

Minutes of the Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee meeting Wednesday, January 13, 2016 APPROVED by the Committee April 27, 2016

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee met on January 13, 2016 at the Chancellor's Office in Montpelier.

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

Absent: Martha O'Connor

Presidents: Joe Bertolino, Elaine Collins, Joyce Judy, Dave Wolk (by phone)

From the Chancellor's Office: Elaine Sopchak, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor
Jeb Spaulding, Chancellor
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic & Academic Technology Officer

From the Colleges: Tony Pepper, CU Academic Dean
Jay Paterson, VTC Dean of Student Affairs
Sharon Twigg, Professor, Johnson State College
Beth Walsh, Coordinator of Career Development, Johnson State College
Andy Myrick, Faculty Federation President, Vermont Tech

Chair Hannum called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. The Committee approved agenda additions of discussion campus tobacco policies, the ongoing safety audit of VSC campuses, and possible revisions to Policy 102.

A. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND ACTION

1. Approval of the Minutes of the November 18, 2015 Meeting

Trustee Pieciak moved and Trustee Dickinson seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. Policy 102 Final Proposal: Johnson State College BA Media Arts

Trustee Masland moved and Trustee Pieciak seconded the resolution. President Collins introduced Professor Sharon Twigg, who provided the Committee with background on the proposed program. Chancellor Spaulding inquired whether this program duplicates any programs offered at the other state colleges. Professor Twigg answered that there are other media programs within the VSC, but this new program has more emphasis on art history and new media arts. Trustee Hindes inquired whether this new program involved the Vermont Studio Center. President Collins answered that this program is not affiliated with the Center but the college still is. The Committee approved the resolution unanimously.

3. Policy 102 Final Proposal: Castleton University EdD in Leadership

Trustee Masland moved and Trustee Pieciak seconded the resolution. Castleton University Academic Dean Tony Pepper stated that this is Castleton's first doctoral program and represents the transition to a comprehensive master's institution. This program is very different from UVM's Ed.D. While that program is cohort based, Castleton's has multiple entry points. In addition, UVM's program is entirely face-to-face, whereas Castleton's program is a hybrid with short term residencies and online components. There are two tracks: PK–12 for superintendents and other leaders, and a higher education track. The Committee approved the resolution with the exception of Trustee Luneau, who abstained.

B. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Chancellor Spaulding asked the Committee for its thoughts about whether the colleges should go tobacco free. Commissioner of Health Dr. Harry Chen met with him recently to discuss the topic. Chancellor Spaulding suggested that members of the VSC Student Government Association should meet with the Committee and the Commissioner's team to discuss the topic as a group. Trustee Simone stated he has met with all the SGA representatives and their reaction is mixed. There is concern about the impact on students of going tobacco free. He inquired how the transition would take place, how long it would take, and whether there would be cessation assistance. Trustee Dickinson inquired whether smoking bans exist currently; Chancellor Spaulding replied that current VSC policy prohibits smoking indoors. A new ban would prevent smoking on the grounds. Trustee Luneau noted the Committee would need to discuss enforcement and the resources it would take. Chair Hannum suggested reviewing UVM's program, how it was implemented, and how it is enforced. He asked for the discussion to be included on the April Committee agenda.

Chair Hannum reintroduced a discussion of Policy 102, *Approval of New Degrees and Majors*. Currently the policy allows for two separate Committee reviews of a program proposal before sending it to the full Board for approval. CAO Ziesler stated that the policy area in need of attention is step two, the preliminary proposal. Having a single, full program proposal would allow the colleges to be more entrepreneurial and move more swiftly to create new programs. President Collins suggested the Committee consider two areas to strengthen in the policy in terms of decision making: program desirability can be more thoroughly addressed by considering not only how it can benefit the state (which is already in the policy), but also how it can benefit a region or particular target group/locale. The second area to consider is the potential hidden costs associated with certification, accreditation, or endorsements for the proposed programs. Chancellor Spaulding expressed appreciation for the Committee's willingness to allow program approval to occur more quickly than in the past. Chair Hannum directed CAO Ziesler to review Policy 102, to consider President Collins' suggestions and concerns about program duplication, and bring suggested revisions to the next Committee meeting.

General Counsel Bill Reedy provided an update on school safety issues. The Chancellor's Office is developing a new system-wide policy on safety; each institution would have more detailed practices and procedures consistent with the policy. A draft policy will come before the Board in the near future for its consideration and approval. Because of concerns about school safety, the Chancellor's Office has engaged Margolis Healy & Associates to perform an audit of all VSC facilities and safety practices, including the Chancellor's Office. Chancellor Spaulding stated that depending on the cost and scope of improvements needed as a result of the audit, there may be a need for additional funding. Trustee Dickinson stated that the House Institutions Committee had engaged Margolis Healy last year for a similar study. VT Tech Professor Andy Myrick thanked Mr. Reedy for initiating the audit and suggested that the VSC campuses are not at the level of preparedness that the state government complex is.

Chair Hannum adjourned the meeting at 1:53 p.m.