

Minutes of the VSC Board of Trustees Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee meeting held Wednesday August 29, 2018 at the Chancellor's Office, Conference Room 101, Montpelier, VT - APPROVED

The VSC Board of Trustees Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee met on Wednesday August 29, 2018 at the Office of the Chancellor, Montpelier, Vermont

Committee Members present: Aly Richards (Chair), Rep. Jim Masland (Vice-Chair) Jesse Streeter, Rep. Lynn Dickinson, Karen Luneau

Absent: Janette Bombardier

Other Trustees Present: Churchill Hindes, Jerry Diamond, Mike Pieciak

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

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

From the Colleges: Maurice Ouimet, Castleton University, Dean of Enrollment
 Sharron Scott, Northern Vermont University, Dean of Administration
 Laura Jakubowski, Castleton, Chief Budget and Financial Officer
 Littleton Tyler, Vermont Technical College, Dean of Administration

From the Public: Lola Duffort, Reporter, VTDigger
 Amy Nixon, Reporter, Caledonia Record

1. Call to Order

Chair Richards called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

2. Approval of the May 30, 2018 minutes

Trustee Dickinson moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve the

minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Start to Finish initiative update

Dr. Ziesler gave updates on the *Start to Finish* initiative. This includes the creation of a System Lead Team comprised of leaders for student success and retention. One rep from each college will be attending Complete College of America's annual conference courtesy of CCA. Secondly, it can be noted that each institution serves very different populations and this helps determine how to support those students/transfers. Additionally, there is a focus on "15 to Finish" and encouraging students to register for and finish 15 credits. A data reporting tool has been developed in order to evaluate semester outcomes on credit completion. As of 8/24/18 Castleton has over 90% of its students registered for 15 credits, VTC and NVU, both serving a more diverse age population both have about 2/3 of the population registered for 15 credits and CCV serves the most diverse students with a distribution over 6-15 credits signed up for. Chair Richards comments that these are the baseline numbers for 2018 and strategies will be reviewed next based on these results. Trustee Dickinson inquired about the large number of transfer students at VTC and President Moulton responded that most of those are likely nursing students transferring over from Community College of Vermont. Next step is bringing the data back and having those professional conversations.

4. Discussion of System Strategic Priorities 1-4 and potential future EPSL meeting topics

Dr. Ziesler, gave an overview of the first 4 of 6 priorities which also maps potential new topics of discussion by the EPSL Committee. For #1: Increasing high school students going on to post-secondary education; VSCS is working in partnership with the Vermont Department of Education and VSAC to develop a new course called EMC² (Essential Math for College and Careers). This course is for 12th graders to help get them confident with college math and encourage them go on to post-secondary school. #2: Improve retention and graduation rates; VSCS is supporting college staff in using new data and tools as well as developing additional data in support of *Start to Finish*. #3: Be recognized as an attractive destination for Vermont high school graduates (a slight modification of wording in that priority). #4: Serve well more working age Vermonters. Trustee Luneau brought up the pervasive need to educate more teachers in Vermont and suggests adding that as a priority. Chair Richards agrees and sees that as a possible branding focus for VSCS under priority #3.

5. Policy 311/311-A Update

Ms. Zdatny, General Counsel, stated there would be a brief training for the Board of Trustees on the Policies at the Board Retreat in September. Policy 311 prohibits discrimination, harassment and related unprofessional conduct. Policy 311-A prohibits sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking and sexual misconduct. Additionally, Ms. Zdatny discussed the hiring of a new investigator, Susan Law, in the Chancellor's office in early 2017. Her hire has

helped to improve the robustness of investigations. She has also been providing multiple trainings at the colleges. There were 108 reports of Policy 311 and Policy 311-A violations in 2017-2018 as compared to 62 in 2016-2017. Twenty formal investigations were conducted in 2017-2018. Ms. Law has designed a website to centralize Policy 311 and Policy 311-A resources for the colleges. Chancellor Spaulding noted that the increase in the number of reports is likely indicative of an increased awareness of the VSCS's policies.

6. Comments from the public

There were no comments from the public.

7. Negotiations Update with Finance and Facilities Committee

At 12:54 p.m. Chair Hinde concurrently convened the Finance and Facilities Committee in preparation for a joint Executive Session.

Trustee Richards moved that the Education, Personnel and Student Life Committee and the Finance and Facilities Committee of the VSC Board of Trustees enter executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B), for the purpose of discussing labor relations agreements with employees; and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(C), for the purpose of discussing arbitration or mediation because premature general public knowledge of such discussions would place the VSCS at a substantial disadvantage. Trustee Hinde seconded. Along with the members of the Board present at this meeting, the Board invited the Chancellor, the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Academic Officer, the Presidents, the members of the Business Affairs Council, the Administrative Director and VSCS General Counsel to attend. The Committees returned from executive session at 1:22 p.m. and took no action in open session.

Chair Richards adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.