

Subject: GSC and UNH
To: UNH Faculty and Staff
From: Pres. Dean
Send: Fri. July 29, 2021, 4:00 pm

Dear Colleagues,

For the past few years, the presidents and the University System of New Hampshire (USNH) Board of Trustees have been proactively and aggressively working to address the impact of demographic trends, market competition, and affordability to best meet the needs of traditional and non-traditional students across the Granite State. The impact of the pandemic has accelerated this work and the need for us to advance our mission to New Hampshire to provide affordable, high-quality access to public higher education, including streamlining our organizations wherever possible.

Last night, the University System of New Hampshire board of trustees voted unanimously to establish a single, merged college located in the Manchester-Concord corridor. Following work with legislators and accreditors, the merged entity is intended to become a college within UNH and will retain the name Granite State College. A second key initiative of the integration will be combining GSC and UNH Online learning enterprises to strengthen, promote and expand online education for all USNH institutions.

As part of the plan, the board of trustees voted unanimously for me to serve as president of GSC effective Sept. 1, 2021. I will continue to serve as president of UNH. This is an important first step to combine the strengths of GSC and UNH to better serve students, New Hampshire's workforce, and the state.

Mike Decelle, currently Dean of UNH Manchester, will also become the Chief Administrative Officer of Granite State College. Scott Stanley will assume responsibility for the University System's online learning enterprise, beginning with an integration between GSC and UNH Online. Decelle and Stanley will report to Provost Wayne Jones.

A steering committee has been established to guide the integration. Members include:

- Scott Stanley (co-chair) - Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, GSC
- Mike Decelle (co-chair) – Dean of UNH Manchester, UNH
- Tara Payne – Vice President of Enrollment Management, GSC
- Ken La Valley – Vice Provost University Outreach and Engagement, UNH
- Todd Slover – Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Compliance and Planning, GSC
- Kate Ziemer – Senior Vice Provost of Academic Affairs, UNH

In addition to the steering committee, additional integration teams will be established with faculty and staff representatives from both institutions in the coming weeks and months.

We will provide regular updates. More information about the integration of operations between GSC and UNH can be found [here](#).

We understand this news will generate many questions. We will hold a town hall meeting next week to provide more information and answer questions – we will share the date and time on Monday.

As always, thank you all for the outstanding work that you do on behalf of our students and other stakeholders, and in support of our mission on behalf of the University System of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

James W. Dean Jr.