



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE COMMITTEE**  
**MARCH 7, 2024**

KEENE STATE COLLEGE  
KEENE, NH

MEETING MINUTES  
*Approved June 27, 2024*

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**Attendance**

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

Other trustees present: Cassandra Arding, Donald Birx, James Burnett, III, James Dean, Jr., Cathy Green; James Gerry, Governor Sununu's designee; Kevin Knarr; Joel Nkounkou (remote); Peter Paul; Michael Pilot (remote); J. Morgan Rutman; Gregg Tewksbury; Melinda Treadwell

Other participants: James Beeby, Marney Buss, Nathaniel Bowditch, Kimberly DeRego, Jennifer Ferrell, Kenneth Holmes, Wayne Jones, Joanne Landers, MB Lufkin, Robert Orf, Shari Robinson

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**Call to Order**

Committee Chair Eastwood called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., affirmed a quorum sufficient to conduct business, and called attention to the NH occupational projections.

**Approval of Minutes**

Moved by committee Vice Chair Hansel, duly seconded, and approved.

*VOTED, that the Educational Excellence Committee approve the minutes of the October 19, 2023, meeting.*

**Appointment with Tenure - UNH Associate Professor**

Moved by Vice Chair Hansel, 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 associate professor with tenure at the University of New Hampshire, as presented in the supporting material.*

**Appointments with Tenure - UNH Professor**

Moved by Vice Chair Hansel, 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 two individuals with the rank of professor with tenure at the University of New Hampshire, as presented in the supporting material.*

**Information**

- Enterprise Risk Management plans for Enrollment and Student Success & Well-being
- Academic Program Changes

## **University System Student Board (USSB)**

USSB Representatives Barry, Christie, Cintron-Ortiz, and Rosenberg reported on efforts of student leaders across the system to engage and collaborate with campus administrators to enhance the student experience. Chair Eastwood thanked the students for their service and expressed her willingness to serve as a resource for the USSB.

## **Student Success and Well-being**

An annual update on student mental health was presented by campus student life leaders: Kenneth Holmes, UNH senior vice provost for student life; Marney Buss, KSC dean of students; Jennifer Ferrell, KSC associate vice president for student engagement; Robert Orf, PSU Counseling Center director; and Shari Robinson, assistant vice provost for student life. The information addressed student demand and delivery of campus services. The framework for a pending request by the USNH Behavioral Health Roundtable for investment in campus mental health services was presented with recommendations for action and return on investment. Discussion touched on telehealth, third party payment, mental health clinician shortage, and the prospect of strategic State funding to support related workforce development.

## **FAFSA and Fall 2024 Enrollment**

A briefing on the FAFSA rollout delay and impact on fall admissions was delivered by campus enrollment management leaders: Kimberly DeRego, UNH vice provost for enrollment management; Joanne Landers, PSU vice president for enrollment management and communications; and MB Lufkin, KSC vice president of enrollment and student engagement. Information described the successive delays in the transmission of FAFSA student data from the US Department of Education to postsecondary institutions and the reconfiguration of FAFSA methodology that determines expected family contribution. Both factors have delayed the campuses' ability to provide prospective and continuing students with financial aid offers and have impeded the campuses' ability to formulate enrollment projections. Discussion addressed associated risks and mitigation strategies.

## **Fall 2023 Applicant Enrollment Decisions**

The provosts reviewed a summary of the enrollment destinations of fall 2023 admitted resident and nonresident USNH applicants based on National Student Clearinghouse data. It was noted that the rates of crossover within the system were fairly equitable.

## **Spring Census/R30 Enrollment**

The provosts provided an overview of spring term undergraduate and graduate enrollment trends and retention. It was noted that strong fall-to-spring undergraduate retention offset decreases in historically small numbers of incoming students in spring, resulting in stable levels of enrollment.

## **Academic Portfolio and Transfer Pathways**

The provosts reported on the formation of the Education Programs Advisory Council to optimize Education and Educator Prep programming and teacher workforce development. They reported on the status of compliance with HB1530, which is expected to exceed the number of identified pathways required by statute with a focus on pathways supporting workforce needs.

## **Other: GSC-UNH Merger**

Provost Jones provided an update on the GSC merger in terms of identified goals. Information addressed the complexity of merger logistics, enrollment and budget levers, online graduate enrollment, and shifting adult learner demand for nontraditional professional credentials. He described UNH efforts to meet this demand and plans to establish a new division of online and continuing education and to grow revenue. Discussion addressed support for KSC and PSU online programming.

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business or discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.