

**Minutes of the Long Range Planning Committee meeting Wednesday, July 20, 2016—  
APPROVED August 24, 2016**

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Long Range Planning Committee conducted a meeting Wednesday, July 20, 2016 in Hoff Hall at Castleton University.

Committee members present: Jerry Diamond (Chair), Kraig Hannum, Church Hindes, Tim Jerman, Martha O'Connor

Absent: Lynn Dickinson, Karen Luneau

Other Trustees: Morgan Easton, Bill Lippert, Chris Macfarlane, Aly Richards

Chancellor's Office Staff: Tricia Coates, Director of External & Governmental Affairs  
Sheilah Evans, System Controller/Senior Director of Financial Operations  
Bill Reedy, General Counsel  
Elaine Sopchak, Executive Assistant to the Chancellor  
Jeb Spaulding, Chancellor  
Steve Wisloski, Chief Financial Officer  
Sophie Zdatny, Associate General Counsel  
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic & Academic Technology Officer

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

From the Colleges: Martha Coulter, Wellness Center Director, Castleton  
Scott Dikeman, Dean of Administration, Castleton  
Gillian Galle, Professor, Castleton  
Loren Loomis Hubbell, Dean of Administration, LSC  
Laura Jakubowski, Director of Finance, Castleton  
Billy Langlois, Staff Federation Chair, Castleton  
Louis Palmer, Professor, Castleton  
Jillian Rader, Area Coordinator, Castleton  
Sharron Scott, Dean of Administration, JSC  
Jonathan Spiro, Academic Dean, Castleton  
Sharon Twigg, Interim Academic Dean, JSC  
Beth Walsh, VSCUP President  
Jeff Weld, Dean of Advancement, Castleton  
Shaun Williams, Area Coordinator, Castleton

Chair Diamond called the meeting to order at 2:10 pm.

1. Approval of the minutes of the May 19, 2016 meeting

Trustee Jerman moved and Trustee Hindes seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

2. 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

Chancellor Spaulding shared with the Committee his recommendations for the unification of Johnson State and Lyndon State Colleges, and for a more informal collaboration between Vermont Tech and Community College of Vermont. Chair Diamond invited Presidents Bertolino and Collins to share their comments. Trustee Jerman moved and Trustee Hannum seconded the resolution *Chancellor's Recommendation to Unify Johnson State College and Lyndon State College*. Chair Diamond invited comments from the public.

Beth Walsh stated she feels unification is an appropriate solution for northern Vermont. As union president she offered assistance in collecting staff input. Loren Loomis Hubbell stated that the efficiencies to be gained will allow the colleges to focus on their missions and to focus their resources on students. She emphasized that unification should result in two colleges with shared leadership, not one college with a satellite, and asked for patience with governance processes and transition. Jonathan Spiro stated he applauds the unification plan.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the resolution and recommend it to the full Board.

3. Other Business

There was no other business.

4. Comments from the Public

There were no further comments from the public.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:01 p.m.

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.

July 21, 2016