



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE  
OCTOBER 19, 2023**

PLYMOUTH STATE UNIVERSITY  
PLYMOUTH, NH

MEETING MINUTES

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**Attendance**

Committee members present: M. Jacqueline Eastwood, committee chair; George Hansel, committee vice chair; Jeremiah Barry; Jose Cintron-Ortiz; Emily Coutermarsh; Frank Edelblut; Shawn Jasper; Mackenzie Murphy; Patrick Moore; Wayne Semprini; Christiana Thornton; David Westover; Zachary Christie; Avery Ellis (remote); Tim Hoheneder

Other trustees present: Cassandra Ardinger, Donald Birx, James Burnett, III, James Dean, Jr., James Gray, NH Senate, Cathy Green (remote); James Gerry, Governor Sununu's designee (remote); Kevin Knarr; Rick Ladd, NH House of Representatives; Joel Nkounkou (remote); Peter Paul; Michael Pilot; J. Morgan Rutman; Melinda Treadwell; Alexander Walker, Jr.

Other participants: James Beeby; Nathaniel Bowditch; Wayne Jones

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**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by Chair Eastwood, duly seconded, and approved.

*VOTED, that the Educational Excellence Committee approve the minutes of the June 22, 2023, meeting.*

**Promotion and Tenure Recommendation**

Moved by Chair Eastwood, duly seconded, and approved.

*VOTED, on recommendation of President Dean, that the Educational Excellence Committee recommend that the full Board of Trustees approve the appointment of one individual with the rank of professor with tenure at the University of New Hampshire, as presented in the supporting material.*

**University System Student Board (USSB)**

USSB Chair Emily Coutermarsh led a discussion of USSB objectives, with a focus on supporting student retention through positive student experience, including food security. It was noted that campus food resources may be underutilized due to lack of awareness or desire for access anonymity. It was suggested that the USSB define the magnitude of the problem on USNH campuses and present possible solutions.

**Fall 2023 Enrollment**

The provosts presented information on enrollment census, undergraduate tuition and fee revenue net of institutional aid, and discount rates. Discussion addressed competitive challenges, demographic projections, and discounting strategies influenced by mission-specific student markets, budgetary constraints, and student access.

### **Retention and Graduation**

The provosts reviewed campus trends in first-year retention and four- and six-year graduation rates, noting improved retention post-pandemic. It was noted that comparison to peer groups and the performance of Pell recipients and first-generation college students were provided annually in the June Academic Quality Metrics report.

### **Academic Portfolio Assessment**

The provosts provided an update on systemwide academic program planning collaboration, with an overview of recent program closures, student-faculty ratios, and course section levels which keep pace with enrollment changes. It was reported that newly aligned academic calendar development will support opportunities for course sharing and multi-campus activity. Discussion touched on programming relative to institutional mission, budget, market demand, and workforce need.

### **Other: Transfer Pathways**

The provosts provided an update on compliance with HB 1530 relative to transfer pathways, referencing the status report submitted to the NH State Legislature in June. It was noted that collaboration with CCSNH surpasses compliance work and includes joint monthly meetings of both systems' academic leadership.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.