



BOARD OF TRUSTEES EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Meeting Held at USNH System Office
5 Chenell Drive, Concord, NH
(August 17, 2023)

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Executive Committee members present at meeting location (USNH System Office, 5 Chenell Dr., Concord, NH 03301): Chair Alex Walker, Kass Ardinger, Jamie Burnett, Jackie Eastwood, and Cathy Green. Committee members appearing by videoconference: Morgan Rutman. Other Trustees present at meeting location: Shawn Jasper, Peter Paul, Wayne Semprini, Christiana Thornton, Melinda Treadwell, and David Westover. Other Trustees participating by videoconference: Donald Birx, Emily Coutermarsh, Jim Dean, James Gray, George Hansel, Patrick Moore, Mackenzie Murphy, and Joel Nkounkou. Others participating by videoconference: CAO Cathy Provencher.

Call to Order: At 4:04 pm, Chair Walker called the meeting to order and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient for the conduct of business.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: On motion made by Trustee Eastwood and seconded by Trustee Burnett, the Committee unanimously voted as follows to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee's meeting of February 16, 2023:

VOTED, that the Executive Committee approves the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of February 16, 2023, as presented in the materials for this meeting.

Approval of UNH Faculty Appointment with Tenure: On motion made by Trustee Eastwood and seconded by Trustee Green, the Committee unanimously voted as follows to approve the appointment of one individual as tenured faculty at UNH Law School:

VOTED, on recommendation of the UNH President, that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Financial Affairs Committee and the Board of Trustees, approves the appointment of one individual with the rank of professor with tenure at the University of New Hampshire as described in the supporting materials.

Approval of Naming of UNH Athletic Sports Complex: UNH President Dean presented this item, which is intended recognize a gift made that will supplement state and university funding intended to upgrade the ice hockey facility at UNH. Trustees discussed the scope of the project, the length of the naming period, and whether UNH was confident that it had maximized fundraising opportunities for the project. On motion made by Trustee Eastman and seconded by Trustee Ardinger, the Committee unanimously approved the naming request as follows:

***VOTED**, on recommendation of the UNH President, that the Executive Committee, on behalf of the Financial Affairs Committee and the Board of Trustees, approves the request to name the existing UNH Athletic Sports Complex the “Key Auto Group Complex” for a period of ten years beginning July 1, 2023 and ending on July 1, 2033 in recognition of gift made to UNH as described in the memorandum of President Dean dated July 12, 2023.*

Approval of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Annual Report and Assignment of Risks: On motion made by Trustee Eastwood and seconded by Trustee Green, the Committee unanimously voted as follows to approve committee assignments for the top enterprise risks identified in the ERM Annual Report:

***VOTED**, on recommendation of the Audit Committee, that the Executive Committee hereby formally assigns the top system-wide risks identified in the GY 2024 annual ERM report to the appropriate Board committees for oversight, as specified in the attached materials.*

Update from Chief Administrative Officer: CAO Cathy Provencher updated the Committee on the status of the plans for the relocation of the system office following the expiration of its current office lease in January 2025. The system is preliminarily exploring the possibility of co-locating with the community college system, but will also review other options.

Update from UNH President: UNH President Dean shared some UNH’s efforts towards financial sustainability. This includes the opportunities to maximize housing and meal revenue, reviewing programs based on their contributions to UNH’s mission and finances, reviewing faculty-student ratios, emphasizing the revenue-generating possibilities of existing marketing programs, and reviewing the use of gift funds.

Update from PSU President: PSU President Birx updated the Committee on the status of renovations at Hyde Hall. He then addressed PSU’s efforts toward financial sustainability, with a goal of identifying five million in financial impact using a mix of tactics including improved undergraduate retention, rebuilding the graduate program to meet shifting demand, reducing costs, and rethinking summer and winter programs.

Update from KSC President: KSC President Treadwell updated the Committee on KSC’s efforts toward financial sustainability, also with a goal of identifying five million dollars in financial impact. President Treadwell noted that the effects of COVID-era under-enrollment are still working their way through the undergraduate population and increased operating costs have imposed an additional burden. KSC plans to work with the City of Keene and other entities to reduce costs and increase revenue by divesting or sharing underused buildings. KSC is also reviewing programs for their contribution to KSC’s mission and finances and maximizing auxiliary and online programs. Trustees asked for further information on whether and how the former Granite State College infrastructure could be used to support online courses across the system.

Discussion on Planned Creation of KSC Hockey Program: President Treadwell reviewed the decision-making process behind the recent announcement of KSC’s planned creation of men’s and women’s hockey teams. President Treadwell noted that increasing the number of student-athletes is part of KSC’s retention plan. Options for adding or expanding sports teams were mentioned during KSC’s strategic plan presentation. Following preliminary review, the list of potential options was changed due to logistical issues surrounding a potential new track facility and the availability of a pre-

existing public-private ice rink in Keene. Trustees sought additional information on the process used to generate the initial list of options, and how the decision to change that list was made and communicated.

Update on Presidents' Council Strategic Planning Work: Interim Chancellor Dean updated the Committee on work being done by the Presidents, Provosts, and CFOs to respond to the Board's June charge to consider possible strategic changes to the system. EAB has agreed to facilitate a one-day strategic session with presidents, provost and CFOs to assist with thinking through possible structural and governance changes, with a goal of a report out by the end of the calendar year.

Preview of FY23 Actual Financial Results: CAO Provencher presented a preview of the system's FY 23 unaudited actual financial results. The overall results were positive, with a recurring margin of \$4.2 million, which is \$10 million above budget, and additional one-time margin dollars attributable to FEMA/HEERF reimbursements. Cash levels were below budget, but that can be attributed to timing issues surrounding receipt of grant funding.

Discussion re: Board Strategic Retreat Agenda: Trustees reviewed and generally approved of the draft agenda included in the materials. Trustees asked for additional information on governance options and larger regional and national industry trends, which the system will ask EAB to provide. Trustees also asked for consideration of including a brainstorming period. Trustees also proposed spending time at the retreat including the specific challenges facing KSC.

Adjourn: At 5:45 pm, Chair Walker called for further business and, hearing none, adjourned the meeting.