



BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting by Videoconference

By Zoom Platform
(February 18, 2021)

Meeting Minutes
(APPROVED on March 18, 2021)

In Attendance: Executive Committee Members (via video conference): Chair Joseph Morone, Vice Chair Jamie Burnett, Secretary Kass Ardinger, Todd Black, Jackie Eastwood, Chris Pope, Morgan Rutman, and Alex Walker. Other Trustees: Amy Begg, Don Birx, Jim Dean, Cathy Green, George Hansel, Shawn Jasper, Mark Rubinstein, Wally Stevens, Melinda Treadwell, Greg Tewksbury, David Westover, and Jonathan Melanson (for Governor Sununu). Staff members participating (via video conference): Marlin Collingwood, Karen Benincasa, Lisa Thorne, Cathy Provencher, Tia Miller, Jim McGrail, 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 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.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: On motion made by Chair Morone and seconded by Trustee Eastwood, the committee unanimously approved the minutes of the meetings of January 7 and February 11, 2021:

VOTED, the Executive Committee hereby approves the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of January 7, 2021 and February 11, 2021, as presented.

Governor Sununu’s Proposal to Combine CCSNH and USNH: Jonathan Melanson, the Governor’s representative to the Board, provided a brief update on the status of the Governor’s proposal to combine the CCSNH and USNH. The Governor recently met with members of the CCSNH governing board to discuss his proposal, the details of which will be laid out in HB 2, the so-called “trailer bill.” HB 2 may be available as soon as next week (beginning February 22). Mr. Melanson answered several questions and a brief discussion followed.

Campus Updates: At Chair Morone’s invitation each president reported on the status of their institution including the beginning of spring semester, management of COVID-related disruptions, social media and other public controversies, and the early results of student recruitment efforts for the coming academic year, 2021-22.

Conduct of an Online Meeting in Accord with the NH Right to Know Law: Governance Committee Chair Kass Ardinger briefly described the memorandum on conducting an online meeting in accord with the NH right to know law, a copy of which was distributed with the agenda for this meeting. Of particular importance are the sections on conducting votes on substantive matters (by roll call) and the protocol for calling and participating in a nonpublic session within a public meeting. All staff members who support the Board and its committees are trained to advise and guide their committee chairs in all aspects of conducting meetings and should be relied on for their expertise.

New Board Portal – BoardEffect: Cathy Provencher announced the launch of a new online board portal, effective with the next Executive Committee meeting, scheduled for March 18. We will discontinue use of BoardMax following the March 18 meeting. The new portal, BoardEffect, is used by the UNH Foundation board, is highly intuitive, and should make for an easy transition. If anyone has questions or concerns, Tia Miller, is available to assist.

Nonpublic Session: At 5:21 pm, the Executive Committee went into nonpublic session to discuss the proposed settlement of a lawsuit and consult with legal counsel. On motion made by Chair Morone and seconded by Trustee Burnett, the committee unanimously voted by roll call to go into nonpublic session:

***VOTED,** that the Executive Committee go into nonpublic session for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel regarding a matter in litigation involving USNH and PSU, as authorized by RSA 91-A:2, I (b) and 91-A:3, II (e).*

Return to Public Session: At 6:00 pm the Executive Committee returned to public session and Chair Morone announced the committee had approved one vote while in nonpublic session:

On motion made by Trustee Burnette and seconded by Trustee Eastwood, the committee unanimously voted by roll call to approve the proposed settlement:

***VOTED**, on recommendation of the USNH General Counsel Rodgers and PSU President Birx, the Executive Committee hereby approves the proposed settlement of legal claims relating to the design and construction of the ALLWell North Center, as negotiated by the parties and presented to the committee.*

The committee took no other votes and made no other decisions while in nonpublic session.

Chair Morone noted the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Thursday, March 18, beginning at 4:00 pm.

Adjourn: At 6:05 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.