



Board of Trustees

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM OF NH

Meeting of February 18, 2021

Present (teleconference): Trustee Jeremy Hitchcock (Chair), Trustee Paul Holloway (Past Chair), Trustee Kathy Bogle Shields (Vice Chair), Trustee Alison Stebbins (Treasurer), Trustee Edwin Smith (Secretary), Trustee Robert Baines, Trustee Steve Rothenberg, Trustee Todd Emmons, Trustee Jack Calhoun, Trustee Sharon Harris, Trustee Tricia Lucas, Trustee Tiler Eaton, Trustee John Stevens, Trustee Steven Slovenski, Trustee Richard Heath, Trustee Jeff Cozzens, Trustee Stephen Ellis, Trustee Bryant Abbott, Trustee Megan Elwell, Trustee Hollie Noveletsky, Joseph Doiron (NH Department of Business and Economic Affairs), Marie-Helene Bailinson (NH Department of Employment Security) Interim Chancellor Susan Huard, President Brian Bicknell (MCC), President Lucille Jordan (NCC), President Larissa Baia (LRCC), President Gretchen Mullin-Sawicki (NHTI), President Charles Lloyd (WMCC), President Alfred Williams (RVCC), Interim President Cathryn Addy (GBCC), Jonathan Melanson (Office of the Governor of NH), Governor Christopher Sununu

Regrets: Trustee Darrin Daniels, Trustee Alexander Johnson, Commissioner Frank Edelblut (Department of Education)

Others Presenting to the Board (teleconference): Shannon Reid (CCSNH), Monica Bradley (CCSNH), Tim Allison (CCSNH), Scott Fields (CCSNH), Mark Broth (Drummond Woodsum)

Chair Hitchcock called the meeting to order at 10:01 am and called the roll. Regarding the conduct of a telephonic meeting and counting all members toward the quorum requirement whether or not physically present in the meeting location, 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). No conflicts of interest were expressed.

Consent Agenda

VOTE: The Board, on motion of Ms. Shields and seconded by Mr. Holloway, voted unanimously by roll call to approve the following consent agenda items:

- Approval of the Agenda
- LRCC Advisory Board Nominations: Justin Slattery, Russell Nadeau

Governor's Budget Proposal

Governor Sununu led a discussion on his proposal to merge the boards of the state's community college and university systems, citing sharp enrollment decline, an antiquated structure that does not meet the needs of parents and students, and opportunities to enhance collaboration, synergies, and transfer between institutions across the systems. The Governor emphasized that the drive behind the proposed merger is student success and is not financial, as most states who have combined systems do not report significant cost savings as a result of the effort.



Discussion followed regarding concerns that the new system will lose focus on community college students and that the identities and brands of the different institutions will not be preserved. The Governor responded that the new board will advocate to ensure community colleges have a voice equal to the voice of the university system's institutions. Regarding membership of the new merged board, the Governor stated that the current CCSNH Board of Trustees will be tasked with selecting the five community college representatives, and he will select the individuals who will fill the five independent seats on the board.

Mr. Stevens joined the meeting at 10:47 am and Governor Sununu left the meeting at 11:03 am.

Board Statement

Trustees discussed the university system's press release endorsing the Governor's proposal and recommended CCSNH develop a statement that the board could approve unanimously. Discussion followed regarding specific elements to include in the statement.

VOTE: The Board, on motion of Ms. Stebbins and seconded by Mr. Holloway, voted unanimously by roll call to convene a small workgroup to draft a board statement for discussion and approval at a future meeting of the full board.

Other Business

No further business was brought forward. The meeting adjourned at 11:31 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Eckner
Executive Assistant to the Chancellor and Board of Trustees