



EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 22, 2020

MEETING BY VIDEO CONFERENCE

MEETING MINUTES
Approved January 21, 2021

Participants

Committee members: M. Jacqueline Eastwood, chair; Cathy Green, vice chair; Amy Begg; Jose Calvo; Frank Edelblut; Michael Fazi; Shawn Jasper; Todd Leach; Tyler Minnich; Michael Shannon; Wallace Stevens; David Westover

Other trustees: Cassandra Spanos Ardinger; Donald Birx; Todd Black; James Burnett, III; James Dean, Jr.; George Hansel; Joseph Morone; Michael Pilot; Christopher Pope; Mark Rubinstein; Representative Marjorie Smith; Greg Tewksbury; Melinda Treadwell

Other nonmembers: Erik Berda; Megan Carpenter; Marlin Collingwood; Robin DeRosa; Heidi Hedegard; Ockle Johnson; Wayne Jones; M.B. Lufkin; Ann McClellan; Jonathan Melanson; Tia Miller; Cathy Provencher; Ron Rodgers; Erin Sharp; Lisa Shawney; Scott Stanley; Lisa Thorne

Call to Order

Committee Chair Jackie Eastwood called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m. and called attention to information about the state's current employment needs.

Consent Agenda

Moved by Chair Eastwood, duly seconded, and approved.

VOTED, that the Educational Excellence Committee approve the consent agenda.

Consent Items:

- Minutes June 25, 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: New Hampshire Occupational Projections 2018 to 2028

University System Student Board (USSB)

USSB Chair Michael Fazi described three goals set forth by the USSB: raising student awareness of the USSB to increase the feedback pipeline; expanding the role of the USSB on all Board of Trustees committees in consultation with the USSB trustee liaison and chair of the Governance Committee; and creating a USSB handbook designed to maintain institutional knowledge to support new USSB members from year to year.

Fall Enrollment Update

Chancellor Todd Leach provided an overview of fall enrollment, noting that the collective decrease was not as steep as anticipated given the pandemic complications. He identified student populations that experienced growth this fall, including PSU incoming nonresident freshmen; new graduate students at UNH (despite a decrease in international students); strong performance by the Franklin Pierce Law School; and enrollment in all nursing programs across the system.

UNH Franklin Pierce School of Law

Dean Megan Carpenter provided an overview of the favorable financial outlook for the Law School, citing fall 2020 enrollment as the largest in the history of the school and the most diverse in a decade. Growth was attributed to diversified credential offerings and innovative programming, including, prominently, the hybrid JD program. She also provided an overview of Diversity Task Force work and recommendations to advance diversity, cultural awareness, and inclusivity within the Law School community.

UNH Nursing and Health Science

Provost Wayne Jones provided an update on the UNH Health Sciences initiative, noting growth across a variety of program areas. He described the success of the Academic and Career Engagement (ACE) Program in the College of Health and Human Services in supporting academic success for first-year undeclared students while they explore career options in health and human services. He identified two primary constraints to more expensive growth in nursing as being competition for qualified nursing faculty and limited opportunities for clinical placements within New Hampshire and throughout New England.

Remote Learning Dashboard / Student Pulse Surveys

Chancellor Leach presented a series of metrics designed to gauge online course quality and provide insight into students' perception of their academic experience this fall. Metrics include the numbers of faculty participating in training and professional development, the number of online courses reviewed against quality standards, and the level of student satisfaction by course modality. The student pulse survey will be conducted periodically to determine whether and how student perception changes over the term as expectations reset and faculty become more adept at managing multiple modalities of instruction.

Briefing on Fall Term to Date and Spring Plans

The provosts discussed plans for recalibrating aspects of course delivery in response to student survey results and faculty feedback. A comprehensive survey will be conducted at the end of the fall term and a process developed for faculty to share best practices and lessons learned to further inform spring planning. Spring calendar information was shared identifying plans for term start, spring break, and commencement.

NH Online

Chancellor Leach reviewed the findings of Hartman and Associates' interviews with the presidents and provosts regarding the improvement and scalability of fully online courses and programs at the institution level and through a centralized USNH online service provider. He discussed Moody's August prediction that pandemic-accelerated development of online capabilities and expansion of nondegree programs will be highly disruptive over the next one to two years. Competition in online education will occur in three key areas: price, customer service, and user friendliness. Further discussion of NH Online will occur at the full Board meeting.

Cross-campus Course Sharing

The provosts described course-sharing plans and an implementation attempt that uncovered structural obstacles that need to be overcome, including registrar constraints and academic calendar differences (and, for the near term, learning management system differences). Efforts to work through the issues are underway and ongoing.

CCSNH Synergies

President Mark Rubinstein provided a high-level overview of the synergies group's work in a variety of functional areas that do not impinge on institutional missions. A formal update for the Governor's Office is being finalized and will be made available to trustees.

Other Business

- Chair Eastwood agreed to Trustee David Westover's suggestion that the next meeting agenda include the topic of virtual recruitment and how the institutions are managing recruitment in the absence of on-site, in-person opportunities normally involved in "selling" the campus to students and families.
- Provost Ann McClellan informed the committee of work conducted over the summer at PSU to develop a series of recommendations supporting diversity, equity, and social justice, including the creation of a cabinet-level position for this purpose.

Adjournment

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