



## BOARD OF TRUSTEES OCTOBER 20-21, 2022 REGULAR MEETING

Meeting Held at Plymouth State University  
Merrill Place Conference Center, 14 Merrill Street, Plymouth, NH

### Meeting Minutes

**In Attendance:** Trustees present at meeting location: Chair Alex Walker, Vice Chair Jamie Burnett, Donald Birx, Zachary Christie, James Dean, Frank Edelblut, James Gray, Cathy Green, George Hansel, Shawn Jasper, Kevin Knarr, Rick Ladd, Christian Merheb, Joel Nkounkou, Peter Paul, Mike Pilot, Gregg Tewksbury, Christiana Thornton, Melinda Treadwell, and David Westover. Trustees participating by videoconference: Amy Begg, Mackenzie Murphy, and Morgan Rutman.

**Call to Order:** At 8:31 am on October 20, Chair Walker called the meeting to order, called the roll, and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient for the conduct of business.

**Chair's Remarks:** Chair Walker welcomed returning trustee Hansel and thanked trustees Burnett and Knarr for agreeing to serve as the Board's appointees to the board of the UNH Foundation. Chair Walker also noted the recent departure of former Board Chair Joe Morone and extended the Board's thanks for his service.

**Presidential Presentation: Keene State College** President Melinda Treadwell presented on enrollment management and strategic planning efforts at KSC. The presentation provided information on improvements in first-year student retention at KSC, ongoing efforts to identify the profile of potential KSC students who will be successful, and ways to differentiate KSC from peer institutions.

**Recess:** At 9:31 am, Chair Walker recessed the meeting until 5:00 pm, following the day's committee meetings.

**Return to Order:** At 5:00 pm, Chair Walker called the meeting back to order and noted the continued presence of a quorum.

**Presidential Presentation: University of New Hampshire** Interim Chancellor and UNH President Jim Dean presented on challenges to employee morale at UNH since the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic, the departure of hundreds of employees through the CERP and the many necessary business process changes made over this period, and the steps UNH is taking to address those challenges.

**Recess:** At 5:32 pm, Chair Walker recessed the meeting until 8:00 am, Friday, October 21, 2022 at the same location.

**Return to Order:** At 8:00 am on October 21, Chair Walker called the meeting back to order, called the roll, and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient to do business. Trustees present at meeting location: Chair Alex Walker, Vice Chair Jamie Burnett, Donald Birx, Zachary Christie, James Dean, Frank Edelblut, James Gray, Cathy Green, Shawn Jasper, Kevin Knarr, Rick Ladd, Christian Merheb, Joel Nkounkou, Peter Paul, Mike Pilot, Gregg Tewksbury, Christiana Thornton, Melinda Treadwell, and David Westover. Trustees participating by videoconference: George Hansel and Morgan Rutman.

**Presidential Presentation: Plymouth State University** PSU President Don Birx presented on PSU's integrated cluster learning model and introduced a panel discussion on student perspectives on student engagement. On the panel were PSU Director of Marketing Marlon Collingwood, PSU Chief Diversity Officer Alberto Ramos, and PSU students Devonte Gilmore, Paige Paradise, Joshua Chandler, and Corinne Cloutier.

**UNH Research's Mission and Financial Impact:** UNH Senior Vice Provost Marian McCord presented to the Board on UNH's research enterprise. The presentation explored the sources of funding for UNH research and its contribution to UNH's finances, faculty, and students.

**Recess:** At 8:57 am, Chair Walker recessed the meeting to permit completion of the continued joint meeting of the Financial Affairs and Investment and Capital Planning Committees.

**Return to Order:** At 10:06 am, Chair Walker called the meeting back to order and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient to do business.

