



## Student Success Committee

CCSNH BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Meeting of April 17, 2020

**Attending (teleconference):** Trustee Steve Rothenberg (Chair), Trustee John Calhoun, Trustee Stephen Freeborn, Trustee Jeff Cozzens, Trustee Sharon Harris, RVCC President Alfred Williams, NCC President Lucille Jordan, CCSNH Chancellor Ross Gittell, CCSNH COO Charles Ansell, CCSNH Executive Director of Government Affairs and Communications Shannon Reid, CCSNH Director of DOE and College Access Programs Beth Doiron

**Regrets:** Christopher Way (BEA), Commissioner Frank Edelblut, Trustee Kenneth Stanley

Committee Chair Rothenberg called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. in the Chancellor's Office Conference Room, NHTI, Concord, NH. The chair declared an emergency meeting in order to follow social distancing guidelines related to the current public health crisis, pursuant to RSA 91-A: 2 (III)(b).

### Approval of March 19, 2020 Minutes

**VOTE:** The Committee, on motion of President Jordan and seconded by President Williams, voted unanimously by roll call to approve the minutes of the March 19, 2020 meeting as revised.

### COVID-19: Strategic Next Steps for Student Success at CCSNH

Mr. Rothenberg and Mr. Ansell led a discussion with the committee on the impact of COVID-19 and strategic next steps for the Fall 2020 semester, with a focus on how prepared CCSNH is in different areas within the three scenarios of:

1. Same balance of face-to-face/ online as Fall 2019
2. Mix of social distancing and more online
3. All online, except practical/ hands-on courses.

Presidents Jordan and Williams provided an update on programs and classes that are more easily moved online. Classes moved online provide additional space for social distancing for courses that require in-person instruction. Mr. Freeborn noted that it is important for faculty to be prepared for the worst case scenario outlined by Mr. Ansell, and the committee discussed the measures colleges must undertake to ensure all students have access to the hardware they need to complete online classes remotely, including requiring laptops so that they can be covered by financial aid.

Further discussion following on retention and how the colleges can support students by helping them obtain credentials that are relevant in this time of uncertainty. Students at CCSNH colleges are being contacted frequently, are offered online counseling, and are being closely worked with on any financial barriers they are facing. Regarding assessing the success of retention and learning systems implemented during this period, President Williams responded that full-time faculty at River Valley CC have been crucial in figuring out which instructors need the most support and providing each other support.



The committee discussed the potential of a marketing opportunity to increase awareness on the value of a high-quality community college education that costs substantially less their current program of study at an expensive four-year institution.

Chancellor Gittell noted that adult learners are a source of competitive advantage for community colleges. Aligning education programs with the needs of employers will tap into a huge pool of recently displaced workers, which make up possibly more than 20% in NH. The presidents are interested in working with the NH Department of Employment Security in reaching out to recently displaced workers, and in using the CareerCoach tool to better understand current job opening and which academic programs could most help people and their employment prospects. CCSNH is in the best position to address their needs than any other institution. Going forward, it will be important for CCSNH to figure out how to give students and adult learners credit for past work.

To support this work going forward, faculty need CCSNH to provide the tools and professional development required by this transition. CCSNH will also need to develop the standards associated with lab-style work during this time.

Ms. Reid provided an update on her work with Senate leadership and the Governor's Office on their handling of the block grant. Mr. Ansell reported that the system and colleges are closely tracking COVID-related expenses that can be shared with Senate leadership and the Governor's Office to inform that work.

Ms. Doiron noted that it will be important for CTEs to work very closely with their college and Running Start partners at this time.

No further business was stated. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Eckner  
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees