



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**April 15 - 16, 2021**

**Meetings held via Zoom**  
**Videoconference Platform**

**Meeting Minutes**  
*(Draft for Approval)*

**April 15, 2021**

**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; Jim Gray, Cathy Green, George Hansel, Shawn Jasper, Tyler Minnich, Mike Pilot, Chris Pope, Mark Rubinstein, Morgan Rutman, Wally Stevens, Gregg Tewksbury, Melinda Treadwell, Alex Walker, 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. 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](mailto:tia.miller@usnh.edu).

**Nonpublic Session:** At 8:05 am, on motion made by Chair Morone and seconded by Trustee Burnett, the Board unanimously voted by roll call 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.*

**Return to Public Session:** At 9:00 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.

**PSU Report on Strategic Planning and Restructuring:** President Don Birx described the status of PSU's strategic planning and organizational restructuring efforts. President Birx reported substantial progress toward the full implementation of the educational clusters, with more work to be done. The pathway to financial sustainability is now clear and the university is ahead of schedule for reaching the goal. After substantial discussion, the Board expressed its appreciation for President Birx's leadership and the great progress made by the university.

**Adjournment:** At 9:30 am, Chair Morone adjourned the Board of Trustees until tomorrow, Friday, April 16, 2021, at 9:00 am. The Board's committees are scheduled to meet in the interim.

### **April 16, 2021 – 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, Jim Gray, Cathy Green, George Hansel, Shawn Jasper, Tyler Minnich, Mike Pilot, Chris Pope, Mark Rubinstein, Morgan Rutman, Wally Stevens, Gregg Tewksbury, Melinda Treadwell, Alex Walker, and David Westover.

**Call to Order:** At 9:00 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](mailto:tia.miller@usnh.edu).

**Board Minutes:** On a motion moved by Chair Morone and seconded by Trustee Rutman, a roll call vote was taken and, with all votes in favor and no abstentions, the Board approved the following action item:

***VOTED,** that the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the meetings held on January 21 and 22, 2021, be approved as presented.*

**Legislative Affairs Report:** Chief Administrative Officer Cathy Provencher provided an update on the Governor's plans for rolling back the emergency orders related to the operation of state government. The Governor expects all state government citizen-facing services will be available in-person by May 7. In addition, the orders relating to the conduct of public meetings are likely to be rescinded by July 1. Ms. Provencher also described several bills that have passed the House and will be heard by various Senate committees over the next few weeks, including bills related to divisive concepts, gun control, mandatory immunization as well as the state's operating and capital budget appropriations.

**Presidents' Reports:** The presidents of GSC, PSU and UNH each reported briefly and answered questions on the current conditions at their institution. Topics covered included an update on the rates of COVID infections at UNH and PSU, currently available modes of program delivery, athletics, student recreational opportunities, commencement activities, fundraising, and student engagement, and behavioral health.

**Break:** At 10:10 am, Chair Morone called for a five-minute break, after which he called the meeting back to order at 10:15 pm, and recognized President Treadwell.

**Host Campus Presentation – KSC:** President Treadwell introduced a panel of students, faculty, and a school superintendent to describe for the Board the importance of KSC to the City and region, the educational value of programs engaged in service to the community, the attraction such programs have for potential applicants, and their effect on the long-term successes of KSC alumni. Following a substantial question and answer period, Chair Morone thanked President Treadwell and the other panelists for their informative presentations.

**Committee Reports:** Chair Morone noted the minutes from each of yesterday's committee meetings are posted in the board portal. The chairs of the Investments, Governance, Audit, and Nomination Committees each gave brief summaries of their committee's meeting.

**New Business:** Chair Morone called for new business and recognized Ms. Provencher, who called on USNH Chief Communications Officer Lisa Thorne to report on the marketing campaign scheduled to begin in the coming week. Ms. Thorne described the work of the Communications and Marketing Executive Council (CMEC) and the initiatives accomplished in the last several months. She also demonstrated one of the several advertising spots created for the upcoming campaign. After several questions and a brief discussion, the Board of Trustees expressed its appreciation for the report and encouraged Ms. Thorne and the CMEC to continue their important work.

**Adjournment:** At 11:45 am, 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 June 24 and 25, 2021, hosted by Granite State College.