

Dear All,

First, thanks for your continued patience, and more importantly, for your continuing focus and good work on behalf of our students and other stakeholders.

Last night, the USNH Board of Trustees met to outline a plan for the transition that will accompany my departure in September, but more importantly, will shape the future for Granite State College. Consistent with previous discussions with the Board, the three themes that shaped last night's discussion were the Board's appreciation for the unique mission of Granite State College to serve adult learners, their understanding of the need for USNH to focus greater attention on "non-traditional" students, and a clear emphasis on the critical role that online learning will play in the education of all USNH students in the coming years.

With those thoughts in mind, the Board has worked with GSC and UNH leadership to develop a plan for the upcoming transition that I believe most fully leverages the strengths of Granite State College and that positions the College, the University, and the University System for success into the future. The implementation of this plan will require a series of coordinated transitions among colleagues and will be guided by a steering committee comprised of colleagues from the College, UNH, and USNH. Scott Stanley will co-chair that committee with Mike Decelle, Dean of UNH Manchester, and will be joined by Tara Payne and Todd Slover in that effort. While the effective date for these changes is September 1, we are initiating much of this work immediately, allowing me to remain involved throughout the balance of my time at Granite State College.

The two broad, programmatic objectives of the plan approved by the USNH Board of Trustees will be reflected in strengthening our support for non-traditional students by capitalizing on the complementary missions of Granite State College and UNH Manchester and through the creation of a centralized entity for USNH's online teaching and learning efforts.

To support the first objective, Jim Dean, currently President of UNH, will serve concurrently as President of Granite State College. Mike Decelle will also become the Chief Administrative Officer for Granite State College, retaining his current role as Dean of UNH Manchester, and reporting to UNH (and effective September 1, GSC) Provost Wayne Jones.

To support the second objective, Scott Stanley will assume responsibility for the University System's online learning enterprise, beginning with an integration between GSC and UNH, but ultimately serving Keene and Plymouth as well.

At present, the plan is for Granite State College to continue to award degrees, separately from those awarded by UNH, but with this process expected to produce further integration over time that could result in a GSC becoming a college within UNH, consistent with the Board's intent if that is compatible with both legislative and accreditation considerations.

I know this is a lot to absorb but we will provide regular updates, starting with an all-college call on Monday (for which an invitation will be sent out this evening).

# Granite State College

I hope that you will provide the same support for Jim Dean, Scott Stanley, and Mike Decelle (as well as Tara Payne and Todd Slover) that you have always provided to me in the six-and-a-half years that I have had the privilege to work with you at Granite State College.

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.

Mark

Mark Rubinstein

*President*

Granite State College

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*The mission of Granite State College is to expand access to public higher education to adults of all ages throughout the state of New Hampshire and beyond.*