



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
October 22-23, 2020

Meetings held via Zoom

Meeting Minutes
(APPROVED – January 22, 2021)

October 22, 2020

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

Call to Order: At 8:00 am, Chair Morone called the morning session to order and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient for the conduct of business.

Conduct of a Telephonic Meeting: Chair Morone made the following announcement regarding the conduct of a telephonic meeting and counting all members toward the quorum requirement whether or not physically present in the meeting location:

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.

Discussion of Agenda and Goals for these Board and Committee Meetings: Chair Morone described the order of business, significant agenda items, and expectations for the meetings over the next day and one-half. The focus will be on the four primary tactics of the USNH strategy for addressing the long-term structural trends reshaping higher education while preserving the independence and unique missions of the system’s four institutions: (1) consolidate and centralize redundant administrative functions; (2) restructure and resize the individual institutions; (3) strengthen the system-wide capacity to deliver online educational programming; and (4) further develop the relationship with CCSNH.

Nonpublic Session:

On motion made by Trustee Eastwood and seconded by Trustee Burnett, a roll call vote was taken; the Board unanimously voted to go into nonpublic session for the stated purposes:

***VOTED**, that the Board of Trustees go into nonpublic session for the purposes of (1) discussing personnel matters including the performance of one or more public employees, (2) confidential,*

commercial, or financial information, (3) matters of market strategy which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are contrary to those of the general public, (4) matters likely to affect collective bargaining strategy, and (5) consultation with legal counsel as authorized by RSA 91-A:2, I (a) and (b); 91-A:3, II (a), (b), and (d); and 91-A:5, IV.

The vote having been adopted, at 8:10 am, the Board went into non-public session.

Return to Public Session: At 9:28 am, on motion duly moved and seconded, the Board voted to return to public session. Chair Morone announced that while in nonpublic session, no votes were taken, and no decisions were made.

Adjournment: At 9:30 am, Chair Morone adjourned the Board of Trustees until Friday, October 23, 2020, at 8 am. The Board's committees are scheduled to meet in the interim.

October 23, 2020 – Board Business Meeting

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

Call to Order: At 8:00 am, Chair Morone called the Board's business meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient for the conduct of business. Chair Morone briefly reviewed the agenda and desired outcomes for the business meeting.

Conduct of a Telephonic Meeting: Chair Morone made the following announcement regarding the conduct of a telephonic meeting and counting all members toward the quorum requirement whether or not physically present in the meeting location:

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.

Consent Agenda: On a motion moved by Trustee Burnett and seconded by Trustee Green, the Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda, comprised of the following action items:

Board Minutes:

***VOTED,** that the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the meetings held on June 25-26, 2020 and August 4, 2020 be approved as presented.*

Accept and Forward Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2020:

VOTED, on recommendation of the Audit Committee, that the USNH Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020 be accepted and forwarded to the Governor, the Legislative Fiscal Committee, and others as specified in state law RSA 187-A:22.

Suspend Enrollment Limitation of Out-of-State Undergraduates at UNH:

VOTED, on recommendation of the Financial Affairs Committee that the Board of Trustees suspend for FY22 the limitation of 25 percent imposed by state statute RSA 187-A:10 on the number of undergraduate students enrolled at UNH from domiciles outside the state, it having been determined that such suspension benefits the state and UNH without impairing the opportunity for qualified students of the state of New Hampshire to attend UNH.

Campus Updates – Managing COVID-related Disruptions: The presidents each reported briefly on the current conditions at their institution, their continuing efforts to manage COVID-related disruptions, and planning for the spring semester.

Host Campus Presentation – UNH: President Dean and Provost Jones introduced three UNH faculty members who reported on the educational programs and student successes in their areas. Professor Thomas Haines described the Journalism program; Professor Diane Foster spoke about the Marine Sciences program; and Professor Harlan Spence highlighted the work of the Earth, Oceans, and Space Institute. The Board thanked the professors for their interesting and informative presentations and congratulated them on the many successes of their programs.

System-wide Capacity for Online Delivery of Educational Programing: President Mark Rubinstein reported to the Board a proposal for strengthening the system-wide capacity for online program delivery. After substantial discussion about the future of online program delivery in USNH, there was general agreement to proceed in two phases. The first phase, to begin immediately, is the creation of a shared catalogue of undergraduate courses across the four USNH institutions. The second, for future execution, will be the development of a platform to enable the launch of new online certificate and graduate programs. Chair Morone will work with President Rubinstein to draft a charge for the first phase.

Committee Reports: Chair Morone noted the minutes from each of yesterday's committee meetings are posted in board portal.

Educational Excellence Committee – Appointment of UNH Professor with Tenure:

On motion made by Chair Morone and seconded by Trustee Burnett, the Board unanimously approved the following action:

VOTED, on recommendation of President Dean and the Educational Excellence Committee, that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of one individual as professor with tenure at the University of New Hampshire, as presented in the supporting material attached to the Educational Excellence Committee meeting agenda.

Investments Committee – Approval to proceed with work to complete the UNH Biological Sciences Center, including a revised project budget:

On motion made by Trustee Rutman and seconded by Trustee Green, the Board voted by roll call to approve the following action:

***VOTED**, on recommendation of the Investment Committee, that the Board of Trustees authorize UNH to proceed with work to complete the renovation and addition to Spaulding Hall “The Biological Science Center” AND FURTHER, that a revised budget of \$95.5 million be approved that includes an additional \$9.5million in UNH unrestricted funds as the source of funding for the increase.*

The vote was 23 in favor and none opposed. President Dean abstained on account of UNH’s interest in the project.

Nonpublic Session:

At 12:05 pm, on motion made by Trustee Morone and seconded by Trustee Burnett, a roll call vote was taken and passed unanimously to go into nonpublic session.

***VOTED**, that the Board of Trustees go into nonpublic session for the purpose of discussing organizational restructuring that would affect personnel positions and collective bargaining negotiations as authorized by the Right to Know Law provisions regarding personnel matters including the dismissal of one or more public employees and collective bargaining negotiations, RSA 91-A:2, I (a), 3, II (a), and 5, IV.*

Return to Public Session: At 12:43 pm, on motion duly moved and seconded, the Board voted to return to public session. Chair Morone announced that while in nonpublic session, no votes were taken, and no decisions were made.

Adjournment: At 12:45 pm, on motion duly moved and seconded, Chair Morone adjourned the meeting of the Board of Trustees. The next regularly scheduled Board and committee meetings will be held on January 21-22, 2021.