

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Long Range Planning Committee meeting held Friday, October 11, 2019, at the Office of the Chancellor, Montpelier, VT – APPROVED**

*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 Friday, October 11, 2019, at the Office of the Chancellor, Montpelier, Vermont

Committee members: Michael Pieciak (Chair), Janette Bombardier (Vice Chair, via phone), Megan Cluver, Lynn Dickinson, Dylan Giambatista (via phone), Adam Grinold (via phone), Bill Lippert (via phone), Karen Luneau

Other Trustees Present: Izzy Gogarty, Churchill Hinds

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

Chancellor's Office Staff: Jeb Spaulding, Chancellor  
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director  
Meg Walz, Project Manager, Library Coordinator  
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

From the Colleges: Kate Gold, Director of Advising Resources, VSCUP President, Northern Vermont University  
Linda Olson, President, VSCFF, Castleton University  
Sharron Scott, Dean of Administration, Northern Vermont University

From the public: Calvin Cutler, Reporter, WCAX  
Lola Duffort, Reporter, VT Digger  
Adam Norton, VSEA

1. Chair Pieciak called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Chair Pieciak shared that this extra meeting was scheduled in order for the Committee to have more time to review submitted ideas for Secure the Future to ensure the Committee is keeping pace with the objective of having a recommendation to the Board by the December 2, 2019 Board meeting.

2. Approval of the minutes

a. August 26, 2019

**Trustee Dickinson moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes from August 26, 2019. The motion was approved unanimously.**

3. Committee Discussion: Next steps in the *Secure the Future* project

a. Chancellor Spaulding to present Concept 1.1

Chancellor Jeb Spaulding stated that the Concept 1.1 paper is meant as a starting point for conversation. It lays out two possible areas of focus; one at the institutional level and one at the system level. With near unanimous agreement on the forces that are bearing down on higher education institutions like the VSCS, it is now time to recognize that those forces may have different effects on each institution in our system. Therefore, one suggestion is to address the forces institution by institution in partnership with the leadership at each campus. Through limited duration committees for each institution, led by the President, along with a designated Trustee and representation from the colleges and other relevant parties, discussion of the challenges identified in the white paper can occur with specific areas of focus and metrics specified by the LRPC/BOT. The report from the sub-committees would be delivered at the June Board meeting with status reports at the December 2, 2019 and March 28, 2019 meetings. When focusing on the system level challenges, Concept 1.1 targets three specific areas: affordability, flexibility to better meet student needs, and student success. The affordability section addresses new options for quicker degree completion, systemwide initiatives for free textbooks, and tuition reduction at CCV (a pipeline for the other institutions). Flexibility to meet students needs might focus on stackable credentials and friction free transfer of credits. Student success would focus on boosting retention and graduation rates. All four presidents voiced commitment to working with the Board and Committee on these initiatives, while also stressing that each has individual bandwidth concerns due to heavy workloads. Trustee Cluver voiced concern at setting up four silos of ideas for the four separate institutions and stressed that the more collaborative the work is, the better. Trustee Bombardier suggests four categories for enacting the ideas: 1. Campus level, 2. System level, 3. Reduction of administrative overhead, 4. Real estate issues. Trustee Cluver suggested making a list of where third-party expertise can best be leveraged for our investments.

b. Presentation: *Secure the Future* Input, survey review

Chief Academic Officer Yasmine Ziesler gave a brief overview of the survey and its results. She described the scoring system and how the ranking of the ideas occurred. The highest-ranking ideas were identified as good for students and/or would produce meaningful results. Flexible pathways for students, year-round instruction and downsizing with grace are at the top of the results.

c. Discussion: What items should be added to or deleted from Concept 1.1?

Discussion centered around system wide strategic partnerships with regards to real estate and the appropriate role and scope of the Chancellor's office as two items that should be added to the Concept paper.

d. Discussion: Institutional Task Forces – purpose, membership, scope of work, timeframe, metrics?

The structure of the individual institution task forces would be on a non-operational, high level, with one Trustee per task force. Chancellor Spaulding will engage in further discussion with the Presidents on this at the next Council of Presidents meeting.

4. Other Business

No other business

5. Comments from the public

There were no comments from the public.

Chair Pieciak adjourned the meeting at 5:46 p.m.