



EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE

JUNE 23, 2022

UNIVERSITY OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DURHAM, NH

MEETING MINUTES

Approved October 20, 2022

Attendance

Committee members present: M. Jacqueline Eastwood, chair; Amy Begg; José Calvo; Zachary Christie; Frank Edelblut; Cathy Green; Shawn Jasper; Alana Lehouillier; Mackenzie Murphy; David Westover (remote); Ty Gioacchini; Christian Merheb

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

Other participants: James Beeby; Marlin Collingwood; Tiffany Doherty; Pelema Ellis; Jennifer Ferrell; Heidi Hedegard; Ken Holmes; Wayne Jones; MB Lufkin; Dominic Lynch; Ann McClellan

Call to Order

Committee Chair Eastwood called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. She recognized outgoing PSU interim provost Ann McClellan and thanked her for long-standing service to the university, system, and state. It was noted that the committee quorum was established at the preceding board meeting session.

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.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Chair Eastwood, duly seconded, and approved.

VOTED, *that the Educational Excellence Committee approve the minutes of the March 3, 2022, meeting.*

Promotion and Tenure Recommendations

Moved by Chair Eastwood, duly seconded, and approved.

VOTED, *on recommendation of the respective presidents, that the Educational Excellence Committee approve the promotion and tenure recommendations for faculty of the University of New Hampshire, Keene State College, and Plymouth State University, as presented in the supporting material.*

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.

PSU Faculty Appointment with Tenure Recommendation

Moved by Chair Eastwood, duly seconded, and approved.

VOTED, on recommendation of President Birx, 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

It was noted that Board approval of the academic rank and tenure for Provost Beeby was granted upon approval of his appointment as provost at the Executive Committee meeting July 15, 2021.

Academic Program Changes

Degree program addition information:

- BA Sustainability Studies (PSU)
- BS Forensic Science (PSU)
- BS Game Design (PSU)
- MA Genocide Prevention and Human Security (KSC)
- MS Adult-Gerontology Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (UNH)

Degree program deletion information:

- Physics-Engineering Transfer Program (KSC)

The provosts informed the committee that a program mapping analysis, requested by the Presidents Council, with oversight by the Academic Executive Council, is underway to examine overlap across USNH institutions. It was also noted that the provosts regularly share program planning information prior to implementation.

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.

CCSNH Transfer Activity Summary

Information item: Provost Jones called attention to charts depicting level USNH enrollment share of CCSNH transfer students over the past five years and CCSNH transfer student retention and completion comparable with that of first-year students. Chair Eastwood stated the USNH-CCSNH Synergies group continues to explore ways to improved transfer pathways.

University System Student Board (USSB)

José Calvo, USSB chair and GSC student trustee, provided an update on USSB transition, noting ongoing disruption to campus election processes caused by the pandemic, with a number of seats on the student board yet to be determined for FY23.

Student Mental Health Update

José Calvo introduced the presentation with a recap of prior discussions regarding the condition of student mental health and well-being on college campuses. Information on the topic was presented by 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 Marlin Collingwood, PSU vice president for communications, enrollment, and student life. The campus officials provided an overview of national statistics followed by USNH-specific data on student demand for mental health services. It was reported that the incoming generation of students enter with a greater comfort level in expressing mental health needs and with greater expectations for services, which is creating pressure on limited resources. While tele-health options are among the available services, many students express a preference for on-demand in-person interaction. The impact of students' sense of personal well-being on enrollment retention prompted a discussion about the prospect of a strategic investment in mental health services as a core component of student retention and success. To that end, the committee charged the Student Affairs Executive Council with developing an investable plan for recommendation at the fall meeting.

Course Sharing Initiative Update

Provost McClellan provided an update on efforts to establish an inter-campus course sharing process. With funding from the Long-Range Technology Plan, a systemwide course-sharing administrative platform has been licensed to automate business processes and create a seamless student-facing registration process. Implementation is slated for fall 2022. UNH vice provost Kate Ziemer will lead the process going forward. Potential expansion to include CCSNH is under consideration.

Enrollment Update

Fall Admissions and Registrations

Calling attention to the meeting materials, campus officials commented on the fall enrollment outlook based on new student deposits and continuing student registrations. Further discussion of enrollment was slated to occur during the budget discussion in the later Financial Affairs Committee meeting.

Enrollment Analytics

Pelema Ellis, UNH vice provost for enrollment management, presented a sample of analyses of applicant characteristics used to inform financial aid packaging, enrollment strategy, and mid-season tactical decisions. Variables include socio-economic and academic factors as well as market-demand data. He noted that this type of analysis was previously conducted by an external research company and has been brought in-house within the UNH Institutional Research Office with a goal to build a sustainable enrollment data analytics infrastructure.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 p.m.