



BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 20, 2022

PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY
PLYMOUTH, NH

MEETING MINUTES
Draft

Attendance

Committee members present: Cathy Green, Vice Chair; Amy Begg (remote); Jose Calvo; Eric Carter; Zachary Christie; Emily Coutermarsh; Frank Edelblut; Kaitlyn Flewelling; Shawn Jasper; Dominic Lynch; Mackenzie Murphy (remote); David Westover; Christian Merheb; Meghan Yianacopolus

Other trustees present: Donald Birx; James Burnett, III; James Dean, Jr.; James Gray, NH Senate; George Hansel; Kevin Knarr; Rick Ladd, NH House of Representatives; Jonathan Melanson, Governor Sununu's designee; Joel Nkounkou; Peter Paul; Michael Pilot; J. Morgan Rutman (remote); Gregg Tewksbury; Christiana Thornton; Melinda Treadwell; Alexander Walker, Jr.

Other participants: James Beeby, Nathaniel Bowditch, Wayne Jones, Scott Stanley (remote), Kate Ziemer

Call to Order

Committee Vice Chair Green, serving in place of Chair Eastwood who was absent, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

NH Top Jobs

Vice Chair green called attention to the updated NH occupational projections included in the meeting materials. This standing item serves to reinforce the importance of NH workforce development and education needs as they relate to committee discussions.

Approval of Minutes

Moved by Vice Chair Green, duly seconded, and approved.

VOTED, that the Educational Excellence Committee approve the minutes of the June 23, 2022, meeting.

PSU Mission Statement

Moved by Chair Eastwood, duly seconded, and approved unanimously by roll call vote.

MOVED, on recommendation of President Birx, that the Educational Excellence Committee hereby recommends to the full Board of Trustees the adoption of the Plymouth State University Mission 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."

University System Student Board (USSB)

Led by USSB Chair Calvo, the student representatives and trustees shared their perspectives on quality of campus life as a critical factor in student retention, with especial focus on on-campus housing and student mental health and well-being.

Provost Jones stated that the Student Affairs Executive Council will be asked to provide an update on campus climate in support of student well-being at the January committee meeting and annually thereafter.

Trustee Burnett invited the students to share their thoughts on the impact of athletics on the campus community as a whole, including nonathlete attitudes towards athletics.

Fall Enrollment

The provosts presented information on fall census enrollment levels. Discussion centered on national trends evident at the state level; the acknowledgement that ongoing demographic shifts would necessitate right-sizing of capacity with the goal of holding undergraduate enrollment flat at current levels, growing graduate education, and serving nontraditional education needs; and a continued concerted focus on quality and student retention and success.

Provost Jones stated that three-year enrollment projections against national benchmarks will be presented at the January meeting.

CCSNH-USNH Transfer Pathways

Kate Ziemer, UNH senior vice provost, presented information on cross-system efforts to improve and streamline transfer pathways to increase access to and reduce the cost of a four-year degree. She described work being conducted on multiple fronts, including the joint synergies working group; compliance with HB 1530, which calls for block transfer pathways for CCSNH associate program graduates to complete a bachelor's at USNH institutions; the state-level New England Transfer Guarantee collaborative supported by the New England Board of Higher Education; and exploration of common structure to support Education programming.

Legislative Committee to Study NH Teacher Shortages and Recruitment Incentives

Provost Beeby provided an overview of USNH educator preparation pipeline information shared with the legislative study committee earlier this month at the committee's request. Discussion of the pandemic-exacerbated decline in enrollment addressed Education program capacity and student interest in teaching as a career choice; areas of particular need, such as special education, science, and math; and alternative teacher preparation pathways and credentials available to students.

Academic Program Mapping Analysis

Provost Beeby provided an overview of data collection and analysis work conducted over the summer to establish the basis for investigating degree program overlap and opportunities for collaboration and common pathways. An in-depth examination of the data by the provosts will begin in earnest later this month and is expected to be a continuous, ongoing process. In addition to identifying programmatic synergies, logistic and administrative alignment requirements to achieve efficiencies will be addressed.

UNH-GSC Merger Update

Provost Jones reviewed the merger goals to grow capacity and flexibility in serving the growing market of nontraditional students, to expand credit and noncredit professional development offerings online, and to develop a portfolio of continuing education and professional development programs that leverage strengths, increase revenues, and expand the degree pipeline. To that end, UNH will formally seek Board approval to name the merged UNH Manchester and Granite State College entity as the College of Professional Studies within UNH.

The post-merger preservation of GSC student trustees as established in current statute was raised as a question. It was acknowledged that discussions of this matter had begun but was not yet decided.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.