

July 13, 2016

TO: Long Range Planning Committee
Jerry Diamond, Chair
Lynn Dickinson
Kraig Hannum
Church Hinds
Tim Jerman
Karen Luneau, Vice Chair
Martha O'Connor

FROM: Jeb Spaulding, Chancellor



RE: Long Range Planning Committee Special Meeting on July 20, 2016

The Long Range Planning Committee of the VSC Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, July 20th starting at 2 p.m. in Hoff Hall at Castleton University. The agenda and materials are attached.

I can be reached at (802) 224-3036 if you have any questions.

Thank you.

cc: VSC Board of Trustees
Council of Presidents

**VERMONT STATE COLLEGES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

July 20, 2016 at 2 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the minutes of the May 19, 2016 meeting
3. Consider the Chancellor's recommendations for next steps regarding alliances between Johnson State College and Lyndon State College, as well as Community College of Vermont and Vermont Technical College
4. Other business
5. Comments from the public

Meeting Materials

1. Minutes of the May 19, 2016 meeting [Page 3](#)
2. Draft resolution regarding Lyndon State College and Johnson State College [Page 5](#)

Unapproved minutes of the Long Range Planning Committee meeting Thursday, May 19, 2016

Note: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at the subsequent meeting.

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Long Range Planning Committee conducted a meeting Thursday, May 19, 2016 at the Office of the Chancellor in Montpelier, Vermont.

Committee members present: Jerry Diamond (Chair), Lynn Dickinson, Kraig Hannum, Church Hinds, Karen Luneau (Vice-Chair), Martha O'Connor

Absent: Tim Jerman

Other Trustees: Jim Masland (by phone)

From the Chancellor's Office: Tricia Coates, Director of Governmental & External Affairs
Bill Reedy, General Counsel
Elaine Sopchak, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor
Jeb Spaulding, Chancellor
Steve Wisloski, Chief Financial Officer
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic & Academic Technology Officer

College Presidents: Joe Bertolino, Elaine Collins, Joyce Judy, Dan Smith, Dave Wolk

From the Colleges: Scott Dikeman, Castleton University Dean of Administration
Barb Flathers, Assistant to the Dean of Students, Johnson State College
Beth Walsh, Coordinator of Career Development, Johnson State College

Guests (all by phone): Chancellor Hank Huckaby, University of Georgia System
Vice Chancellor Shelley Nickel, University of Georgia System
Chancellor Steven Rosenstone, Minnesota State Colleges & Universities System

Chair Diamond called the meeting to order at 1:05 pm.

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

Chancellor Spaulding updated the Committee on a change to the schedule of guest calls. Chancellor Jim Page of the University of Maine System was unable to attend the meeting, and so the Committee took part in conversations with the chancellors of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and the University of Georgia System.

Chancellor Rosenstone spoke at length to the Committee about the various alliances between member institutions of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System and answered questions from Committee members.

Chancellor Huckaby and Vice Chancellor Nickel spoke to the Committee about the mergers of some member institutions of the University of Georgia System and took questions from Committee members.

Chair Diamond stated that at its June 9th meeting the Committee will discuss possibilities for recommendations to the Board of Trustees for Lyndon State College and Johnson State College, anticipating that the Board may make a decision at its July or September meetings. He stated that the Committee may try to have a conference call with Chancellor Page from the University of Maine before their next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

UNAPPROVED

VERMONT STATE COLLEGES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RESOLUTION

Chancellor's Recommendation to Unify Johnson State and Lyndon State Colleges

- WHEREAS, The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees recognizes that Lyndon State College and Johnson State College provide essential access to high-quality, affordable public higher education opportunities for students; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees recognizes that each campus is an important economic and cultural resource for their regions and the State of Vermont; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees is committed to ensuring that both campuses remain vibrant, viable, and vital for the long term; and
- WHEREAS, Many reliable sources, including Moody's Investors Service, predict that financial challenges caused by inadequate state financial support, demographic changes, increased expenses, and competition from new delivery modes will cause a significant increase in college closures across the country; and
- WHEREAS, Even as they provide high-quality programs, small, tuition-dependent colleges are particularly vulnerable to such financial challenges; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees recognizes the potential for a larger size institution to increase opportunities and supports for students with a more comprehensive curriculum, shared co-curricular learning opportunities, and more efficient use of support resources; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees recognizes the potential for a larger size institution to create a stronger, more diverse community of faculty and staff with more opportunities to draw upon and develop faculty and staff expertise; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees recognizes the potential for a larger size institution to achieve an improved economy of scale, redirecting valuable resources from administrative functions to the institutional mission; and
- WHEREAS, Chancellor Jeb Spaulding recommends that the Board unify Lyndon State College and Johnson State College under one administration, creating one

larger and stronger college with two distinct campuses, each with its own identity, with Dr. Elaine Collins as president at the time the unification takes place on July 1, 2017;

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees affirms its commitment to maintaining vital and vibrant campuses, each with its own identity, as points of access to affordable public higher education at both Lyndon and Johnson; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees supports in concept the Chancellor's recommendation to unify Lyndon and Johnson State Colleges into one larger and stronger college with two distinct campuses, each with its own identity, and, be it further

RESOLVED, That in order for the Board to be fully prepared to make a decision on the Chancellor's recommendation at its September 29, 2016 meeting, the Chancellor shall:

- Meet with students, faculty and staff at both the JSC and LSC campuses to solicit their feedback on the Chancellor's recommendation;
- Prepare a report that includes this feedback and identifies and addresses the legal, contractual, financial, academic, communications, and other issues that need to be addressed in order to successfully implement the Chancellor's recommendation; and
- Outline a transition plan, including a timeline, for implementation of the Chancellor's recommendation.