



Community College System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees

Thursday, January 16, 2025 | 10:00am - 2:00pm
Lakes Region Community College | 379 Belmont Rd, Laconia, NH
The Community Kitchen

Present: Trustee Katharine Bogle Shields, Trustee Edwin O. Smith, Trustee Alison Stebbins, Trustee Christopher Dodge, Trustee Donnalee M. Lozeau, Trustee Geoffrey Kennedy, Trustee Gregory C. Eastman, Trustee Dennis Tappin, Trustee Matt Mayberry, Trustee Nick Toumpas, Trustee Richard Ackerman, Trustee Tricia H. Lucas, Trustee Will Cunningham, Trustee John T. Stevens, Trustee Stephen J. Ellis, Trustee Tiffany Eddy, Trustee Danny Fojtik, Director Joseph Doiron, Legal Coordinator Sarah Morrissey, Director Stephen Appleby, President Alfred Williams IV (*RVCC*), President Patrick Cate (*LRCC*), President Sarmad Saman (*WMCC*), President Cheryl Lesser (*GBCC*), President Patrick Tompkins (*NHTI*), President Paul Beaudin (*MCC*), Chancellor Mark Rubinstein, Vice Chancellor Charles Lloyd

Regrets: Trustee Sharon D. Harris, Trustee Darrin Daniels, Director Deanna Jurius

Guests: Director Kris Dudley, Institutional Research Analyst Holly Danby, Professor Nick Mercuri, Associate Professor/Chef William Walsh, Chief James Chamberland, Chef Arianna Roberts, Chef Kelsey Garnett, and Cyber Security Technician Joey Russo

Meeting Minutes:

Chair Shields called the meeting to order at 10:00am. She began by welcoming everyone and by remembering President Lucille Jordan and reminding everyone of the work she did not only with Nashua Community College but also for the Nashua Community over her more than 27 years with CCSNH. She asked for a moment of silence to remember her legacy.

Chair Shields introduced Manchester Community College's new President, Dr. Paul Beaudin to the group. He thanked the Chancellor and search committee for their hard work and gave the Trustees a brief overview of his history and expressed his excitement to have joined CCSNH.

Director Matt Moore's retirement was announced, and Chair Shields thanked him for his service.

The Board of Directors for the Foundation for New Hampshire Community Colleges is getting a new chair. Director Ed McKay will be staying on the board for at least one year while Director Kathy Cook will be taking over as board chair.

Chair Shields let the group know that she attended a film screening at NHTI - Concord's Community College that was created by and about one of their students. [The Ride Ahead](#) is about the journey of Samuel Habib navigating life as a young adult with disabilities. He and his father co-directed the film, and it features some of his time at NHTI as a student.

Topic: Consent Agenda - Chair Shields



Vote: Trustee Lozeau motioned to approve the consent agenda as presented, Trustee Ellis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Topic: Committee Updates

Committee: Assets and Resources Committee Update - Trustee Eastman

Discussion: Trustee Eastman let the group know that earlier this morning they met and recommended that the Finance Committee approve the request from IT to spend up to \$700,000.00 to replace some end-of-life equipment.

Committee: Audit Committee - Trustee Lucas

Discussion: Trustee Lucas turned the meeting over to Director Hartshorn and Director Bishop for updates. Director Hartshorn let Trustees know that the Title IX regulations that were implemented in 2024 were ruled to be unconstitutional in Kentucky and therefore they must revert back to the policy from 2022. Title IX Coordinator Holley Dupre will be working to revise the policy. Director Bishop let trustees know that there was a change to the Clery reporting requirements regarding hazing. They now must include a hazing transparency report. He also let Trustees know that the insurance walk-thru visits are still under way and there are still no major findings. Lastly there was a brief update on the 91A requests for information, we are still getting a significant number of those requests.

Committee: Finance Committee - Trustee Toumpas

Discussion: Trustee Toumpas let the Trustees know that after Assets and Resources recommended the approval of the IT request to replace some end-of-life equipment, they approved the request. At the last Finance Committee meeting they also approved renewal of three contracts: TargetX, Canvas, and BerryDunn.

Chief Operating Officer Fields gave a brief update about enrollment, and let the Trustees know that Manchester Community College did return the Congressionally Directed Spending (grant) money that had been allocated for the outdoor classroom because MCC was unable to meet the 1:1 matching ratio.

Committee: Governance Committee - Trustee Lozeau

Discussion: Trustee Lozeau presented the Governance Committee's recommended slate of officers for the trustees to vote on. They are proposing the following slate of officers for 2025:

- *Chair* - Katharine Bogle Shields
- *Co-Chair* - Edwin Smith
- *Treasurer* - Alison Stebbins
- *Secretary* - Sharon Harris

Vote: Trustee Lozeau motioned to accept the slate of officers as presented, Trustee Ellis seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Lozeau let the Board know that we will be sending out the matrix that was discussed during the committee day that will give everyone a better understanding of where trustees' interests, strengths and experiences lie.

Committee: Student Success Committee – Trustee Ackerman

Discussion: Trustee Ackerman gave a brief update from the last committee meeting where they had a good discussion about the dashboard metrics and will be seeing more data with the pillar updates. They also heard several student success stories. Chancellor Rubinstein also gave the committee a brief overview of community college tuition rates in New England, along with the impacts of various “free college” initiatives in neighboring states, intended to serve as background information for subsequent discussions associated with a change in tuition, should one be required to sustain quality based on funding from the state.

Vote: Trustee Toumpas motioned to approve the creation of a new AS in Social Work program at Lakes Region Community College, Trustee Eastman seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

President Cate let Trustees know that they have been working on creating this program for 1 ½ years now to ensure that the credential prepares student to either go directly into the field or transfer into a 4-year program at Plymouth State University.

Topic: Lakes Region Community College Campus Presentation, President Cate

Discussion: President Cate, Professor Nick Mercuri, and Associate Professor/Chef William Walsh introduced several alumni of the college to share their stories and how LRCC changed their lives. The Trustees heard from the Fire Chief from Claremont, two Chefs, and a Cyber Security technician. Throughout the presentation it was clear from all four alumni that the biggest reason for their success was the community and commitment to student success that is abundant at Lakes Region Community College.

Topic: Pillar III Workforce Development, President Patrick Tompkins and Director Kristine Dudley

Discussion: President Tompkins and Director Dudley presented information to the Trustees about recent collaborations between the colleges on workforce initiatives, and how they are building pathways into academic programs. They also highlighted the fact the Great Bay Community College is doing a pilot with NECHE to help build standards for accrediting workforce development programs, and that the number of apprentices being supported by ApprenticeshipNH has increased by 170% over the past year. Finally, they discussed a partnership that is in progress for welding and machining accelerated workforce programs with SENEDIA | The Alliance for Defense Tech, Talent, and Innovation.

Topic: Chancellor Rubinstein’s Update

Discussion: Chancellor Rubinstein let the Trustees know that the Nashua Community College leadership team is doing a great job of preparing for the spring term and sustaining the work of the college while awaiting the appointment of an interim president. They were able to respond effectively to ensure that the campus didn’t miss a beat amidst the tragic loss of President Jordan.

Chancellor Rubinstein gave an update on enrollment; although there are variations across the system, in aggregate, spring enrollments are slightly ahead of last year. The colleges have been using the state funds for Early College and Workforce Development to strategically bring in and retain more students, and both of these areas demonstrate growth.

The chancellor also let the Trustees know that this is going to be a challenging budget cycle for the Governor and the Legislature, and by extension, for CCSNH. Originally the system was told to



present a flat budget, while many state agencies saw initial reductions of 4%; however, many of those departments are now being asked to reduce their budgets further. Chancellor Rubinstein and Executive Director Reid have been meeting with legislators and to discuss the positive impact that the Community College System of NH has on the lives of our students and on the state and the NH citizens. It was also noted that if the state isn't going to continue to fund the tuition freeze, the Board of Trustees may have to look into raising tuition in the 2026/2027 academic years.

Finally, the chancellor provided an update on the engagement with NCHEMS (National Center for Higher Education Management Systems) which is expected to deliver their report by Friday, February 14, 2025. The report will outline a continuum of options for the Board's consideration, ranging from optimizing the work of seven separate colleges, to pairing some colleges, to integration into a single, statewide institution. The overarching need, regardless of the path chosen, will be for a culture shift that supports more collaborative work across the system. The report will also include examples of what other systems have done and what worked and didn't work for them. Dr. Prescott will be presenting to the Board of Trustees at the March meeting, which is being moved to March 13, 2025 to accommodate his availability.

Topic: Non-Public Session,

Vote: Trustee Smith motioned to enter a non-public session according to the provisions in RSA 91-A:3, II (b), in order to discuss two personnel matters, Trustee Lozeau seconded the motion. Results of motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Entered Non-Public Session at 1:31pm.

Chair Shields dismissed all non-trustees with the exception of members of the Senior Leadership Team and Executive Assistant Hoefs.

Exited Non-Public Session at 1:49pm.

Chair Shields invited the public back into the meeting room.

Vote: Trustee Lozeau made the following motion:

As an educator who served with distinction as President of Nashua Community College for more than 27 years, Lucille Jordan was a tireless advocate for students. She was unwavering in her belief in the potential of her students and about our responsibility to help them realize that potential, not only for their own benefit, but for the betterment of their families and their communities.

Engaged with the Nashua community, Lucille Jordan anticipated and planned for the college to serve an increasingly diverse population, with particular awareness of the growing number of students (and family members) for whom English was a second language, ensuring that Nashua Community College could effectively serve those students in fulfillment of its mission.

As an architect of relationships as well as facilities, Lucille Jordan created opportunities for her students to thrive, engaging colleagues, community partners, and employers in innovative and constructive ways to support success for all who were touched by the work of Nashua Community College.



The Nashua Community College facility reflects her singular vision, implemented over a quarter century, through her effective advocacy and engagement of corporate partners and legislators who recognized the value of her vision and responded with resources to bring her ideas to fruition.

More importantly, the Greater Nashua community finds the most meaningful impact of her work reflected in the success of NCC's alumni throughout the region, in fields as varied as the college's curricula, and in the contributions that those alumni make to the economic vitality, cultural vibrance, and civic engagement of the region.

For these reasons, and many more, the Community College System Of New Hampshire Board of Trustees confers upon Lucille Jordan, "the Dean of the Presidents," the title of President Emerita.

Trustee Toumpas seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Vote: Trustee Dodge motioned that concurrent with his appointment as President of River Valley Community College, to appoint Alfred Williams as the Interim President of Nashua Community College effective Friday, January 24, 2025, at the adjusted gross annualized salary of \$189,388.00. President Williams shall serve as the Interim President at Nashua Community College until such time as the presidential position at Nashua Community College is filled. At the conclusion of this interim appointment, President Williams's salary will be adjusted to reflect the gross annualized salary for the position of President at River Valley Community College. Trustee Mayberry seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

President Williams stated that it would be his honor to continue President Jordan's legacy at Nashua Community College.

Vote: Trustee Smith motioned that the Board of Trustees adjourn the meeting for the purpose of strategy and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining under RSA 91-A:2, I(a). Trustee Stebbins seconded the motion, motion carried unanimously via roll call vote. Trustee Tappin declared a conflict of interest.

Chair Shields dismissed Trustee Tappin, and all non-trustees with the exception of members of the Senior Leadership Team and Executive Assistant Hoefs.

Adjourned at 1:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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