

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at the Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vermont – APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 17, 2019, at the Lake Morey Resort, Fairlee, Vermont

Board members present: Churchill Hinds (Chair), Janet Bombardier, Lynn Dickinson (Vice-Chair), Peg Flory, Dylan Giambatista, Izzy Gogarty, Adam Grinold, Bill Lippert, Karen Luneau (Secretary), Jim Masland, Linda Milne (Treasurer), Mike Pieciak (11:09am), David Silverman

Absent: Megan Cluver

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

Chancellor's Office Staff: Jeb Spaulding, Chancellor

Tricia Coates, Director of External & Governmental Affairs
Todd Daloz, Associate General Counsel
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Steve Wisloski, Chief Financial Officer
Sophie Zdatny, General Counsel
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, Northern Vermont University
Jonathan Davis, Dean of Students, Northern Vermont University
Michael Fox, Dean of Enrollment & Marketing, Northern Vermont University
Leah Hollenberger, Development & External Relations, Northern Vermont University
Sharon Scott, Dean of Administration, Northern Vermont University
Tyrone Shaw, Professor, Northern Vermont University

Chair Hinds called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

Chair Hinds recognized the life and service of past Board Chair Martha O'Connor.

Trustee Dickinson read and moved for the adoption of Resolution 2019-008 Trustee Chair Emerita Status for Martha Hannum O'Connor for her Long-Standing Commitment to and Support of the Vermont State Colleges System. Trustee Masland seconded the motion. The resolution was approved unanimously.

1. Approval of June 20, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Luneau moved and Trustee Flory seconded the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously with one abstention.

2. Report of the Executive Committee

a. Hall of Fame Discussion and Decision

Chair Hindes informed the Board that pursuant to the discussion of the Executive committee, this subject would be further discussed at a later time.

3. Report of the Finance & Facilities Committee

a. Approval of NVU-Johnson High Impact Endowment Fund

Chief Financial Officer Steve Wisloski reviewed the NVU-J High Impact endowment stating that it offers \$6,000 from the Friends of Northern Vermont University paired with \$6,000 in Title III matching funds.

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Dickinson seconded the approval of the NVU High Impact Endowment Fund. The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Approval of FY2021 tuition, fees, room and board rates

CFO Wisloski reviewed the Finance and Facilities Committee's recommendation to the Board of changes to FY2021 maximum tuition, fees, room and board rates, which includes increasing board rates by 4% and a tuition increase of 2.9% for NVU, CU and VTC, with a 1.4% increase for CCV.

Trustee Flory moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the approval of Resolution 2019-006 FY2021 Vermont State Colleges System Maximum Tuition, Fees, Room and Board Rates. The resolution was approved unanimously.

4. Report of the EPSL Committee

a. Approval of the B.S. in Data Science Program at Northern Vermont University

Trustee Masland reported that the EPSL committee approved and recommended the approval to the Board of this new degree at the August 26, 2019 meeting. NVU Provost Nolan Atkins described the proposed new program as meeting the growing market need for skilled practitioners in Data Science. This program will train students to be able to identify quality control, add value, and communicate in written and oral form with data. Provost Atkins stated there will be no need for further hiring as existing professors will teach the courses.

Trustee Flory moved and Trustee Bombardier seconded the approval of the B.S. in Data Science Program at NVU. The motion was passed unanimously.

5. Report of the Audit Committee

Trustee Milne stated that the Audit Committee has no business to report. The external auditors will conclude their work in the fall, and they will have the full report for the Audit Committee's October 21, 2019 meeting.

6. Report of the Long Range Planning Committee

Trustee Pieciak shared a summary of the LRPC activity this summer. The committee began its planning work in May, discussing the process of developing a Chancellor's White Paper to establish the central challenges facing the Vermont State Colleges System and the higher education sector in general. Over the course of the summer, the Chancellor further refined the White Paper, the LRPC held meetings with leadership teams from each member Institution, on-campus meetings, and on-line, Zoom conferences with stakeholders. The Committee received great feedback from faculty, staff, students, and community members. On August 26, 2019, the White Paper was finalized by the Committee. Subsequently, five on-campus information sessions were held, one at each main residential campus. The LRPC has gathered 200+ ideas from all sessions, the website and conversations. There is a vast range of possible solutions to be discussed as the committee enters the next phase of its discussions.

