

Unit 1: Unit Systems

Ten-Year Directional Model and Campus Financial Plans: Chief Administrative Officer Cathy Provencher and Assistan

Report Out from Breakout Session:

Spokespersons from each of the breakout groups summarized the groups' thoughts on three issues: (1) the desirability of requesting that the Governor convene a State task force to analyze and make recommendations on a potential combination with the community college system, and what prerequisites the System believes would need to be in place for such a combination; (2) whether other structural changes to the System should be considered; and (3) whether and how to proceed with a search for a new UNH president and/or interim Chancellor. While the groups presented sequentially, the comments are summarized below by topic.

1. Potential Combination with Community College System: With different levels of confidence, each of the groups endorsed the idea of performing the due diligence needed to determine whether a combination of the System and CCSNH made sense. A consensus emerged that a task force convened by the Governor would be the quickest and most logical way to begin the conversation, especially in light of the Governor's remarks earlier in the day.

Potential membership of the task force was discussed, with consensus that the group should be small enough to act nimbly and should include representatives from the System, CCSNH, both houses of the General Court with bipartisan representation, and the Governor's Office, with the possibility of additional representation from students and other constituencies.

Trustees emphasized that to be successful, any request for a task force needs to be made in concert with CCSNH.

2. Other Potential Structural Changes: Some breakout groups discussed other potential structural changes, including possible merger of the regional USNH institutions with CCSNH or a change in the duties and responsibilities of the USNH Chancellor. The Chancellor discussion is set out in the following section. No consensus formed around any particular alternative structural change.
3. UNH President/Interim Chancellor: A consensus formed among the trustees that the System should retain Isaacson Miller, the search firm used by the System during the search which hired current UNH President/Interim Chancellor Dean, to lead the search process for his replacement. However, the breakout groups envisioned somewhat different details for the search process. The majority of groups supported the recommendation from the EAB group report that a search begin immediately for a new UNH President who would report to the Board. However, several trustees expressed concern that the Board had not yet had the opportunity to fully debate the questions of how the Chancellor position should be structured, whether the institutional presidents should report directly to the Board or to the Chancellor, and whether the new UNH President should also serve as Chancellor in some capacity. Some trustees advocated for an executive Chancellor in order to promote “systemness” and/or protect System institutions. Other trustees raised the challenge of having the UNH president report to a Chancellor when UNH represents a significant majority of the system’s overall resources, questioned the financial cost of hiring an executive Chancellor, and expressed concern over how a move to an executive Chancellor might affect the candidate pool for the UNH presidency.

A consensus formed that in view of the differing approaches to the future structure of the Chancellor position, it would be premature to draft a job description for the new UNH President. Trustees expressed a desire to further discuss the role of the Chancellor at its October business meeting, with the goal of making the decisions needed to enable the UNH President search to go forward. In the interim, CAO Provencher and Vice Chair Burnett, in his capacity as chair of the search committee, will consult with Isaacson Miller to begin setting up a search process.

During these discussions, trustees also acknowledged that there should be some process in place for the interim governance of the System. The EAB group (presidents, provosts,

Adjourn: At 3:59 pm, Chair Walker called for further business and, hearing none, adjourned the meeting.