



Community College System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees

September 21, 2023

NHTI - Concord's Community College | 31 College Drive Concord, NH 03301
Grappone Hall 106

Present: Trustee Katharine Bogle Shields, Trustee Edwin O. Smith, Trustee Alison Stebbins, Trustee Donnalee M. Lozeau, Trustee Geoffrey Kennedy, Trustee Gregory C. Eastman, Trustee Kimberly Eckenrode, Trustee Nick Toumpas, Trustee Richard Ackerman, Trustee Steven H. Slovenski, Trustee Stephen J. Ellis, Trustee Tricia H. Lucas, Trustee Will Cunningham, Chancellor Mark Rubinstein, Director Deanna Jurius (Dee), President Alfred Williams IV (RVCC), President Lucille Jordan (NCC), Interim President Patrick Cate (LRCC), President Charles Lloyd (WMCC), President Cheryl Lesser (GBCC), President Patrick Tompkins (NHTI)

Regrets: Trustee Christopher Dodge, Trustee Darrin Daniels, Trustee John T. Stevens, Trustee Sharon D. Harris, Trustee Tiffany Eddy, Trustee Todd C. Emmons, Director Joseph Doiron, Attorney Marie-Helene B. Bailinson, Director Stephen Appleby

Guests: Director James Gerry (*State of NH Budget Director and USNH Board of Trustee Liaison to the Governor*), Director Ann-Marie Hartshorn, Chief Information Officer Spada, Director Jason Bishop, Director Matt Moore, Director Sara Sawyer, Chief Operating Officer Scott Fields, Executive Director Tim Allison, Vice President Kristen Miller (WMCC), Business Affairs Officer Masha Bourdon (NHTI)

Meeting Minutes:

Chair Shields called the meeting to order at 8:43am by welcoming everyone. She stressed the importance of the committee work and reminded the group that the Board retreat will be January 18, 2024 - January 19, 2024, in the River Valley Community College region (*near their Academic Center in the Lebanon, NH*). Chair Shields also mentioned the need to repopulate some of the committees and will be sending out interest surveys soon.

Chair Shields asked if there were any conflicts of interest with any agenda items that were being presented, Trustee Kimberly Eckenrode disclosed a conflict of interest with any personnel matters being discussed. Trustee Eckenrode will excuse herself during any discussions that involve any personnel matters.

Topic: Update from the discussion between the Chancellor and Governor Sununu

Discussion: Chancellor Rubinstein welcomed Director James Gerry to the meeting. Director Gerry is the Governors liaison on the University System of NH (USNH) Board of Trustees. Chancellor Rubinstein invited him to this meeting to ensure transparency between the Boards related to the conversations had with Governor Sununu regarding higher education in NH.

The Governor is concerned with the changing landscape of higher education and is encouraging both the USNH and the CCSNH to prepare for that future. Governor Sununu was at the USNH September retreat and the USNH Board of Trustees voted at that time to request an executive order creating a task force to review and make recommendations regarding the potential consolidation of the USNH and the CCSNH systems. Chancellor Rubinstein let the Board know that the Governor is not being prescriptive regarding a particular solution (e.g., merging the systems), but rather would like to ensure both systems are looking ahead, planning for the coming changes, and finding ways to be more efficient in meeting the needs of New Hampshire. He said it wasn't a criticism of either system, it is a necessity to look at the changes coming and adjust accordingly.



The Governor recognizes that this is important to New Hampshire's future and does not want to saddle his successor with the burden of time lost that could have been invested in planning and implementation of change, so is considering appointment of a task force to look at public higher education for New Hampshire's future.

The Chancellor and Chair Shields have been focused on the future of higher education and positioning CCSNH to remain a vital resource for New Hampshire's future. Over the next several months and leading up to the January retreat, through presentations and reports, the intent is to build a foundation of shared understanding among the Trustees to inform decision-making. The discussion with the Governor and the proposed task force are likely to be complementary to those planning efforts and will likely broaden our thinking about how best to serve New Hampshire's students and the needs of the State in the future.

Vote: Trustee Smith motioned to enter into a non-public session according to the provisions in RSA 91-A:3, II(a), in order to discuss a personnel matter, Trustee Lozeau seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Chair Shields dismissed all those present who weren't Board members or had expressed a conflict of interest at the start of the meeting keeping in the room Chancellor Rubinstein and Executive Assistant Hoefs.

Entered Non-Public Session at 9:02am

Entered Public Session at 9:15am

Topic: Appointment of Interim President for WMCC

Vote: Trustee Ellis motioned to appoint Melanie Robbins to Interim President of White Mountains Community College effective October 1, 2023, at an annual salary of approximately \$125,200 for a period anticipated to last four months, through January 31st, 2024, Trustee Toumpas seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion: Trustee Toumpas expressed his appreciation and enthusiasm for Ms. Robbins to be appointed to this role.

No further business was brought forward, the meeting adjourned at 9:20am.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra A. Hoefs
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees