Community College System of New Hampshire Board of Trustees
Thursday, January 15, 2026 – 10:00am
River Valley Community College

Present: Trustee Edwin O. Smith, Trustee Alison Stebbins, Trustee Alan Beaulieu, Trustee Joel Dolan, Trustee Will Cunningham, Trustee Kaylee Felix, Trustee Pharra Duguay, Trustee Tiffany Eddy, Trustee Christopher Dodge, Trustee Donnalee M. Lozeau, Trustee Gregory C. Eastman, Trustee Dennis Tappin, Trustee Matt Mayberry, Trustee Nick Toumpas, Trustee Richard Ackerman, Director Joseph Doiron, Legal Coordinator Sarah Morrisey, President Alfred Williams IV (*RVCC*), President James Keane (*NCC*), President Patrick Cate (*LRCC*), President Cheryl Lesser (*GBCC*), President Paul Beaudin (*MCC*), Chancellor Mark Rubinstein, Vice Chancellor Charles Lloyd

Regrets: Chair Katharine Bogle Shields, Trustee Geoffrey Kennedy, Director Stephen Appleby,

Remote (*via Zoom*): Trustee Tricia H. Lucas, Trustee John T. Stevens, President Patrick Tompkins (*NHTI*), President Sarmad Saman (*WMCC*)

Meeting Minutes:

Vice Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 10:06am. Vice Chair Smith confirmed there were no conflicts of interest. Thanked Trustee Harris for her time and dedication to the Board of Trustees for over 10 years. Welcomed new Trustee Joel Dolan.

> **Vote:** Trustee Lozeau motioned to approve the Consent Agenda; Trustee Dodge seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Topic: 2026 Slate of Officers

> **Vote:** Trustee Lozeau motioned to approve the proposed slate of officers as presented with Trustee Lozeau as Chair, Trustee Smith as Vice Chair, Trustee Stebbins as Treasurer, and Trustee Toumpas as Secretary effective immediately. Trustee Dodge seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously via roll call vote.

Discussion: Trustee Toumpas publicly thanked former Chair Shields for all the hard work and dedication she put into her role as Chair. Chancellor Rubinstein thanked her for all the additional work behind the scenes that goes into chairing a board such as this. Newly appointed Chair Lozeau thanked everyone for their support and acknowledged that she has big shoes to fill going into this position.

Topic: Committee Summaries
Executive Committee: Chancellor Rubinstein provided an overview of the discussion from the Executive Committee on January 8, 2026. The Committee discussed the sustainability of our Mission while keeping in mind that CCSNH is vital to the state, and heavily reliant on the State appropriation. The Committee also discussed the NCHEMS report, the multi-year financial model, and had further discussion on the Student Success, Assets and Resources, and Finance Committee meetings from October and December. Chair Lozeau proposed a

new format for Committee Day moving forward to include breakout sessions for each committee in separate spaces, before coming back together in one space.

Student Success Committee: Chancellor Rubinstein provided an overview of what was discussed previously, including ONE-NHCC, consistent practices and procedures for registration, billing, administration of aid, and payments, and discussed improving the general fund allocation model to better align with the strategic objectives. Trustee Ackerman continued to state that whether items come from the NCHEMS report or from our pillars, these items are priority and will need milestones and deadlines. Accessibility is a major factor because if courses aren't accessible, then we aren't helping the students or the workforce. Chair Lozeau stated that for the next Committee Day, she would like to see each committee discuss, then bring forward what barriers exist to Chancellor Rubinstein. The staff liaison for those committees will be tasked to identify the issues and what is needed to move forward. Chancellor Rubinstein reiterated that the timeline provided by the NCHEMS report stated a 4-year timeline for changes.

Assets and Resources Committee: Chancellor Rubinstein went over the previous discussion of top priorities for the Assets and Resources Committee. The priorities, which would require organizational changes, include developing a talent management strategy supporting faculty and staff, development of an enterprise computing environment supporting consistent, systemwide business practices, staffing, and technical environment, includes exploring potential benefits and drawbacks of a Real Estate Foundation, and to update a comprehensive assessment of critical maintenance across CCSNH. Trustee Mayberry reiterated the vote from the December Committee where an outline and timeline for what to expect should be delivered by the April meeting. CIO Spada stated that waiting any longer could prevent progress. Director Carter was charged with working with the colleges for a list of all critical maintenance across the system and timelines for each item.

Finance Committee: Chancellor Rubinstein discussed the priorities for the Finance Committee to include examining the cost of education from student and institutional perspectives, evaluating funding sources to identify opportunities to expand support, and ensure that investments in facilities aligns with critical maintenance requirements and strategic objectives. Discussion regarding the current RHT grant and the 5-year effort the grant will take. Trustee Toumpas discussed that efforts should also focus on housing, food security, and other topics that affect the students. It was stated that, when it comes to IT, today's issues come from yesterday's solutions and that the plans put into place now will most likely need to change within a year. Chair Lozeau wants to assess progress each time and wants the staff liaisons to look at what savings would be and if we are investing elsewhere internally or truly saving.

> **Vote:** Trustee Smith motioned to have the administration respond with a timeframe for the implementation of the information presented under the 3 broad categories presented today, Student Success, Assets and Resources, and Finance. Plans should include who is responsible for each project, with milestones/timelines, outcomes, and metrics to demonstrate we are on track to accomplish. Each committee chair should have the information about who is responsible for which parts of each project connected to their committees to present at the March 12, 2026, BOT committee meeting day. Trustee Mayberry seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously via roll call.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE
system of New Hampshire

Audit Committee: Director Bishop provided a Risk Management update. The Presidents and the teams at the colleges have been provided with templates to use for emergency notifications within the RAVE system and tabletop examples to better prepare for emergency situations. Also provided information regarding video management platforms, Right to Know requests, continuation of compliance, and ongoing training with safety departments and residence life staff. Director Hartshorn provided an update on fraudulent applications, stating that false applications are still being found. Director Hartshorn and Executive Director Reid met with Senator Hassan's offices and Senator Shaheens offices to discuss the impact of identity theft and fraud within CCSNH. Both teams praised CCSNH for its efforts to reduce the impact of fraud in the state.

Topic: River Valley Community College Campus Presentation
Discussion: Trustees were welcomed to view the new Radiologic Technology Lab which was funded by federal earmarks.

Topic: Chancellor's Update
Discussion: Chancellor Rubinstein expressed appreciation for all the work that former Chair Shields had done. She stepped into the role during the time of merger discussions, and she did a wonderful job and appreciated her stewardship. Director Dudley provided an update on the RHT Grant, which is a 5-year grant totally $204 Million to be split between different rural organizations in New England. The initial budget will be $37 Million over 5 years. Trustee Cunningham stated we should be looking for funding based on demand versus need. There is a need for EMS but without the grant, there is no demand. Director Dudley stated that the first year will be mostly assessment on what we have and possible expansion to include new programs.

Topic: Chancellor's Announcement
Discussion: Chancellor Rubinstein announced that he will be retiring at the end of August. He wanted to provide the Board of Trustees with ample time to come up with expectations for the role and have a plan for succession. The Chancellor wanted to see the RHT Grant through first few stages before leaving. The Board expressed appreciation for the work that has been done by Chancellor Rubinstein, and everyone expressed their gratitude for what he has brought to the State of NH and to CCSNH.

Chair Lozeau motioned to adjourn the meeting, all were in favor, meeting adjourned at 1:18pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Hayley Hawksley
Administrative Assistant