

**Minutes of the Education, Personnel & Student Life Committee meeting Wednesday,
February 11, 2015 APPROVED by the Committee Wednesday, April 1, 2015**

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Education, Personnel & Student Life Committee conducted a meeting Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at the Office of the Chancellor in Montpelier, Vermont.

Committee members present: Lynn Dickinson, Kraig Hannum (Chair), Karen Luneau, Jim Masland (Vice-Chair), Gary Moore, Alyssa Slaimen

Absent: Michelle Fairbrother

Other trustees present: Tim Jerman, Chris Macfarlane, Linda Milne, Martha O'Connor

From the Chancellor's Office: Tricia Coates, Director, External & Governmental Affairs
Bill Reedy, General Counsel
Tom Robbins, CFO
Elaine Sopchak, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor
Sophie Zdatny, Associate General Counsel
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic/Academic Technology Officer

College Presidents: Joe Bertolino, Dan Smith, Joyce Judy, Barbara Murphy, Dave Wolk

From the Colleges: Tess Conant, President, PAT-SUP
Sandy Noyes, Unit Vice Chair, VSEA Represented Staff
Phil Petty, VTC Academic Dean
Eric Sakai, CCV Dean of Academic Technology
Littleton Tyler, VTC Dean of Administration

Chair Hannum called the meeting to order at 5:25 p.m. He began the meeting by welcoming Yasmine Ziesler, the VSC's new Chief Academic and Academic Technology Officer.

A. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

1. Distance Learning at the VSC Update

Dean Sakai presented the Committee with results of a recent survey and an overview of the variety of ways faculty and students use online tools. VSC students surveyed reported similar uses and ownership of technology compared to students nationally. 47% of VSC students have taken online courses and 37% report that all or almost all of their instructors use technology effectively. Trustee Masland asked about training and Chair Hammond commented that mandatory professional development days in K-12 schools are devoted to learning to use learning technologies. Dean Sakai noted that providing training for faculty is an ongoing priority of the collaborative VSC Teaching and Learning Technologies group, which has faculty and staff members from all five colleges.

There is a variety of online, hybrid, web-enhanced, and synchronous teaching strategies being used in the VSC. Castleton is offering new online/low-residency graduate programs starting this summer and Lyndon is offering online and hybrid courses as part of its new FLEX program. Trustee Luneau asked whether students taking a course at one VSC institution could transfer it to another VSC institution. Courses with the same number are automatically equivalent, and President Judy shared as an example Introduction to Psychology. The VSC uses Moodle, an open-source learning management system that is the second most-used system nationally. Dean Sakai spoke about the benefits of teaching with Moodle, including paperless assignments, creating a community beyond the classroom, and providing alternatives to textbooks via Open Educational Resources. He shared one example of a CCV biology course in which all materials were open educational resources, a course design that any faculty member can now use.

2. Vermont Tech Program Update

President Smith outlined two programmatic changes that stemmed from Vermont Tech faculty strategic planning. The first is a change in the number of credits that baccalaureate and associate's programs require. Non-nursing and allied health BS programs will now require 125 credits, and associate's programs, 65 credits. He stated that the college's delivery of humanities programs may involve some dialogue with NEASC. The college is building the reduced credit counts into the fall 2015 schedule. They are still analyzing what the financial impact will be.

President Smith noted that 12 academic programs at the college have made comprehensive changes within three months, representing an enormous amount of work on the part of faculty. He stated that the effort was driven in large part by a desire to demonstrate to the Board the college's ability to adjust to changing circumstances and build the Board's confidence in the

college's ability to work out of a challenging financial position. He emphasized that the college's strategic position is enhanced by programs unique to Vermont Tech. Therefore, they are looking at ways that humanities curricula can be better integrated into current programs, and will be relying on other VSC colleges to deliver humanities courses via cross enrollment.

The second programmatic change President Smith described is a pair of "bookend courses" that use the humanities as a bridge between students in different programs. The college can thus achieve its general education objectives in an interdisciplinary way. These bookend courses are one part of Vermont Tech's commitment to working through its situation with local solutions, and he requested the support of the Board. Chief Academic Officer Ziesler stated that the bookend courses are a creative solution that also emphasize integrative learning.

B. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. Minutes of the December 3, 2014 EPSL Committee Meeting

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

2. Vermont Tech: Policy 102 Preliminary Program Proposal for Bachelor of Science, Manufacturing Engineering Technology

President Smith stated that this proposed program serves several markets and several manufacturers throughout the state. The BS program is a completion program for the General Engineering Technology associate's degree. It has a flexible format, with different course times and some labs on weekends. There are already 18 potential students from GE Aviation interested in enrolling. The college is looking to enroll students in the program starting fall 2015. They are also talking to CCV about using that college's STEM associate's program as an onramp to this new BS program. The Committee unanimously approved the preliminary program proposal.

3. Revision to Policy 301

Associate General Counsel Sophie Zdatny reviewed for the Committee suggested revisions to VSC Policy 301, Determination of In-state Residency for Tuition Purposes to comply with the Choice Act. Trustee Masland moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the resolution. The Committee approved the resolution unanimously and recommends it to the full Board.

4. Revision to Policy 311

Associate General Counsel Sophie Zdatny reviewed for the Committee suggested revisions to

VSC Policy 311: Non-Discrimination and Prevention of Harassment and Related Unprofessional Conduct. Trustee Masland moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the resolution. The Committee approved the resolution unanimously and recommends it to the full Board.

5. Commendation of the JSC Presidential Search Committee

Chair Hannum, on behalf of Trustee Diamond, Chair of the JSC Presidential Search Committee, thanked the entire committee for their hard work during the presidential search process. Trustee Masland moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the resolution. The Committee approved the resolution unanimously and recommends it to the full Board.

6. Nominations for Honorary Degrees

President Murphy briefly described Johnson State College's nominee for an honorary degree, Camille Holmes. Trustee Slaimen moved and Trustee Dickinson seconded the resolution to award Camille Holmes an honorary degree. The Committee approved the resolution unanimously and recommends it to the full Board.

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.