



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Meeting by Videoconference

By Zoom Meeting:

(July 9, 2020)

Meeting Minutes

In Attendance: Executive Committee Members (via video conference): Chair Joseph Morone, Vice Chair Jamie Burnett, Secretary Kass Ardinger, Todd Black, Jackie Eastwood, Chris Pope, Morgan Rutman, and Wally Stevens. Other Trustees: Amy Begg, Don Bix, Jim Dean, Cathy Green, George Hansel, Todd Leach, Scott Mason, Mike Pilot, Mark Rubinstein, Michael Shannon, Marjorie Smith, Melinda Treadwell, and David Westover. Also participating (via video conference): Cathy Provencher, Jim McGrail, Lisa Thorne, Tia Miller, Paul Dean, Steve Temperino, Marlin Collingwood, and Ron Rodgers. Guests participating (via video conference): Dr. Benjamin Chan, and Dr. Beth Daly, from NH DHHS.

Call to Order: At 4:02 pm, Chair Morone called the meeting to order, called the roll, and noted the presence of a quorum sufficient for the conduct of business.

Conduct of a Telephonic Meeting: Chair Morone made the following announcement regarding the conduct of a telephonic meeting and counting all members toward the quorum requirement whether or not physically present in the meeting location:

This meeting is being held by electronic means in conformance with the Governor's emergency declaration of March 13, 2020, and subsequent emergency orders, as well as the applicable provisions of the New Hampshire Right-to-Know Law, RSA 91-A. If during the conduct of this meeting, anyone has difficulty connecting or staying connected to the video or audio feed please contact Tia Miller at tia.miller@usnh.edu.

Discussion with Drs. Chan and Daly: Chair Morone introduced Dr. Benjamin Chan, the NH State Epidemiologist and Dr. Beth Daly, the Director of the Office of Infectious Diseases to the Executive Committee and other Trustees participating in the meeting. Dr. Chan began the discussion by describing the variety of factors, some of which are contextual, he looks at when deciding whether the viral infection conditions are right for opening an institution of higher education. In response to a further question, Drs. Chan and Daly recommended a three-part

baseline test at the beginning of the semester and then a regimen surveillance testing for the balance of the semester. Finally, when asked whether a university, consistent with the health and safety students and faculty, could have a plan that specified as little as three feet of distancing among students in a classroom, Dr. Chan responded “yes,” provided the plan includes a package of protective strategies, for example mandatory use of face masks, self-monitoring and reporting of symptoms, proper personal hygiene including frequent handwashing, and regular cleaning of high touch surfaces. At 5:20, the Chair and all members of the Executive Committee expressed their appreciation to Drs. Chan and Daly for taking the time to attend the meeting and provide the advantage of the expertise.

After Drs. Chan and Daly signed off the call, the Executive Committee and other Board members debriefed the discussion, agreeing that more discussion will be needed on several issues, including trigger points for altering conditions on campus to protect the health and safety of students, faculty, and staff, and the contact tracing process.

Overview of Table-Top Exercise: In light of the short time remaining in the meeting, Chair Morone decided to postpone the planned agenda item to next week, July 16, and asked Trustee Pope to describe the status of ongoing efforts to develop and deliver a table-top exercise prior to the start of the fall semester. Trustee Pope informed the Executive Committee the project is on schedule to have a system-wide table-top exercise in early August. All of the USNH institutions and the system office will be involved, but to maintain the authenticity of the exercise, no Trustees will be involved. Trustee Pope also emphasized the exercise will not be a test – it is designed to uncover aspects of the planning and implementation that need further development or more practice.

Chair Morone then led the Board in a discussion of the decision-making timeline. The Board concluded that, at the end of July, there would be a full Board “gut check” about state of the planning and whether the institutions are headed on the path to be fully prepared to open in August. Pressing issues requiring fuller discussion before the “gut check” include: student behavior, contact tracing, trigger points, and the legal review.

Adjourn: At 6:06 pm the meeting was adjourned.