Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back for the start of the Spring 2024 semester. I know that many of you have already resumed teaching in our graduate and professional programs, and that others continued to work on research and extension for the past several weeks. For those faculty and staff that are just returning to campus, I hope you enjoy re-engaging with students as the campuses come alive for our first full weekend after winter break.

We have continued to work through the budget reset that was discussed extensively in the fall including in presentations with the faculty senate, the staff tricouncil, and the student senate. Those presentations, as well as our monthly budget update are available at [unh.edu/provost](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.send.unh.edu%2F%3Fqs%3D4909b5df1d5d008fd4d8d9d948097e84f41b0af13d66fbddb86bb33ec597b6494d79cace8b918b34494745c2f61ddf251f240db28d37ab51&data=05%7C02%7CRobin.Pelechowicz%40unh.edu%7C29e7ffdd3f434987c72d08dc1e8587c4%7Cd6241893512d46dc8d2bbe47e25f5666%7C0%7C0%7C638418806055733324%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=c7jqvKJkgnfeUYq6lQ1HWKYqf8hSdkx1YnRqa3XhQtc%3D&reserved=0) . More recently, more than one thousand faculty and staff participated in an open Town Hall. This reset work is not unique in higher education, nor is it easy for anyone going through it. But, it is necessary to ensure that we fulfill our commitment to student success and academic excellence for decades to come, and to ensure that we are responsible stewards of the resources provided by the state of New Hampshire.

Despite the backdrop of the financial adjustments, there is a great deal of wonderful work going on by our students, faculty, and staff. For example, starting in the fall Professor Lige Gould and his team have initiated a series of conversations in preparation for the 250th celebration of the US Constitution. Lige will serve as the Harmsworth Professor of American History at Oxford in 2025-2026 where his duties will be closely tied to the 250th. In the last month, more than 80students have participated in study abroad experiences over the 2024 J-Term, including high impact learning experiences in Cuba, Italy, the Dominican Republic, and the United Kingdom. Approximately 100 graduate students participated in the 10th anniversary of the graduate student writing academy. The Hetzel Hall renovation project is scheduled to be completed by August in time for its 100th year on campus. We successfully launched a new orientation platform, Before the Roar, to improve the transition experience for incoming students. Our faculty continue to receive recognition nationally and internationally including our most recent NSF CAREER award to Professor Nate Oldenhuis in Chemistry that was announced over the break. A big thank you to Student Financial Services staff members Jill Sikora and Melissa Plante for their close collaboration with the department of Ed and ET&S in preparation for the new FAFSA rollout at UNH.Finally, [UNH was recognized](https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.send.unh.edu%2F%3Fqs%3D4909b5df1d5d008f7b130aaf7f134e028eae6a843f214d815e1de46f23be4924c9037d7586539c3dd94d1b2e06b06db7672cacbb1911e430&data=05%7C02%7CRobin.Pelechowicz%40unh.edu%7C29e7ffdd3f434987c72d08dc1e8587c4%7Cd6241893512d46dc8d2bbe47e25f5666%7C0%7C0%7C638418806055738639%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=GfD9Io6SbQBvyxfwTuKtmQKaGrZPJWmgvb5StmclBrk%3D&reserved=0) with the Carnegie Foundation Community Engagement Classification “in recognition of its institutional commitment to community engagement.”

The start of the semester is always an exciting time. I want to thank the faculty and staff who have been working so hard to get the campuses and curricula ready for the spring semester. With a new semester comes new challenges and new opportunities. By working together we will successfully navigate this semester and maintain our commitment to student success.

Thank you for everything that you do in support of UNH and our students, as well as the citizens of the state and our nation.

Wayne E. Jones, Jr.
Provost and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs