

# MEETING MINUTES - DRAFT

## Advisory Board Meeting December 1, 2021 5 – 6 p.m. via Zoom

**Attendance:** Dave Luneau, Hal Koch, Christa Keddie, Jack Dearborn, Tim Sink, Chris Emond, Gretchen Mullin-Sawicki, Andrew Fisher, Laura Pantano, Rebecca Dean, Melanie Kirby, Amy Proctor **Guests:** Lilah Flynn (student), Tim Allison (CCSNH Advancement), Mark Rubinstein (CCSNH Chancellor)

**Absent:** Anna-Marie Sparks, Allen Desbiens, Charles Seugling, Laura Scott

Dr. Mullin-Sawicki opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Dr. Pantano introduced student Lilah Flynn, a Civil Engineering student, and president of the Architectural Engineering Technology Club. She was a Running Start student who was initially inspired by a Robotics instructor in high school. With NHTI college credits earned in high school, she wanted to continue at NHTI for the affordability and availability of her desired program. She has found her professors available, helpful, and supportive. She noted that she was especially grateful for the help given to her by Prof. Lucyann Zeller in advanced Algebra studies. Lilah's favorite part about NHTI, aside from her professors, is the abundance of opportunity to get involved on campus including Student Senate. She finds her peers down to earth and her studies have inspired aspirations of transferring to UNH to complete a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering with a focus in transportation design.

Dr. Fisher provided an overview of the ongoing work he's been doing on behalf of the NHTI engineering programs. He explained his concern for engineering programs at NHTI stating he had been working hard at updating and aligning them with industry needs and networking for business partners. With 4 recent faculty retirements (Bill French in EET, Frank Polito in EET, CEPT, and AGGP), Tony Jenney in EET, and Joe Cunningham in MET and MFT) there is much work to be done in both designing relevant curriculum and in hiring qualified faculty to revitalize the programs. Dr. Fisher acknowledged the college's history with successful engineering programs as well as his desire to preserve this heritage.

Dr. Mullin-Sawicki interjected her appreciation for the problem-solving and assistance provided to the college by Prof. Frank Polito.

Dr. Fisher cited provisions that the college had carefully and intentionally put into place for EET seniors to complete their program in the Spring '21 semester. Working with both Nashua Community College and UNH-Manchester, the students are able to take their required courses at the same tuition and fees as NHTI costs. Additionally, a thoughtful solution to cover students' travel/transportation costs and parking fees was devised. A scholarship was formed to alleviate any added cost burden to the student and to remain true to our mission of providing accessible, affordable, and industry relevant education.

Mr. Koch expressed outrage at what he called a "glossing over" of the real and distressing issues in the engineering programs. He reiterated his serious concern for the engineering programs and disdain for the administration's inadequate efforts to solve the program issues. Additionally, having been involved with ABET accreditations in the past, he expressed risks regarding accreditation. Chair Luneau intervened to move the agenda along. Chancellor Rubinstein acknowledged Mr. Koch's passion and thanked him for expressing his concerns.

Mr. Sink provided information on recent diversity, equity, and inclusion training.

Mr. Dearborn expressed his gratitude for accessible, affordable education (EET class of '72) which led to a strong career at BAE Systems.

With little time remaining, Dr. Mullin-Sawicki tabled the remaining agenda item on Mission and Values until the next meeting which will take place in February. At this time, Melanie Kirby was thanked for her years of service as this was her final advisory board meeting due to her retirement.

The meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Submitted by,

Amy Proctor  
Public Information Officer/Executive Assistant to the President