

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Retreat Meeting held Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at the Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vermont – APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at the Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vermont

Board members present: Churchill Hinds (Chair), Janette Bombardier (1pm), Jerry Diamond, Lynn Dickinson, Dylan Giambatista, Linda Milne, Chris Macfarlane, Jim Masland, Karen Luneau, Bill Lippert, Aly Richards (11:30am), David Silverman, Jesse Streeter

Absent: Mike Pieciak

Presidents: Elaine Collins, Joyce Judy, Pat Moulton, Karen Scolforo

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

From the Colleges: Mike Fox, Dean of Enrollment, Northern Vermont University
 Nolan Atkins, Provost, Northern Vermont University
 Nate Ball, VSCUP Vice President, Vermont Technical College

Chair Hinds called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

Trustee refresher training on Policy 311, Policy 311-A, and Policy 207

Associate General Counsel Todd Daloz presented an overview of VSCS Policy 207 (Trustee and Executive Conflict of Interest) and fiduciary responsibilities. Trustees were reminded they are to fill out the annual conflict of interest form.

General Counsel Sophie Zdatny gave an overview of Title IX, and VSCS Policy 311 (Non-Discrimination and Prevention of Harassment and Related Unprofessional Conduct) and Policy 311-A (Sexual Misconduct, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking).

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:10 p.m.

Panel Presentation and Discussion

Chancellor Spaulding introduced Megan Cluver – Senior Higher Education Strategist from Deloitte, John Anderson – Retired President of Millersville University (PASSHE system) and Former President of Alfred State College (SUNY system), and Don Laackman – President of Champlain College. They led a panel discussion on higher education today and tomorrow, responsibilities, challenges and opportunities in traditional and non-traditional markets.

Presidents' State of the College/University

Vermont Technical College President Moulton presented Vermont Tech's draft of their five year strategic plan. She outlined key points of upward momentum including the positive budget result for FY2018 and the 7% increase in enrollments. Vermont Tech's strategic objectives focus on enrollment, financial reserves, key stakeholder satisfaction, accessibility, technology, recognition and programs. The 2018-2020 initiatives include enrollment preservation, student experience and resource enhancements.

Northern Vermont University President Elaine Collins discussed the ways her team allocated the one-time unification appropriation money from the Legislature (academics, accreditation, IT, marketing, etc.). She further identified some additional needs to be addressed (e.g., transportation). NVU has been working on rebranding with videos, logos and advertisements, including brand launch parties and new campus and road signs. The two NVU campuses have merged and collaborated on some curricula, which has increased student access to faculty. Recruiting efforts are expanding across strategic portions of the country.

Community College of Vermont President Joyce Judy started by acknowledging CCV employees and indicating CCV's most important resource is its employees. CCV has started the implementation phase of their strategic plan with a special focus on Pillar 1: Creating Pathways and Programs for Academic Success. As part of this work, CCV is redesigning and expanding the Career Services program. Their redesign is modeled after their highly successful virtual Hartness Library and its embedded librarian program. The second initiative to increase student success and retention is using a "nudge" technology. CCV has developed a very strategic text messaging plan for use with students. The text messages are sent to students at key times throughout the semester. A third initiative is the development of "microgrants" for students. These small grants, supported with philanthropic funds, help students stay enrolled during the semester even when faced with a financial crisis. CCV is making preparations to celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2020 and will begin the launch of the celebration in late 2019, with a full rollout in 2020.

Castleton University President Karen Scolforo describes some recent challenges with an inherited deficit and low enrollment. CU is developing a culture of fundraising and in-kind giving, together with a culture of innovation and a culture of growth. CU is proud of their average incoming student GPA being 3.06 and of a philosophy of academics first and athletics second. CU has modified their mission and strategic plan, both of which sit with the faculty for approval, and updated "Castleton on the Move". CU is mainly focusing on new program

development and labor market research. CU has identified needs for Occupational and Physical Therapy Assistants, a menu style MBA and Early Childhood Education. President Scolforo suggested she would be developing these programs and anticipated bringing them forward for Board approval in the future. CU is also focusing on fundraising efforts designed around their motto of “Together we will change the world” with an eye on campus beautification, infrastructure improvement, and scholarship development opportunities. Due to CU’s nine new initiatives, they’ve seen a 22% increase, year over year, in enrollment, a 40% increase for out of state enrollment, more than doubled early college enrollment and they now draw students from 36 countries and 26 states.

At 5:30 p.m. Chair Hinde recessed the Board meeting until 8:14 a.m. on September 27, 2018.