University of New England Presidential Search Update

June 1, 2016

Dear Members of the UNE Community,

As you know, President Ripich will be stepping down as the President of UNE at the end of June, 2017. The Board of Trustees, on behalf of the entire University community, now has the responsibility of identifying, recruiting, and hiring a new president to begin July 1, 2017. The Board and the University community recognize the importance of this effort. President Ripich has provided outstanding and dynamic leadership during her tenure, and we all want to be sure that the very best candidate for the job is selected to be her successor. At the May 20 Board of Trustees meeting the Board appointed a Search Committee representative of the broader University community to lead the recruitment process and to recommend to the Board of Trustees, for its consideration and selection, the candidate or candidates who are best qualified to assume the position of President of UNE. The members of the Search Committee are:

Lane Clarke. Lane is an Associate Professor of Education at the University of New England’s Biddeford campus. She received her B.A from Dickinson College, her M.A. from Rowan University, and her Ed.D. from the University of Cincinnati.

Jessica Colpoys. Jessica is a rising senior at the University of New England majoring in Sports Management and Elementary Education. She is the current President of the Undergraduate Student Government, a member of Rotoract and the Education Club, and a varsity cross country student-athlete.

Grover (Cleve) Gilmore. Cleve is a member of the UNE Board of Trustees, Vice-Chair of the Academic and Research Affairs Committee, and a member of the Student Affairs Committee. Professionally, Cleve is the Dean of and a professor at the Mandel School of Applied Sciences at Case Western University in Cleveland, Ohio.

Gavin Kuns. Gavin is a graduate of the University of New England College of Arts and Sciences with a double major in pre-medical studies and art. As a UNE undergraduate, he served as a student trustee to the Board of Trustees. Gavin has just completed his third year at the UNE College of Osteopathic Medicine and will be pursuing a fellowship in Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine this coming year.

Dennis Leighton. Dennis is Associate Professor of Physical Therapy at the University of New England’s Portland campus, the UNE NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative, and immediate past Chair of the UNE Faculty Assembly. Dennis received his B.S. from Springfield College, his M.A.T. from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, his M.S. from Boston University, and his D.P.T. from the University of St. Augustine.
Robert McAfee. Bob is an Emeritus member of the UNE Board of Trustees, and Chair of the Institutional Advancement Committee. Bob is an MD and served as an attending surgeon at Maine Medical Center and chief of surgery and vascular surgery at Mercy Hospital for decades before becoming the first Maine doctor to serve as president of the American Medical Association. He has held teaching positions at Tufts University and the University of Vermont Medical School.

Dan McCormack. Dan is a member of the UNE Board of Trustees, Chair of the Finance Committee, and Chair of the Investment Subcommittee. Dan is the Chief Executive Officer of Intermed, a multi-specialty medical group, in Portland Maine.

Gloria Pinza. Gloria is a member of the Board of Trustees and will serve as Chair of the Search Committee. She is an attorney and partner at the law firm of Pierce Atwood in Portland, Maine, and served as that firm’s Managing Partner from 2009 through 2015. Gloria has been a member of the Governor’s Judicial Selection Committee since 2009.

Cynthia Taylor. Cyndy is the UNE Board of Trustees Vice-Chair, Chair of the Facilities Committee, and Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee. She is President of Housing Initiatives of New England, an organization that provides affordable housing solutions to seniors, in Portland, Maine.

David Anderson, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, will serve in an advisory capacity to the Committee.

The Search Committee has established a preliminary timeline for the search process, and we will be working hard to meet that timeline:

- May 2016—Appoint Search Committee; hold Committee organizational meeting
- June/July 2016—Conduct and finalize search for executive recruiting firm
- September 2016—Recruiting firm meets with representatives of University to confirm attributes of ideal candidate; finalize Leadership Statement
- October 2016—Identify and review candidate pool
- November/December 2016—Identify top candidates for campus visits
- January 2017—Finalists make campus visits
- March 2017—Select and announce name of new president
- July 2017—New president takes office

Because of the high interest in the search effort, the Board of Trustees has charged the Search Committee with the responsibility of communicating regularly with the University community to make sure it is up to date on the progress of the search. This report is, therefore, the first in what is planned to be a series of regular updates on the process.

Finally, and very importantly, confidentiality in this process is critical. If the names of candidates, references, or their institutions are not kept strictly confidential, we will undermine our ability to find and recruit a top candidate. Accordingly, all Search Committee members and those who will be working with them have signed a written Non-Disclosure Agreement agreeing to maintain strict confidentiality. We
know that you may want to talk with Committee members about the search, to ask about progress, and to give your suggestions, and we encourage that. But please understand that they are not able to disclose names or any other confidential information under the terms of their Non-Disclosure Agreements. Dave Anderson, Board Chair, and Gloria Pinza, Search Committee Chair, will be the official spokespeople for the search process. This is an exciting time of opportunity for UNE. We will work hard to run a search according to best practices, to identify a strong pool of candidates, and to select the best among them.

Gloria Pinza, UNE Trustee, Chair Presidential Search Committee