

Minutes of the VSC Board of Trustees Long Range Planning Committee meeting held Monday, February 12, 2018 at the Office of the Chancellor, Montpelier, VT

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Long Range Planning Committee conducted a meeting Monday, February 12, 2018 at the Chancellor's Office in Montpelier.

Committee members present: Jerry Diamond (Chair), Karen Luneau (Vice-Chair), Lynn Dickinson, Church Hindes, Tim Jerman, Aly Richards

Other Trustees: Chris Macfarlane, Linda Milne

College Presidents: Elaine Collins, Joyce Judy, Karen Scolforo, Pat Moulton via phone

Chancellor's Office Staff: Jeb Spaulding, Chancellor
Steve Wisloski, Chief Financial Officer
Tricia Coates, Director of External & Governmental Affairs
Sheilah Evans, System Controller & Senior Director of Financial Operations
Sophie Zdatny, General Counsel
Kevin Conroy, Chief Information Officer
Todd Daloz, Associate Legal Counsel
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer
Harriet Johnson, Executive Assistant

From the Colleges: Scott Dikeman, Dean of Administration, Castleton University
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Castleton University
Barbara Martin, Dean of Administration, Community College of Vermont
Sharron Scott, Dean of Administration, Johnson State College
Lit Tyler, Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical College
Maurice Ouimet, Dean of Enrollment, Castleton University
Toby Stewart, Controller, Johnson State and Lyndon State College
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP
Morna Flaum, VP of VSCFF

Chair Diamond called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

1. Approval of the minutes of the October 25, 2017 meeting

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

2. Expectations for next steps in the consideration of awarding Associates degrees to certain students when warranted and beneficial.

Chair Diamond stated he met with the Board of Trustees Chair, Church Hindes, and the Chair of the Education, Personnel & Student Life Committee, Aly Richards to discuss the best way to proceed in offering Associates degrees as a routine matter of course to VSCS students when warranted. Their motivation stems from concerns such as students who stay for 2 years, have significant debt, and leave with no credential; this leaves no opportunity for the system to be credited for what could be a success for a student receiving a degree after two years; and allowing students to leave with a large amount of debt and no degree creates a disincentive to other members of their family and friends to think about going to college.

They may want LRPC to offer a resolution to the board which will set a policy to move towards the creation of a degree to be awarded after 2 years and authorizing the Education, Personnel & Student Life Committee to determine and recommend how this should be done, utilizing all the resources of the academic deans and others. They hope to express a value judgment by the board that such a degree is consistent with the VSCS strategic priorities of increasing retention and enrollment. They believe such a degree is marketable, and will attract students and keep students.

The committee discussed these concerns and asked the Education, Personnel & Student Life Committee to develop this concept and report back to the Board of Trustees.

3. VSCS Risk Analysis – Committee input and discussion. (document attached)

Chancellor Spaulding presented a VSCS risk analysis. He reviewed the identified risks developed by the Senior Leadership Team of the Office of the Chancellor and asked for input from the Committee. The following risks were suggested for consideration as additions to the listed risks: 1) Organizational structure; 2) Competitive Environment; and 3) Preparedness of Students Graduating from High School.

After discussion, Chancellor Spaulding stated that his team will develop action steps to address each of the identified risks and report back to the Committee.

4. Follow-up on the 2016 CampusWorks VSCS IT report

Chief Technology Officer Kevin Conroy provided a refresher on the findings and recommendations of the report, a review of what has been done and accomplished since the report was delivered, and thoughts about where to go from here. Chief Academic Officer Yasmine Ziesler addressed the committee regarding the current learning management system and possible upgrading of it.

Chancellor Spaulding emphasized that CampusWorks recommended a unified system level IT governance system with the chief technology officers reporting to the VSCS Chief Information Officer. He stated that although that recommendation seemed too big a step in 2016, it is the

direction he now feels is necessary to move in. Committee members were supportive and asked how he would like to proceed. The Chancellor stated he would first work with the presidents and then return to the Long Range Planning Committee with a recommendation on how to implement this organizational change effectively. President Judy stated that this direction made sense, but is a very delicate matter and would need to be handled very carefully.

Chair Diamond said, if needed, the Long Range Planning Committee would support a resolution to the Board of Trustees implementing a unified IT governance model.

5. Strategic planning Updates from colleges and universities - what is currently underway and how these plans will be in sync with the six Board adopted strategic priorities. (document attached)

The presidents presented strategic planning updates and explained how these plans support the Board's six strategic priorities. Discussion ensued.

Chair Diamond suggested in the future, strategic plans from each individual college should be reviewed and approved by the Board, as would be the norm at colleges and universities. After discussion, Chancellor Spaulding stated his office would draft a policy which would have each strategic plan flow through the Chancellors Office and Long Range Planning Committee to the Board of Trustees for approval. It was stated that such a policy might be ready for the March Board of Trustees meeting.

6. Other business

No other business

7. Comments from the public

There were no comments from the public.

The meeting recessed at 12:18 p.m. for lunch and reconvened at 12:30 p.m.

Trustee Jerman motioned and Trustee Luneau seconded the following motion:

I move the Long Range Planning Committee of the VSC Board of Trustees enter executive session,

- pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2) to discuss negotiating or securing real estate purchase or lease options,
- pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B), for the purpose of discussing labor relations agreements with employees, and
- pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F), for the purpose of receiving confidential attorney client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services.

Because premature general public knowledge of these discussions would place VSC at a substantial disadvantage, it is appropriate for the Committee to enter executive session.

Along with the members of the Board present at this meeting, in its discretion, the Board invites the Chancellor, the members of the Council of Presidents, the VSC Chief Financial Officer, the VSC General Counsel and the VSC Associate General Counsel to attend.

Trustee Luneau motioned and Trustee Macfarlane seconded to exit executive session at 1:35 p.m.

Trustee Hinde motioned and Trustee Dickinson seconded adjournment of the meeting at 1:35 p.m.