Tewksbury, and David Westover. Also participating (via video conference): Tia Miller, Matt Purcell, Lisa Thorne, Cathy Provencher, Karen Benincasa, and Ron Rodgers.

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

**Conduct of a Meeting by Videoconference:** Chair Morone had the following announcement made regarding the conduct of the meeting by videoconference:

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](mailto:tia.miller@usnh.edu).

**Campus Updates:** Chair Morone invited the presidents to update the committee on developments during the run-up to the start of the fall semester. Each reported on the status of student and employee testing in terms of efficiency of administration, timeliness of results, and the results themselves. They also discussed the apparent levels of acceptance, cooperation, and leadership shown among the students, faculty, and staff as they navigate the transition back to in-person and on-campus educational programming and other activities. The number and variety of questions from trustees prompted a substantial discussion on all points.

**COVID Coordinating Council Report on Dashboards:** President Treadwell, on behalf of the COVID Coordinating Council, led a discussion on the development of dashboards displaying

critical metrics at each of the institutions, to be tailored to the needs of three audiences: the presidents and their teams, the Board of Trustees, and the public. The public dashboards will be accessible on each institution's web site.

**FY22-23 Biennial State Operating Budget Request:** Chancellor Leach briefly described the proposed operating budget request, as approved by the Administrative Board. The proposal has two principal parts: flat funding on a year-over-year basis and a tuition freeze. After Chair Morone moved the motion and Trustee Burnett seconded it, the committee unanimously approved the motion as presented with the understanding the Chancellor's Office will convey the following messages in the narrative portion of the request: (1) a substantial change in current, highly fluid circumstances (e.g. expenses related to disruptions from the pandemic, student enrollments, or higher education market conditions), may necessitate a revised request, perhaps including the need to identify other sources of one-time funds; and (2) any increase in state appropriation above the level requested would allow USNH to reduce in-state tuition.

*VOTED, on recommendation of the Chancellor, and with the unanimous support from the Administrative Board, that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees approve the FY22-23 Biennial State Operating Budget Request of \$177 million (\$88.5 million in each year of the biennium), AND FURTHER authorize the Chancellor to finalize documents for submission to the Governor's Office.*

**FY21 Capital Budget:** Vice Chancellor Provencher presented a revised FY21 capital budget, scrubbed of all projects that can be delayed to free up cash to cover anticipated operating losses due to the pandemic. After a brief discussion by the committee, Chair Morone moved and Trustee Rutman seconded the proposed motion. The committee unanimously approved the motion as proposed.

*VOTED, on the recommendation of the Chancellor and Presidents that a capital budget for University System units applicable to the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021 (FY21) be approved in total for the System by the Board of Trustees as presented in the attachment; AND FURTHER that for/during FY21 future expenditures for capital projects be subject to the approval process outlined in the spending directives dated April 1, 2020; AND FURTHER that any required changes and modifications to the capital budget required during FY21 are delegated to the Finance Committee for Investments.*

**Additional Spending in FY21 on PSU Turf Field Project:** Vice Chancellor Provencher provided an overview of the proposal and PSU President Birx described the project's value to PSU and the urgency to complete construction this fall. On motion made by Chair Morone and seconded by Trustee Eastwood, the committee voted to approve the motion with seven votes in favor and one opposed.

*VOTED, on recommendation of the Plymouth State University President that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees approve an additional \$1.4 million in FY21 spending for the artificial turf field at Plymouth State University, AND FURTHER that the source of funds for the additional spending come from deferring other spending for PSU projects in the FY21 capital budget.*

**UNH Faculty Appointments with Tenure:** UNH President Dean introduced this item, describing the rigorous review process conducted by the faculty and overseen by the Provost in support of this request. On motion made by Chair Morone and seconded by Trustee Eastwood, the committee voted unanimously to approve the motion as proposed.

*VOTED, on recommendation of President Dean, that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of two professors with tenure at the University of New Hampshire, as presented in the supporting material.*

**Board Self-assessment Results:** Due to the shortness of time and press of other business this item was deferred to a future meeting.

**Non-public Session:** At 5:50 pm, the Executive Committee voted to go into non-public session for the reasons described below. On motion made by Chair Morone and seconded by Trustee Eastwood, the committee voted unanimously by roll call to go into non-public session:

*VOTED, that the Executive Committee go into nonpublic session for the purpose of (1) discussing the naming of a building, (2) consultation with legal counsel, and (3) the annual performance evaluation of the USNH presidents and chancellor as authorized by the Right to Know Law provisions regarding personnel matters including the performance of one or more public employees, matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, and consultation with legal counsel, pursuant to RSA 91-A:2, I (b) and 3, II (a) and (c).*

**Return to Public Session:** At 6:23 pm, on motion duly made and seconded, the Executive Committee voted to return to public session. Chair Morone announced the committee took no votes and made no decisions while in non-public session.

**Tribute to Departing Trustee Scott Mason:** Chair Morone, on behalf the Board of Trustees, thanked Trustee Scott Mason for his service to USNH and public higher education. Trustee Mason is stepping down to assume the position of Commissioner of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department.

**Adjourn:** At 6:30 pm, Chair Morone called for further business and, hearing none, called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly moved, seconded, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned.