



BOARD OF TRUSTEES JUNE 22-23, 2023 REGULAR MEETING

Meeting Held at University of New Hampshire
Strafford Room, Memorial Union Building, Durham, NH

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance June 22: Trustees present at meeting location: Chair Alex Walker, Vice Chair Jamie Burnett, Secretary Kass Ardinger, Donald Birx, Zachary Christie, James Dean, Frank Edelblut, James Gray, Cathy Green, Patrick Griffin, Shawn Jasper, Kevin Knarr, Rick Ladd, Joel Nkounkou (second session), Peter Paul, Mike Pilot, Gregg Tewksbury, Christiana Thornton, Melinda Treadwell, and David Westover. Trustees participating by videoconference: George Hansel, Christian Merheb (second session), Joel Nkounkou (first session), and Morgan Rutman. Others participating in the meeting: Governor's Office representative Deanna Jurius.

Call to Order: At 8:32 am, Chair Walker called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient for the conduct of business.

Chair's Remarks: The Chair thanked the Governor and Legislature for the work in passing a budget and willingness to engage with the System, and thanked trustees and staff for their work during the legislative session. Chair Walker noted that the budget increases funding for the System to its highest level since 2011. Trustee Gray also praised the efforts of UNH Professor/State Senator Innes in advocating on behalf of the System. The Chair then welcomed incoming PSU alumni trustee Wayne Semprini to the Board beginning July 1.

Presidential Presentation, Plymouth State University: PSU President introduced PSU Director of Student Engagement Jessica Dutille and 2023 PSU graduate Alyssa Griffin, who presented on PSU's efforts to cultivate community and belonging among students. The presentation emphasized how social connection supports student retention and learning through connection to competencies cultivated by PSU's integrated clusters. The program includes engaging students' families at enrollment, reaching out to students over the summer break, and increasing student events, clubs, and the role of student government. PSU has also integrated offices dedicated to supporting students from the military community, campus ministries, and through community service events. This has yielded an increase in student engagement in campus events and contributed to a five percent increase in student retention.

Recess Session 1: At 9:22 am, Chair Walker recessed the Board until 4:45 pm, after the conclusion of the day's committee meetings.

Return to Order Session 2: At 4:50 pm, Chair Walker called the meeting back to order and noted the continued presence of a quorum.

Presidential Presentation, Keene State College: KSC President Melinda Treadwell presented to the Board on the ongoing work to transform KSC's programs. The presentation emphasized the campus's success at stabilizing revenue following COVID while materially reducing staff and faculty headcount. President Treadwell then reviewed a number of ongoing initiatives designed to attract students, including expansion of paid internships and expansion of unique academic programs online. President Treadwell also emphasized the financial challenges posed by the size and cost of the campus's physical plant. The presentation concluded with a video demonstrating the coherence and health of the KSC campus community and the centrality of student voices to KSC.

Recess Session 2: At 5:28 pm, Chair Walker recessed the Board until 8:00 am on Friday, June 23 at the same location.

In Attendance June 23: At 8:02 am on June 23, Chair Walker called the meeting back to order and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient to do business. Chair Alex Walker, Vice Chair Jamie Burnett, Secretary Kass Ardinger, Donald Birx, Zachary Christie, James Dean, Frank Edelblut, Cathy Green, Patrick Griffin, Shawn Jasper, Kevin Knarr, Rick Ladd, Peter Paul, Mike Pilot, Gregg Tewksbury, Christiana Thornton, Melinda Treadwell, and David Westover. Trustees participating by videoconference: Amy Begg, James Gray, and George Hansel. Others participating in the meeting: Governor's Office representative Deanna Jurius.

Presidential Presentation, University of New Hampshire: UNH President James Dean introduced VP of Outreach and Extension Dr. Ken La Valley, who presented on UNH's Cooperative Extension and nontraditional student educational programs. The presentation touched on the more than 150,000 New Hampshire residents directly involved in Extension programming each year. The presentation also walked through examples of learning pathways UNH has created leading to a variety of certificates and microcredentials. Extension instructors Juliet Webber, Dr. Amanda McQuaid, and Dr. Kendra Lewis then led the trustees through a series of hands-on lessons on the use of drones, the Lakes Lay Monitoring program, and behavioral health.

Consent Agenda: By motion made by Trustee Burnett and seconded by Trustee Knarr, the Board unanimously voted to approve the consent agenda as follows:

VOTED, that the Board of Trustees approves the minutes of its meeting held on April 20-21, 2023 as presented.

CAO Update: Chief Administrative Officer Cathy Provencher stated that she had no further updates beyond the remarks she made before the Financial Affairs Committee.

Presidents' Reports: Chair Walker noted that written reports from the campus presidents were available in the meeting materials. UNH President Dean further discussed recent financial challenges at other public university systems.

Educational Excellence Committee Report and Related Board Actions: Committee Vice Chair Green presented the report of the committee's June 22, 2023 meeting. The Board then took action on the following items on referral from the committee. By motion made by Trustee Green and seconded by Trustee Jasper, the Board unanimously voted as follows to approve appointments of tenure at UNH and promotion and tenure recommendations for UNH, KSC, and PSU as described in the supporting materials for the Educational Excellence Committee agenda:

VOTED, on recommendation of President Dean and the Educational Excellence Committee, that the Board approves the appointment of two individuals each with the rank of professor with tenure at the University of New Hampshire, as presented in the supporting materials.

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 materials.

Audit Committee Report: Committee Chair Tewksbury presented the report of the committee's June 22, 2023 meeting. The committee received a report on information security and Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act compliance and received an update on longstanding audit items. The committee also confirmed the adequacy of its charter and received a report that the system has been able to retain additional audit staff.

Governance Committee Report: Committee Chair Ardinger presented the report of the committee's June 22, 2023 meeting. The committee further discussed the status of the Granite State College student trustee post-merger and agreed to set a vote on whether to endorse the concept of a third student trustee (and, if so, whether the additional student trustee should be voting or non-voting). The Committee then reviewed the results of the annual Board self-evaluation. Trustee participation was up from the previous year, and the top-line results for each category were equal to or more positive than the results from the previous year. The Committee then reviewed areas of comparative weakness, including concerns about ensuring sufficient time for Board discussion of issues, ensuring that the Board provides adequate oversight of senior leadership, and maintaining a focus on succession planning. The committee also committed to beginning the discussion of the interim chancellor role in October, after receiving input from campus presidents and other stakeholders.

Investment and Capital Planning Committee Report: CAO Provencher presented the report of the committee's June 22, 2023 meeting, which included a quarterly update from the System's outside investment advisor who reported fiscal YTD growth of 7.7% overall and 3.2% in the short-term pool, both of which are above projections. The committee then reviewed and approved the capital budget. It also received a first look for the planned upgrade to the women's locker room at UNH which will be brought to the Board for approval at a later date, and approved a thermal energy storage at UNH campus and renovations to Holloway Hall at KSC.

Financial Affairs Committee Report and Related Board Actions: Committee Chair Pilot presented the report of the committee's June 22, 2023 meeting. Chair Pilot noted the difficulty of the conversation on the system's financial future and underlined the importance of ensuring that the work of the system is supported by a firm financial outlook.

Trustees discussed the importance of ensuring that the strategic investments incorporated in the budget are successful given the system's lack of future financial flexibility. Trustees also discussed what a reasonable timeline for hearing from the Presidents' Council on plans for possible reforms and restructuring to ensure the system's financial solidity. Interim Chancellor Dean suggested that a reasonable timeline would include an initial report at the Board's September retreat and a final set of plans by the end of the coming fiscal year. Trustees also discussed the need to promptly determine

whether the President's Council will enlist outside help in its work. A trustee questioned why the full Board was not considering an item involving the \$6.75 million sale of System real property approved by FAC on June 22. Board Policy delegates decision-making authority on disposition of property under \$10 million to the FAC.

The Board also took the following actions on items referred from the Committee:

Systemwide FY24 Operating and Capital Budgets: By motion made by Trustee Tewksbury and seconded by Trustee Burnett, the Board voted unanimously by roll call as follows to approve the operating and capital budgets:

VOTED, on recommendation of the Financial Affairs Committee, that the Board of Trustees, approves operating budgets and capital budgets for the University System applicable to the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2024 (FY24) as presented in the attachments;

AND FURTHER, delegates authority to the Chief Administrative Officer, in consultation with the Presidents' Council and the Chair of FAC, to approve adjustments to the FY24 budget as presented to reflect the final State budget (operating and capital) approved for FY24;

AND FURTHER, delegates authority to the Chief Administrative Officer to make any further necessary adjustments to comply with generally accepted accounting principles prescribed by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) for FY24.

UNH Thermal Project: By motion made by Trustee Edelblut and seconded by Trustee Jasper, the Board unanimously voted by roll call to approve a project budget at UNH as follows:

VOTED, on recommendation of the Investment and Capital Planning Committee, that the Board of Trustee approves a project budget not to exceed \$11.2 million dollars for the Thermal Energy Storage Tank project with source of funds intended to be \$6.8 million in UNH operating reserves, \$1.15 in federal grant, and \$3.25 in investment tax credit;

AND FURTHER, acknowledges that UNH funds will be used, as needed, in advance of receiving the grants and tax credits. In the event the anticipated grants and tax credits are not received, the shortfall will be covered by UNH funds within their authorized capital budget.

Nomination Committee Report and Related Action: Committee Chair Green re-presented the report of the committee's April 20, 2023 meeting. The committee nominated Alex Walker as Chair,

Jamie Burnett as Vice Chair, and Kass Ardinger as Secretary for the 2023-24 governance year, and nominated Cathy Green, Morgan Rutman, and Gregg Tewksbury to serve on the Nomination Committee for that same governance year. By motion made by Trustee Tewksbury and seconded by Trustee Griffin, the Board unanimously voted by roll call as follows (with Trustees Green and Walker abstaining) to approve the nominated officers and Nomination Committee members:

VOTED, on recommendation of the Nomination Committee, that the Board elects its Board Officers and Nomination Committee members as specified in the attached report.

Discussion of Campus Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives: KSC President Treadwell, PSU President Birx and UNH President Dean each presented on DEI initiatives on their respective campuses. KSC's work is incorporated into its current strategic plan with data and expectations regularly reported out. The goal of the program is to aid in attracting and retaining students. Similarly, PSU's program is also focused on retention and improving completion and career outcomes by increasing connection to the campus and North Country communities. PSU has invested roughly \$220,000 in this area over the past 18 months and has seen a \$1.1 million ROI on that investment based on improved retention rates among students from traditionally underrepresented communities. UNH President Dean reported UNH's spending in this area is approximately \$1.2 million, less than one percent of its total budget. The goal is to foster an inclusive and equitable environment in order to improve student retention. President Dean also noted that UNH's DEI initiatives extend to a variety of nontraditional or underrepresented communities including veterans and students with disabilities. President Dean also noted that the working world into which UNH students are graduating increasingly requires employees to be able to work with others from different backgrounds, meaning that well-run DEI programs can aid the entire student body in their career outcomes.

Nonpublic Session: By motion made by Trustee Pilot and seconded by Trustee Knarr, the Board voted unanimously by roll call as follows to enter nonpublic session starting 11:10 am:

VOTED, that the Board enter nonpublic session for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy or negotiations as authorized by RSA 91-A:2 I(a).

Return to Public Session: At 11:27 am, by motion made by Trustee Burnett and seconded by Trustee Christie, the Board unanimously voted to return to public session.

Report of Actions Taken in Nonpublic Session: The USNH Secretary reported out the following actions taken by the Board in nonpublic session:

Ratification of the Tentative Agreement between Plymouth State University/USNH and the Plymouth State University Non-Tenure Track Faculty, SEA/SEIU

Local 1984: By motion made by Trustee Walker and seconded by Trustee Pilot, the Board voted unanimously by roll call as follows to ratify the tentative agreement reached with PSU's non-tenure track faculty unit:

VOTED, on recommendation of the President of Plymouth State University, that the Board of Trustees ratifies the tentative agreement between the Plymouth State Non-Tenure Track Faculty, SEA/SEIU Local 1984 and the Board of Trustees of the

University System of NH/Plymouth State University as described in the attached document;

AND FURTHER, hereby authorizes the President of Plymouth State University to sign and execute the 2023-2026 collective bargaining agreements on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Ratification of the Tentative Agreement between Keene State College/USNH and the Keene State College Campus Safety Association: By motion made by Trustee Green and seconded by Trustee Tewksbury, the Board voted unanimously by roll call as follows to approve collective bargaining agreements with the KSC Campus Safety Association:

VOTED, on recommendation of the President of Keene State College, that the Board of Trustees ratifies the tentative agreement between the Keene State College Campus Safety Association and the Board of Trustee of the University System of NH/Keene State College as described in the attached document;

AND FURTHER, hereby authorizes the President of Keene State College to sign and execute the 2023-2026 collective bargaining agreements on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Chair's Closing Remarks: Chair Walker acknowledged the work of outgoing student Trustees Zach Christie and Christian Merheb, outgoing USSB chair Dominic Lynch, and outgoing PSU alumni Trustee Amy Begg, who has served the System ably and faithfully since 2015. Trustee Begg, in turn, thanked the Trustees for their ongoing service to public higher education. Chair Walker then noted the reappointment or reelection of Trustees Hansel, Pilot, Tewksbury, and Westover.

Further Business: Trustee Tewksbury noted that difficult conversations await the Board and that Board members must both feel free to express their individual opinions and understand that sometimes those opinions may not be taken up by the group. Trustee Westover noted, in light of the DEI presentation, that the Board itself faces continued challenges in increasing its own diversity.

Adjourn: At 11:41 am Chair Walker called for further business and, hearing none, adjourned the meeting.