7. Legislative Report and Planning

Director of Governmental and External Affairs, Tricia Coates, informed Trustees that the Chancellor's office has been working on two studies to be delivered to the Legislature in the beginning of October. One study addresses student retention issues and the various initiatives each member Institution, and the System as a whole are undertaking to address this topic. The second report is on potential financial efficiencies that may be gained by developing shared services between the VSCS and UVM. VTC President Pat Moulton also discussed the State funding received for the delivery of associates degrees at the career and tech ed centers around the state. VTC has hired Sherry Lussier to do some work with an advisory board on how best to develop such programing.

8. Presidents' Reports

CCV: CCV President Joyce Judy shared some highlights of CCV's strategic plan – two pillars in particular. Pillar Four of the plan states: increase organizational capacity and sustainability. CCV has begun implementing a staffing reorganization grounded in this strategic priority with the key objectives being cultivating new enrollment opportunities, increasing retention, enhancing supervisory support and preparing the future leadership of the College. Pillar One focuses on creating pathways and programs for academic and career success. To that end CCV has developed new programs and certificates that are nested within degree programs. CCV is also creating three new apprenticeship programs; Medical Assisting, Pharmacy Technician and Manufacturing Production Technician.

Castleton: Castleton University President Karen Scolforo stated that the past year has been focused on student success and partnerships. Student leaders are taking strong roles in supporting student initiatives such as the Beast Ski Pass which is being used as a recruitment tool. She also spoke about the early success of the new Resort and Hospitality Management Program at Killington, and positive enrollment figures on the new CU MBA program. Trustee Bombardier asked whether students at other Institutions would have access to some of the specific courses within the CU MBA program in order would have to broaden System-wide offerings. Student Trustee Izzy Gogarty shared a student initiative surrounding mental health for the VSCSA where

important crisis numbers are displayed on the back of the student ID cards to make these crucial numbers to be readily available. Trustee Gogarty encourages the other institutions to follow suit. Vermont Tech: VTC President Pat Moulton shared the news about the closure of the anaerobic bio-digester on the Randolph campus. This step was driven by a need for increased efficiency and an effort to get back to Vermont Tech's core values. Enrollment is improving with total headcount up by 50 and FTE up by 40. Residential student numbers are also up significantly, which brings revenue up. Vermont Tech also has full sports teams this year. This sets the stage for a more stable fiscal year in 2020. President Moulton also praised the three new staff members; Academic Dean Dr. Ana Gaillat, Dean of Students Jason Enser and CTO Kellie Campbell. Vermont Tech is also launching new apprenticeships, and the new electrical apprenticeship class is the largest ever. Finally, Vermont Tech is preparing for its 2020 NECHE full college accreditation visit.

NVU: NVU President Elaine Collins began by expressing pride in her team and the school for successfully merging the Lyndon State College and Johnson State College into one successful University. NVU had a successful NECHE accreditation visit during the past academic year, assuring the unification was meeting the accreditation standards. Both the Johnson and Lyndon campuses hosted successful conferences this past year. NVU has created interdisciplinary schools allowing cooperation of faculty across campuses. NVU Online has reduced tuition rates to become more competitive in the marketplace. President Collins feels that NVU is well positioned to meet the challenge of mental health and substance abuse counseling needs with its expanded graduate program in Clinical Mental Health Counselling.

9. Comments from the Public

Northern Vermont University Professor Tyrone Shaw gave a statement to the Board. See attached.

10. Next Meeting is Thursday December 2, 2019 at Northern Vermont University-Lyndon

Chair Hinde adjourned for lunch at 12:11pm

Chair Hinde reconvened the meeting at 1:28pm

Chair Hinde informed the Board and the staff and public in attendance that the Board was going to enter executive session and would not likely return to a public session until at least 11:30am on Wednesday.

Executive Session

At 1:29 p.m. Trustee Dickinson moved the VSC Board of Trustees enter executive session, 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, and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B), for the purpose of discussion labor relations agreements with employees, because premature general public knowledge of these discussions would place VSC at a substantial disadvantage, it is appropriate for the Board to enter executive session. She further moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2) to discuss negotiating or securing real estate purchase or lease options, and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(6) to discuss records exempt from the Vermont Public Records Act. The Board does not anticipate taking any

action during executive session. Along with the members of the Board present at this meeting, in its discretion, the Board invited the Chancellor, the members of the Council of Presidents, the VSC General Counsel, Chief Academic Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Director of External and Government Affairs and Associate General Counsel to attend portions of this session.

Trustee Pieciak seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

The Board exited the session at 6:12 pm and took no action

Chair Hindes recessed the meeting at 6:13 p.m. until Wednesday September 18, 2019.