

The Education, Personnel and Student Life Committee met on October 22, 2014 at the Chancellor's Office in Montpelier.

Committee members present: Kraig Hannum (Chair), Lynn Dickinson, Michelle Fairbrother, Jim Masland, Alyssa Slaimen, Martha O'Connor

Absent: Karen Luneau, Gary Moore

Other Trustees: Jerry Diamond, Tim Jerman, Bill Lippert, Christopher Macfarlane, Linda Milne, Heidi Pelletier

From the Chancellor's Office: Bill Reedy, General Counsel
Tom Robbins, CFO
Elaine Sopchak, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor
Sophie Zdatny, Associate General Counsel

From the Public: Kellie Bean, Provost, Lyndon State College
Dave Bergh, Dean of Students, Johnson State College
Tess Conant, VSC United Professionals
Scott Dikeman, Dean of Administration, Castleton State College
Loren Loomis Hubbell, Dean of Administration, Lyndon State College
Barbara Martin, Dean of Administration, Community College of VT
Amy Miller-Bremel, CHANGE Initiative Coordinator, Castleton State
Sharron Scott, Dean of Administration, Johnson State College
Lit Tyler, Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical College
Terry Ashford, Vermont Tech SUP PAT
Sam Montgomery, Vermont AFT
Ann Slonaker, Faculty, Castleton State College
Linda Olson, President, VSC Faculty Federation
Ben Johnson, Faculty, Vermont Tech, Vermont AFT
Chris Smith, Faculty, Vermont Tech
Pat Moulton, VT State Employees Association
Jeff Ankuda, Staff, Vermont Tech
Morna Flaum, Faculty, Johnson State College

Chair Hannum called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

A. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

1. Overview of the Federal Laws, Regulations and Guidance Regarding Sexual Violence on Campus

Associate General Counsel Sophie Zdatny presented the Committee with details regarding the federal laws, regulations and guidance regarding sexual violence on campus. Amy Miller-Bremel, CHANGE Initiative Coordinator at Castleton, gave the Committee an overview of the outreach the college performs to promote awareness and prevent sexual assault on campus. Johnson State College Dean of Students Dave Bergh presented the student life perspective of implementing the regulations and guidelines.

Audience member Linda Olson stated that the colleges all need a CHANGE initiative coordinator on campus as well as more mental health resources. The committee discussed the many legal ramifications of sexual violence cases on campus.

2. Suggested Calendar of EPSL Committee Discussion Items

Chair Hannum reviewed the proposed schedule of EPSL discussion items and asked Committee members to email requests for other topics to him.

3. Update on Johnson State College Presidential Search

Trustee Diamond shared that the trustee members of the search committee met with faculty, staff, and students to hear what they want in a president, and the committee explained to them the process and timeline. Ads for the position will be published on October 27th. The committee hopes to make choice at the February Board meeting. They have received nominations of search committee members from the college and community. The search committee will consist of two faculty, two staff, one student, and one community member who is also an alumna. Castleton President Dave Wolk and the Chancellor will also be on the committee. They have set up jscsearch@vsc.edu as a way for anyone to communicate with the committee. The first full committee meeting will be on October 27th. Trustee Dickinson is the committee vice-chair. Audience member Linda Olson thanked the Board for its inclusiveness in the search process.

B. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. Approval of the Minutes of the May 22, 2014 Meeting

Trustee Masland moved and Trustee Fairbrother seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Nomination of Faculty for Emeritus Status

Lyndon State College Dean of Administration Loren Hubbell advocated for Professor Boye's nomination and spoke highly of his work and his impact on the college. Trustee Dickinson moved and Trustee Masland seconded the resolution to award Emeritus Status to Professor Alan Boye. The resolution passed unanimously.

3. Comments From the Public

Linda Olson requested clarification from the Committee regarding mixed messages people are receiving from Vermont Tech about a presidential search. Board Chair O'Connor stated that there is no special protocol requiring a search to come before the EPSL Committee. Interim President Smith's term is from April 3, 2014 through June 30, 2015. There has been a suggestion that the interim title end and he be made permanent president. The policy is for the trustees to appoint a president in consultation with staff, faculty, and the chancellor. She travelled to Vermont Tech and spent time with faculty and staff and students. The Board has not voted yet to make this change but the intention is to put it on the Board agenda for the October 30th meeting. She stated that they have an opportunity to appoint a permanent president who by all impressions is doing a fine job in a difficult position. The appointment would provide stability for Vermont Tech. The interim period has been a seven-month opportunity to assess his performance.

Prof. Olson asked that the process be as transparent as possible and asked if there will be an opportunity for people to give feedback about the appointment online. Chair O'Connor asked Prof. Olson to share her contact information with Federation members so they can communicate directly with her. Chair O'Connor's contact information has already been given to VTC Staff Council to share.

Morna Flaum, a part-time faculty member at Johnson State, shared that she appreciates the process for searching for a president at JSC. She advocated for as much transparency as possible in administration turnover.

Vermont Tech faculty member Chris Smith encouraged the Board to create an evaluation process for campus presidents, just as faculty have one, and asked for transparency in that process.

Trustee Masland moved to adjourn and Trustee Fairbrother seconded. The meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.