

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Special Meeting held Thursday, March 12, 2020 via telephone – APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Thursday, March 12, 2020, via conference call.

Board members present via phone: Churchill Hinds (Chair), Lynn Dickinson, Peg Flory, Dylan Giambatista, Izzy Gogarty, Adam Grinold, Karen Luneau, Jim Masland, David Silverman

Absent: Megan Cluver, Bill Lippert, Linda Milne, Michael Pieciak

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

Chancellor's Office Staff: Jeb Spaulding, Chancellor
 Kevin Conroy, Chief Information Officer
 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 via phone: Ana Gaillat, Dean of Academic Affairs, Vermont Technical College
 Janet Hazelton, Director of Human Resources, Castleton University
 Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Castleton University
 James Lambert, Associate Dean of Advancement, Castleton University
 Karen Madden, Director of Academic Support Services, Northern Vermont University
 Gayle Malinowski, Chief Technical Officer, Castleton University
 Maurice Ouimet, Dean of Enrollment, Castleton University
 Andy Pallito, Dean of Administration, Community College of Vermont
 Dennis Proulx, Dean of Students, Castleton University
 Sharron Scott, Dean of Administration, Northern Vermont University
 Jonathan Spiro, Chief Academic Officer, Castleton University
 Littleton Tyler, Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical College
 Beth Walsh, Director of Career Development, Northern Vermont University

From the Public via phone: Anne Allen, Reporter, VT Digger
 Cyndi Miller, American Federation of Teachers, Vermont
 Anne Nixon, Reporter, Caledonian Record

Chair Hinds called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

1. Chair Hinds asked for a roll call of attendees on the phone.

2. Update on VSCS current response to COVID-19

Chancellor Spaulding indicated that this meeting is informational and does not require Board action. The meeting is to provide an update from the Chancellor's office on behalf of the Vermont State Colleges regarding the current situation with COVID-19. The Chancellor and Presidents have authority under the bylaws to make the operational decisions necessary during this situation. The VSCS has been very vigilant at keeping their campuses informed as things develop. The VSCS is adhering to the guidance of the Vermont Department of Health and currently has no identified cases of COVID-19 on any campuses. Given the rapidly changing environment, however, it became prudent to take some level of action on each of the campuses and therefore, the determination was made to have students from the residential campuses return home at week's end (March 15, 2020) and for courses to transition to remote delivery continuing through at least Friday, April 3, 2020. Go [here](#) for the Chancellor's update. Each Institution's President will follow up with their own communications as each campus has their own individual needs. The continuing focus will be on the education of the students while ensuring health and safety.

3. Public Comment

Anne Allen from VTDigger asks how many students this affects. Chancellor Spaulding replied that there are students who are already taking their degree completely online already but that the number of those impacted is likely in excess of 5,000. Amy Nixon from the Caledonian Record inquired if the Chancellor's communication was available to the public and was informed that it is available on www.vsc.edu.

Trustee Dickinson moved that the VSC Board of Trustees enter executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) (confidential attorney-client communications) and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) (labor relations agreements with employees), and 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 invited the Chancellor, the members of the Council of Presidents, and the Presidents' identified designees to attend. The Board did not take any action during executive session. Trustee Luneau seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Without objection, the Board exited executive session at 5:10 p.m. and took no action.

Chair Hinde adjourned the meeting at 5:10 p.m.