



Community College System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees

Thursday, March 21, 2024

NHTI - Concord's Community College | Grappone Hall 106

Present: Trustee Katharine Bogle Shields, Trustee Christopher Dodge, Trustee Donnalee M. Lozeau, Trustee Geoffrey Kennedy, Trustee Gregory C. Eastman, Trustee Kimberly Eckenrode, Trustee Nick Toumpas, Trustee Richard Ackerman, Trustee Tricia H. Lucas, Chancellor Mark Rubinstein, Vice Chancellor Charles Lloyd, Director Deanna Jurius, Legal Coordinator Sarah Morrissey, Director Stephen Appleby, President Alfred Williams IV (RVCC), Interim President Patrick Cate (LRCC), President Cheryl Lesser (GBCC), President Patrick Tompkins (NHTI), President Brian Bicknell (MCC)

Remote (via Zoom): Trustee Alison Stebbins, Trustee Sharon D. Harris, Trustee Stephen J. Ellis, Trustee Will Cunningham, Interim President Melanie Robbins (WMCC),

Regrets: Trustee Tiffany Eddy, Trustee Nick Curro, Trustee Edwin O. Smith, Trustee Steven H. Slovenski, Trustee Darrin Daniels, Trustee John T. Stevens, Director Joseph Doiron, President Lucille Jordan (NCC),

Meeting Minutes:

Chair Shields called the meeting to order at 2:48pm and thanked the Trustees for being here, she recognized this is a long day.

Topic: Nashua Community College (NCC) STEM Center naming

Discussion: NCC has requested to name the soon-to-be completed STEM Center the "BAE Systems, Inc. STEM Center". The Chancellor has submitted a memo of support to the Board for this request as they are a long-standing community partner with close ties to the college and system.

Vote: Trustee Ackerman motioned to approve naming of the soon-to-be completed STEM Center at Nashua Community College, the "BAE Systems, Inc. STEM Center", Trustee Eastman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Topic: Chancellor's Request for Support

Discussion: Chair Shields opened the discussion by remarking that it is time to start taking action and moving forward. She also shared that while Trustee Stevens couldn't stay for this meeting he supports the Chancellor's ideas 100%.

Chancellor Rubinstein thanked everyone for extending their day for this meeting given the time sensitivity of having the Boards approval for his proposed actions. Over the past year the Board has received information about the changing demographics, the changing landscape for postsecondary education and credentials, and growing pressures on financial support for higher education being experienced in the region and across the country. These same issues that were the central themes in the Board Retreat in January were also integral to the discussions of the Governor's Task Force. Citing remarks by both Brian Prescott and NECHE Commissioner Susan Huard, the Chancellor indicated that time is a critical factor and action taken now would afford more opportunity to shape our future than would be the case



in the midst of a crisis. He went on to express the need to more fully leverage the potential of a system as part of the long-term strategy for sustainability. The State of NH needs the Community College System, and we need to do what we can to ensure we are sustainable for the future.

The Board Chair asked how the Presidents felt about the Chancellor's recommendations. The group each gave their individual support while encouraging the inclusion of faculty, staff, and students in the process. The core sentiment was to support efforts that are in the best interests for the students and state, and this is a step set of recommendations moves us in the right direction.

Vote: Trustee Toumpas motioned to approve the Chancellor's recommendations for action to:

1. Implement strategic initiatives to better support early college students and adult learners;
2. Implement administrative restructuring as deemed necessary to achieve more seamless student experiences and more consistent and efficient business practices;
3. And initiate discussions with the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE), the United States Department of Education (USDOE), and state policy makers regarding the goal of single regional accreditation of CCSNH as a statewide institution.

Trustee Dodge seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:38pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

