



## Student Success Committee

CCSNH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting of August 10, 2021

**Attending:** Trustee Steve Rothenberg (Chair), Trustee John Calhoun, Trustee Sharon Harris, Trustee Bryant Abbott, Trustee Jeff Cozzens, RVCC President Alfred Williams, NCC President Lucille Jordan, CCSNH Interim Chancellor Susan Huard, CCSNH COO Scott Fields, CCSNH Executive Director of Government Affairs and Communications Shannon Reid, CCSNH Chief Advancement Officer Tim Allison, CCSNH Director of DOE and College Access Programs Beth Doiron, Joe Doiron (BEA)

**Others in Attendance:** Trustee Robert Baines, MCC President Brian Bicknell (teleconference), CCSNH Interim CHRO Monica Bradley (teleconference), LRCC VPSA Patrick Cate, WMCC VPAA Kristen Miller, Granite State College President Mark Rubinstein

**Regrets:** Commissioner Frank Edelblut

Committee Chair Rothenberg called the meeting to order at 10:10 am in 217 Grappone Hall, NHTI, Concord, NH.

### CCSNH Bachelor's Degrees

Chancellor Huard provided an overview of the potential legislative proposal that would require or urge CCSNH to offer bachelor's degrees. In his proposal, Representative Oliver Ford hopes to create access to credentials that would aid in social and economic mobility for a population that is not well-positioned to enroll in another institution for baccalaureate-level education. He has suggested the following bachelor's degrees for initial consideration:

- WMCC bachelor's degrees that would fill in the gap that exists due to lack higher education providers in the region
- CCSNH bachelor's degrees in certain program areas such as automotive service management

The committee discussed the best approach for this issue and focused on developing questions and information that are important for further discussion, including:

- An assessment to determine the value of the offerings, including labor market/workforce need and student demand;
- An understanding of costs, revenue, and expenses;
- Questions of mission, and timing of this conversation given recent merger discussion;
- Social mobility considerations for NH residents;
- Additional assessment of the needs of ESL and non-native speakers, and the costs associated with supporting ESL learners;
- Staffing needs connected with offering baccalaureate-level education, particularly requirements related to faculty;
- Program and student outcomes;
- Industry-specific considerations, e.g. implications for auto programs where dealers and the NHADA are already heavily involved in the education-to-work pipeline;
- Transfer issues;



- Programs that would be considered for bachelor's degrees; and
- Reputational risk associated with the challenges of moving in this new direction.

There are regions, such as the North Country and the Upper Valley, where this concept may have more traction due to the existence of fewer opportunities and also significant pandemic-related growth and in-migration that may create a market.

The committee discussed the importance of bringing USNH into this discussion as a potential partner to meet needs that may not currently be met, and they discussed partnering to create a "higher education center" on campuses with partner institutions offering the baccalaureate-level curriculum.

President Bicknell reflected on his experience creating baccalaureate programs at the Benjamin Franklin Institute of Technology and noted that the addition of bachelor's degree program to community college offerings would set a new level of expectations for the curriculum and learning outcomes, including in general education courses. Accreditation expectations also differ, with the need to file and support "substantive change" documentation.

Discussion followed regarding the need for CCSNH and the board to ensure these kinds of initiatives serve the CCSNH mission, and to further discuss whether or not bachelor's degrees support or dilute the mission.

Further consideration of CCSNH bachelor's degrees will require:

- Identifying all elements of a good needs assessment that will determine the value of the proposal and identify any regional differences,
- Inviting Representative Ford and other legislative leaders in education policy for more conversation at the next committee meeting in September, and
- Including USNH in this conversation.

#### Other Business

No further business was stated. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Eckner  
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees