



## Board of Trustees Executive Committee

Thursday, March 6, 2024 | 9:00am - 10:30am  
NHTI - Concord's Community College, Grappone Hall 301

**Attendees:** Chair Kathy Bogle-Shields, Vice-Chair Edwin O. Smith, Chancellor Mark Rubinstein, Trustee Richard Ackerman, Trustee Tricia Lucas, Trustee Alison Stebbins, Trustee Sharon Harris (*present until 12:27pm then joined remotely via Zoom for remainder of meeting*), Trustee Gregory Eastman (*Zoom*), Trustee Nick Toumpas (*Zoom*)

**Regrets:** Trustee Donnalee Lozeau

**Guests:** Vice Chancellor Lloyd, Director Appleby, Trustee Stevens, Chief Information Officer Spada, Chief Operating Officer Fields, MCC President Bicknell, Executive Director Reid, Trustee Eckenrode (*Zoom*), WMCC President Robbins (*Zoom*), GBCC President Lesser (*Zoom*), Trustee Cunningham (*Zoom*)

### Meeting Minutes:

Chair Shields opened the meeting at approximately 11:31am with an overview of Chancellor Rubinstein's message to the Board. She also expressed a need for the Board to take action and start making progress.

Since there were remote participants, attendance was verified via roll call.

Chancellor Rubinstein started by tying his requests to the committee to the presentations the Board has seen over the last 6 months that relate to the changing landscape for public higher education, the common challenges being observed across the country, and the adaptations that are occurring in other states and other systems. Chancellor Rubinstein also cited the current budget development process for FY25, noting that multiple colleges are proposing reductions-in-force to balance budgets, following a pattern that has been used for many years, and that contributes to the "teams of one" that create vulnerabilities for the ability of each college to serve its students. The Chancellor acknowledged that more aggressive reallocation of the state appropriation could assist some colleges in the near term, but at the expense of other colleges, and at the expense of moving more purposefully toward system-level solutions. All of these forces point to the need for change and there is an urgency associated with this decision if it is to be timely enough to make a difference in the future of CCSNH. Trustee Smith noted that 2-2.5 years ago when the merger was put on the table, we would have had little to no say in what happened, but by taking action now we will have a say and will be leading the charge.

The Chancellor presented a set of recommendations to the Executive Committee that included three distinct but related objectives. The first was support for the implementation of systemwide, collaborative strategic initiatives to better support early college students and adult learners. The second was support to implement administrative restructuring as deemed necessary to achieve more seamless student experiences and more consistent and efficient business practices, with the Chancellor noting that the efficiencies created by these efforts could allow CCSNH to redeploy talent in support of the early college and adult learner initiatives. Finally, the Chancellor requested support to partner with NCHEMS (or a similar organization) and to initiate discussions with the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE) and the United States Department of Education (USDOE), to develop a "roadmap" to explore the possibility of regional accreditation of CCSNH as a single, statewide institution.



On this last point, the Chancellor cited materials that had been shared in advance of the meeting that clarified that the Executive Committee's recommendation would not be to approve a decision on pursuing accreditation as a single institution, but to authorize the development of a roadmap that would outline the process, timeline, consequences, and costs of that decision, along with alternatives, should the Board eventually conclude that a different or more intermediate action is appropriate.

The Chancellor noted that the first two objectives could be completed without any change to accreditation, and would contribute to more seamless student pathways and more efficient operations that would be beneficial to our work, but that if a decision is ultimately made to approve implementation of the roadmap to achieve regional accreditation of CCSNH as a single, statewide institution, that the work undertaken on those first two objectives would be important progress toward that goal.

**Vote Taken:** Trustee Smith motioned for the Executive Committee to recommend approval of the Chancellor's recommendations to 1) implement strategic initiatives to better support early college students and adult learners; 2) to implement administrative restructuring as deemed necessary to achieve more seamless student experiences and more consistent and efficient business practices; and 3) to engage with NCHEMS (or a similar organization) and to initiate discussions with the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE) and the United States Department of Education (USDOE) regarding the possibility for single, statewide accreditation for CCSNH to the full Board of Trustees. Trustee Stebbins seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call.

No further business was brought forward, the meeting adjourned at 12:42pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cassandra Hoefs  
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees