

Minutes of the Education, Personnel & Student Life Committee meeting Wednesday, May 13, 2015, APPROVED by the Committee September 2, 2015

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Education, Personnel & Student Life Committee conducted a meeting Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at the Office of the Chancellor in Montpelier, Vermont.

Committee members present: Lynn Dickinson, Kraig Hannum (Chair), Jim Masland, Mike Pieciak

Absent: Karen Luneau, Alyssa Slaimen

Other trustees present: Church Hindes, 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 (by phone)

From the Colleges: Scott Dikeman, Dean of Administration, Castleton State College
Maurice Ouimet, CSC Dean of Enrollment
Tony Pepper, Academic Dean, Castleton State College
Phil Petty, Academic Dean, Vermont Technical College
Beth Walsh, VSC United Professionals President-Elect
Jeff Weld, Director of Marketing, Castleton State College

Chair Hannum called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. He started the meeting with public comments.

VSCUP President-Elect Beth Walsh wished her comments to address the previous Finance and Facilities Committee. She asked that when the colleges consider increasing international student enrollment that they also make sure these students are taught English skills, and that faculty and staff are trained to work with foreign students. She stated that the VSCUP would be glad to help with advocating for VSC funding at the state level.

A. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. Update on AGB Conference

Chair Hannum updated the Committee on his attendance at the Association of Governing Boards' annual conference on trusteeship. Video and downloadable handouts from the conference are now available online [here](#).

2. Lyndon: Update on Northern Essex Community College partnership

President Bertolino described a new venture the college is undertaking with Northern Essex Community College in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in which Lyndon State will enroll NECC associate's degree students in BA programs but will teach the courses on site in Massachusetts. This is a new opportunity that will benefit NECC students but also LSC students who will have internship opportunities in the Boston area. LSC is in the process of working with the Massachusetts Department of Higher Education, and also incorporating in the state of Massachusetts. General Counsel Reedy explained that Board support of the venture is appropriate due to its uniqueness, the fact that LSC must form an out-of-state corporation, and the fact that a contract including a lease of more than five years is involved.

Trustee Pieciak moved and Trustee Masland seconded the approval of the resolution. The Committee approved the resolution unanimously.

At this time Trustee Masland left the meeting.

3. Castleton: Strategic Plan Update

President Wolk shared with the Committee that Castleton State College has created a ten-year strategic plan for growth, the Castleton Plan. With the creation of many masters programs, and the intention of presenting to the Board in the near future a proposal for a doctoral program, and with the growth anticipated in the new ten-year plan, it is time to consider changing the name of the college to Castleton University. He emphasized that the entire Castleton community is ready for this change, and that he is bringing the idea to the Board at this time for its support. Becoming a university is a way to launch Castleton into the future.

Chancellor Spaulding stated that the VSC enabling statutes allow the Board to change the name of a VSC institution. Legislation going through the state house currently will allow the Board to change the name of the Vermont State Colleges. He suggested the Board make a decision on the name change at the July meeting in order to allow Castleton to prepare to market its new name. The presidents agreed that the name change would not have a negative impact on the other VSC

colleges, although President Murphy suggested that Johnson State, as a master's granting institution, may feel an impact. President Judy suggested that with this name change the system name may need to be reconsidered.

4. Vermont Tech: Update on financial watch status for Equine Studies

President Smith reminded the Committee that the Equine Studies BA program had been put on financial watch in December. The plan now is not to enroll students in the BA program for Equine Studies in the fall; there were 9 deposited students in that program. Total enrollment has dropped and the program is expensive to run. They will design an alternative associate's pathway and teach out the students currently enrolled.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.