



**EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE**

**OCTOBER 22, 2021**

PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY  
PLYMOUTH, NH

MEETING MINUTES

*Approved March 3, 2022*

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**Attendance**

Committee members present: M. Jacqueline Eastwood, Chair; George Hansel, Vice Chair (remote); Amy Begg; Jose Calvo; Zachary Christie (remote); Frank Edelblut; Cathy Green; Shawn Jasper; Alana Lehouillier; Mackenzie Murphy (remote); David Westover; Ashley Ackert (remote); Reshma Giji (remote); Ty Gioacchini (remote); Christian Merheb (remote); Jacob Riley (remote)

Other trustees present: Cassandra Spanos Ardinger; Donald Birx; Todd Black; James Burnett, III; James Dean, Jr.; James Gray, NH Senate; Rick Ladd, NH House of Representatives; Jonathan Melanson, Governor Sununu's designee; Joseph Morone; Michael Pilot; J. Morgan Rutman (remote); Wally Stevens; Gregg Tewksbury; Melinda Treadwell; Alex Walker

Other participants: James Beeby; Mike Decelle (remote); Tiffany Doherty (remote); Jennifer Ferrell (remote); Jeff Furlone (remote); Kenneth Holmes (remote); Wayne Jones; Ann McClellan; Scott Stanley (remote)

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**Call to Order**

Committee Chair Eastwood called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Chair Eastwood, duly seconded, and approved.

*VOTED, that the Educational Excellence Committee approve the minutes of the April 15, 2021, meeting.*

**UNH Faculty Appointment with Tenure Recommendation**

Moved by Chair Eastwood, duly seconded, and approved.

*VOTED, on recommendation of President Dean, that the Educational Excellence Committee recommend for approval by the Board of Trustees the appointment of one individual with the rank professor with tenure at the University of New Hampshire, as presented in the supporting material.*

The name of the individual is considered confidential pending final approval by the full Board.

**[Post-meeting note:** The committee's recommendation to appoint Dr. David Fredriksson professor of mechanical engineering with tenure at UNH was approved by the Board of Trustees on October 22, 2021.]

**NH Top Jobs**

Information item: This standing item presents NH occupational demand projections to reinforce the importance of NH workforce development and education needs as they relate to committee discussions.

**End-of-Term Student Survey on Remote Learning: Spring 2021**

Information item: Results of the spring 2021 residential campus student survey were briefly discussed.

**Academic Program Review and Quality**

Information item: Attention was called to the annual report presented for committee information pursuant to USNH Board of Trustees Academic Program Planning and Review policy, BOT.II.G.5.

## **Academic Program Changes**

Information item:

### *Degree Program Deletions*

- PSU: BA Anthropology/Sociology
- BA Art
- BA Art History
- BS Early Childhood Education
- BS Environmental Planning
- BA French
- BS Geography
- BA History (combined with Social Studies Education)
- BA Philosophy
- BS Public Management
- BA Spanish
- BS Youth Development Education
- CAGS Arts, Leadership, and Learning
- MEd Educational Leadership
- MS Environmental Science and Policy
- MA Historic Preservation
- MEd Language Education
- UNH: BA Digital Language Arts
- BA French Studies
- BA Earth Science Teaching
- MFA Painting
- MS Resource Administration and Management in NRE
- KSC: BA French
- BA Earth Science
- BA General Science
- BS Geology
- MEd School Counseling

### *Degree Program Additions*

- PSU: BS Climate Studies
- MS Applied Exercise Physiology and Human Performance
- GSC: MS Human Services Administration
- UNH: BS Applied Mathematics
- BA Educational Studies: Equity, Diversity and Inclusion
- MS Bioinformatics
- Doctor of Occupational Therapy

## **Academic Program Quality Assurance**

Information item: Provost Jones notified the committee of the probationary professional accreditation status of a program in process of being phased out.

## **University System Student Board (USSB)**

Student representatives and trustees shared information about student governance and campus activities, noting that students were adjusting to changes in program offerings.

## **UNH-GSC Merger**

Provost Jones, Mike Decelle, dean of UNH Manchester, and Scott Stanley, dean of e-UNH Online Learning presented an overview of the work of cross-functional planning teams to develop the online strategy and support structure that will serve UNH and the system broadly, with consideration for future collaboration with other institutions and organizations.

## **Enrollment Strategy – Student Retention and Success**

### *Shared Courses Initiative Update*

Provost McClellan provided an update on the process improvement team's continued efforts to develop administrative and technical course sharing processes and described ongoing challenges. She noted that the pilot program had been set back by the early retirement of key faculty slated to teach shared courses in spring.

### *Fall Enrollment and Retention*

The provosts reviewed the fall admissions, enrollment, and retention outcomes information provided in the meeting materials.

### *Mental Health and Campus Life*

Information regarding campus support for student mental health and wellness through services and holistic residential life approaches were shared by chief student affairs officers: Ken Holmes, UNH senior vice provost and dean of students; Tiffany Doherty, GSC director of student affairs; Jennifer Ferrell, KSC associate vice president for student engagement; and Jeff Furlone, PSU dean of students. During discussion, trustees expressed interest in reviewing data pertaining to USNH student mental health issues and services to inform their understanding of campus support capacity.

### *Where Do We Go From Here*

The provosts described strategies to support first-year student retention and on-time four-year degree completion.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.