

January 15, 2014

The Honorable Margaret Wood Hassan  
Governor of New Hampshire  
State House, Room 208  
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Chuck Morse  
President of the Senate  
State House, Room 302  
Concord, NH 03301

The Honorable Terie Norelli  
Speaker of the House  
State House, Room 308  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Hassan, Senate President Morse and Speaker Norelli:

**Re: Interim Report of the Public Higher Education Study Committee  
RSA 187-A:28**

Enclosed please find the 2014 interim report of the study commission. This interim report is an update of our work to date. A much more comprehensive report will be submitted this fall following the completion of our charge.

Should you have any questions or comments regarding the report, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Senator Nancy Stiles,  
Chairman

Enclosures

cc: Honorable Tammy Wright, Clerk of the Senate  
Honorable Karen O. Wadsworth, Clerk of the House  
Michael York, State Librarian  
Members of the Committee

**Interim Report of the  
PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
(RSA 187-A:28)  
January 2014**

The Public Higher Education Study Committee met twice in 2013. At its initial meeting, the committee reviewed the statutory charge and organized. Per statute (RSA 187-A:28-b Membership), the committee is chaired in a rotating fashion by session between the Chairs of the House and Senate Education Committees. As the House chaired in the last session (2011/2012) the Senate Education Chair, Sen. Nancy Stiles will chair during the 2013/2014 session. Senator Kelly was appointed vice-chair and Representative Mary Stuart Gile was appointed clerk.

Senator Stiles asked the members present for suggested areas of interest, given the committee's broad oversight of both the USNH (University System of New Hampshire) and CCSNH (Community College System of New Hampshire). The committee created the following list of areas of concern:

- Enrollment trends specifically related to increases and decreases.
- The overall cost of education and the impact it has a driver for change.
- Academic offerings initiatives
- Examination and explanation of the balance of full time and adjunct faculty.
- Postsecondary delivery in relation to length of time to get a BA (5 years?)
- Common Core impact on the system
- Competency-based education versus NECAP regarding admissions
- Educate the committee so they can defend USNH faculty salaries
- Transferability of credits between institutions within the system.
- School administration courses to prepare high quality teachers
- Federal Regulations regarding accountability expectations for colleges and universities
- State Initiatives to assist administration with goals
- On line and distance learning program updates

In May, the committee met with the USNH Acting Chancellor Dr. Todd Leach (President, Granite State), Dr. Mark Huddleston (President, UNH), Dr. Jay V. Kahn (President, Keene State College) and Dr. Sarah Jayne Steen (President, Plymouth State University). The Acting Chancellor and the presidents gave an overall view of their institutions as well as their interaction with each other within the University System. The committee reviewed the areas of concern and the administrators stated they would prepare a response for the committee in the future.

Dr. Ross Gittell, (Chancellor, CCSNH) also met with the committee on the same day as the college presidents. He gave an overview of his campuses as well.

Subsequent meetings initially scheduled for the fall needed to be cancelled due to the Special Session. During 2014, the committee plans to not only follow up with the Presidents but also schedule campus visits.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Nancy Stiles  
Chair