**Consent Agenda:** By motion of Vice Chair Burnett and seconded by trustee Green, the Board voted unanimously by roll call as follows:

***VOTED**, that the Board of Trustees approve the minutes of the meetings held on September 16, 2022, June 23, 2022, and June 24, 2022, be approved as presented [in the agenda materials for this meeting].*

***VOTED**, on recommendation of the Financial Affairs Committee that the Board of Trustees suspend for FY24 the limitation of 25 percent imposed by state statute RSA 187-A:10 on the number of undergraduate students enrolled at UNH from domiciles outside the state, it having been determined that such suspension benefits the state and UNH without impairing the opportunity for qualified students of the state of New Hampshire to attend UNH.*

**Naming of Merged Granite State College and UNH-Manchester Entity as the College of Professional Studies:** UNH Provost Wayne Jones presented on this item. By motion of trustee Thornton, seconded by trustee Pilot, the Board voted unanimously by roll call as follows:

***VOTED**, on recommendation of James W. Dean, President, UNH, that the entity created by the merger of Granite State College and UNH Manchester be named the "College of Professional Studies" effective July 1, 2023.*

**Revisions to the Bylaws of the Keene Endowment Association:** KSC President Melinda Treadwell presented on this item. By motion of trustee Green and seconded by trustee Tewksbury, the Board voted unanimously by roll call as follows:

*VOTED, on recommendation of the President of Keene State College, that the Board of Trustees approves the revised affiliation agreement with and ratifies, effective September 8, 2022, the amended Bylaws of the Keene Endowment Association, as set out in the agenda materials for this meeting.*

**Education Excellence Committee:** Committee Vice Chair Green presented the report of the October 20 meeting of the Educational Excellence Committee. By motion made by trustee Pilot and seconded by trustee Jasper, the Board voted unanimously by roll call as follows:

*VOTED, on recommendation of the Educational Excellence Committee, that the full Board of Trustees approves the adoption of Plymouth State University's mission and vision statement, as follows:*

*"Through our philosophy of Ut Prosim (that I may serve) and our Integrated Cluster Model, Plymouth State enables students to connect their academic and extra-curricular interests with real-world projects, global challenges, and diverse cultures while fostering personal growth from their first days on campus until long after graduation as engaged alumni."*

**Audit Committee:** Committee Chair Tewksbury presented the report of the October 20 meeting of the Audit Committee. The committee reviewed year-end financial statements, reflecting positive cash flows but unrealized losses in its investment portfolio, and accepted an unmodified opinion from the System's outside auditor and positive comments on staff. By motion made by trustee Green and seconded by trustee Jasper, the Board voted unanimously by roll call as follows:

*VOTED, on recommendation of the Audit Committee, that the USNH Financial Statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022 be accepted and forwarded to the Governor, the Legislative Fiscal Committee, and others as specified in state law RSA 187-A:22.*

**Governance Committee:** Committee Vice Chair Green presented the report of the October 20 meeting of the Governance Committee. The committee reviewed the skills, experience, and interest of existing trustees and identified potential gaps. The committee also noted the existence of an open trustee position and requested suggestions for possible candidates.

**Investment and Capital Planning Committee:** Committee Chair Rutman presented the report of the October 20 meeting of the Governance Committee. The committee reviewed investment projections and received reports on Hyde Hall and Dimond Library.

**FY24 Tuition, Fees, and Room & Board and Budget Assumption and Parameter**

**Recommendations:** CAO Provencher presented to the Board regarding the proposed budget parameters and tuition and fee increases for FY 24 as recommended by the Presidents' Council. In-state tuition will remain flat for the fifth consecutive year; all other student tuition and fees will increase by no more than 2.5%. Trustees sought and received additional information regarding projected levels of state funding and the financial effect of the GSC-UNH merger. By motion made by trustee Christie and seconded by trustee Knarr, the Board voted unanimously by roll call as follows:

*VOTED, on recommendation of the Presidents' Council, that the Board of Trustees approve the FY24 budget planning assumptions and parameters as outlined on the attached for use in*

*developing the FY24 budget AND FURTHER approve effective for academic year 2023-24:*

- 1) maximum tuition rate increases as presented on the attached schedule be adopted as the maximum amounts authorized;*
- 2) maximum mandatory student fees be adopted in amounts not to exceed \$3,592 at UNH-Durham; \$2,956 at KSC; and \$2,688 at PSU as outlined in the attached schedules;*
- 3) maximum housing (room) and dining (board) rate increases be limited to 2.5% over the FY2022-23 rates for like accommodations or meal plans as outlined in the attached schedules.*

**Joint Financial Affairs and Investment and Capital Planning Committee:** Financial Affairs Committee Chair Pilot presented the report of the October 20-21 joint meeting of the two committees. The Board then took action on three items of joint committee business as detailed in the materials attached to agenda for the joint committee:

**Revised FY23 Capital and Operating Budgets:** By motion of Vice Chair Burnett, seconded by trustee Knarr, the Board voted unanimously by roll call as follows:

*VOTED, on recommendation of the Financial Affairs and Investment and Capital Planning Committees, that the attached plan for strategic investments be approved subject to individual capital project approval where required by policy;*

*AND FURTHER, that revised operating and capital budgets for the University System for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2022 and ending June 30, 2023 (FY23) be approved in total as recommended by the Financial Affairs Committee to incorporate incremental approved Strategic Investments to be made during FY23.*

**UNH Hetzel Hall Renovation Project:** By motion of trustee Knarr, seconded by trustee Rutman, the Board voted by roll call, trustees Burnett, Birx, Burnett, Christie, Dean, Edelblut, Gray, Green, Hansel, Knarr, Ladd, Merheb, Paul, Pilot, Rutman, Tewksbury, Thornton, Treadwell, Walker, and Westover **in favor** and trustee Jasper **opposed**, as follows:

*VOTED, on recommendation of the Investment and Financial Affairs Committees, that the Board of Trustees approve a project budget not to exceed \$29 million for the renovation of Hetzel Hall with the source of funds intended to be \$29 million in tax-exempt bonds issued through the New Hampshire Health and Education Facilities Authority.*

**KSC Strategic Investment Request:** By motion of Vice Chair Burnett, seconded by trustee Westover, the Board voted unanimously by roll call as follows:

*VOTED, on recommendation of the Financial Affairs and Investment and Capital Planning Committees that the Board approve a revised budget of \$4.5 million for life safety renovations in Redfern Hall AND FURTHER that the USNH Strategic Investment funds be the source of funding for the \$1 million increase.*

**Nonpublic Session:** At 11:17 am, on motion by trustee Burnett, seconded by trustee Jasper, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to enter nonpublic session:

***VOTED**, that the USNH Board of Trustees go into nonpublic session for the purposes of discussing collective bargaining strategy or negotiations as authorized by RSA 91-A:2 I (a).*

**Return to Public Session:** At 11:26 am, on motion made and duly seconded, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to re-enter public session. Upon return to public session, Chair Walker reported that, by motions made and duly seconded, the Board had voted unanimously by roll call as follows on the matters listed on the agenda for nonpublic session:

***VOTED**, on recommendation of Interim Chancellor & UNH President Dean, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves and ratifies the proposed collective bargaining agreement with the University of New Hampshire Chapter of the AAUP (AAUP-UNH); **AND FURTHER**, hereby authorizes Interim Chancellor & UNH President Dean to execute the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2025, collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Board of Trustees.*

***VOTED**, on recommendation of Interim Chancellor & UNH President Dean, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves and ratifies the proposed collective bargaining agreement with the University of New Hampshire Lecturers United – AAUP (UNHLU); **AND FURTHER**, hereby authorizes Interim Chancellor & UNH President Dean to execute the July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2027, collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Board of Trustees.*

***VOTED**, on recommendation of Interim Chancellor and UNH President Dean, that the Board hereby approves and ratifies the proposed collective bargaining agreement with the UNH Police; **AND FURTHER**, hereby authorizes Interim Chancellor & President Dean to execute the collective bargaining agreement effective immediately through June 30, 2027.*

***VOTED**, on recommendation of Interim Chancellor & UNH President Dean, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves and ratifies the proposed collective bargaining agreement with the University of New Hampshire Law Faculty Union - NEA (NEA); **AND FURTHER**, hereby authorizes Interim Chancellor & UNH President Dean to execute the July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2026, collective bargaining agreement on behalf of the Board of Trustees.*

***VOTED**, on recommendation of President Treadwell, that Board of Trustees hereby approves and ratifies the proposed MOA with Keene State College – KSCEA.*

***VOTED**, on recommendation of President Birx, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves and ratifies the proposed MOA with Plymouth State University – AAUP.*

**Chair's Closing Remarks:** Chair Walker noted the progress made to implement the governance structure endorsed by the Board at its September retreat and sought feedback from trustees regarding the new governance and meeting structures. Trustees expressed support for the collaborative work of the Presidents' Council and noted the Board's need to promote accountability and debate. Trustees also requested additional information regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion spending at USNH campuses.

**Adjourn:** At 11:40 am Chair Walker called for further business and, hearing none, adjourned the meeting.