

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Wednesday, May 6, 2020, at 7pm via ZOOM – APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Wednesday, May 6, 2020, via ZOOM.

Board members present: Churchill Hindes (Chair), Janette Bombardier, Megan Cluver, Lynn Dickinson, Peg Flory, Dylan Giambatista, Izzy Gogarty, Adam Grinold, Bill Lippert, Karen Luneau, Jim Masland, Linda Milne, Mike Pieciak, David Silverman

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

Chancellor's Office Staff: Sophie Zdatny, Interim Chancellor
Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Kevin Conroy, Chief Information Officer
Todd Daloz, Interim General Counsel
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Meg Walz, Director, Program Manager
Steve Wisloski, Chief Financial Officer
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, Northern Vermont University
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget and Finance Officer, Castleton University
Maurice Ouimet, Dean of Enrollment, Castleton University
Sharron Scott, Dean of Administration, Northern Vermont University
Jonathan Spiro, Interim Provost, Castleton University
Littleton Tyler, Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical

College

See attachment for further attendees

From the Public: *See attachment for attendees*

1. Welcome and Roll call

Chair Hindes called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. Administrative Director Jen Porrier conducted a roll call of the Trustees.

2. Remarks from Interim Chancellor and Discussion with Board

Interim Chancellor Sophie Zdatny gave a brief overview of the past seven days since her appointment. Coordinating with the Legislature has been the primary focus of her work. On Saturday Senate President Pro Tempore Tim Ashe and Speaker of the House Mitzi Johnson released a statement voicing their commitment to ensuring educational opportunities would be available in the fall at all VSC campuses. The VSC issued a press release on Monday, May 4th stating the same.

The VSC continues to work with the Legislature to provide requested information, including the provision of information to the Joint Fiscal Office regarding costs related to COVID-19, as well as information to the State Treasurer's office. Northern Vermont University and Vermont Technical College are both creating task forces, which will include students, staff, faculty and community members, to begin looking at what the future of their schools will look like. Interim Chancellor Zdatny and Trustees Gogarty and Giambatista held a student forum to share ideas and receive feedback. More such roundtable meetings will be held with students in the future if there is interest from the students in doing so.

At the national level, updated Title IX regulations were released on Wednesday and a new VSC policy reflecting these new requirements will need to be put into place by August 14, 2020. This will be a large project with a very short timeline. Board approval will be required for any new or revised policies. There has been an increase in planning for students returning in the fall and how to do that successfully with the current COVID-19 challenges.

Chair Hinds asked for legislative updates. Trustee Lippert shared that legislators have been reaching out to their constituents soliciting ideas for ways to help the VSC. Trustee Masland shared that many legislators are spending a great deal of their time helping people with unemployment claims right now. Trustee Giambatista appreciated the two-way communication with Interim Chancellor Zdatny. Trustee Dickinson discussed the "Idea Bank" at the Legislature, which has a lot of good ideas and is a great first step. Trustee Milne thanked Interim Chancellor Zdatny for her efforts and enthusiastic communications over the past week. Trustee Gogarty thanked the Interim Chancellor and Trustee Giambatista for joining the student forum earlier that day and encouraged any students listening to reach out to her to join the next Q & A.

3. Possible Executive Session regarding Appointment of Castleton Interim President

Chair Hinds shared that a central focus of this meeting is a carryover action item from last week: the discussion and appointment of an Interim President for Castleton University. Chair Hinds asked if the Board would like to take action in public session or move the personnel discussion into Executive Session, per the Open Meetings Law. Trustee Masland shared that the legislative trustees were contacted by Representative Bob Helm who wanted to discuss the possibility of Castleton University President Scolforo remaining in her position and perhaps this should be discussed in executive session. Trustee Flory inquired whether the Board had formally accepted President Scolforo's resignation yet and whether this was something that should be discussed in executive session. Trustee Flory also inquired as to the existence of meeting minutes for the past five Board meetings and past eight Executive Committee meetings. Interim General Counsel Todd Daloz informed Trustee Flory the minutes were posted to www.vsc.edu in UNAPPROVED status. Interim Chancellor Zdatny shared that the UNAPPROVED Board minutes would be approved as part of business at the May 11, 2020 meeting.

Executive Session

At 7:34 p.m. Trustee Dickinson moved that 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; because premature general public knowledge of these discussions would place VSC at a substantial disadvantage, it is appropriate for the Committee to enter executive sessions. Trustee Dickinson further moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant

to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss the employment of a public officer. The motion stated that the Board would make any final decision regarding any such public officer in an open meeting and would explain the reasons for this final decision during the open meeting. The motion stated that the Board did not anticipate taking any action during executive session. Along with the members of the Board present at the meeting, the Board invited the Interim Chancellor, The President of Castleton University, the Interim Provost of Castleton University, along with the VSC Interim General Counsel to attend portions of the executive session. Trustee Pieciak seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Board exited executive session at 9:01 p.m. and Chair Hinds called the meeting to order.

Chair Hinds stated that although the Board had not previously dealt with the question of Dr. Scolforo's position as Castleton President, they do understand the position recent events have put her in and therefore accept, with regret, her decision to resign. The Board truly appreciates all she has done during her tenure at Castleton and wishes her nothing but the best going forward.

4. Discussion and Potential Board Action regarding Interim Castleton President

Trustee Dickinson moved that the Vermont State Colleges System Board of Trustees accept the resignation of Castleton University President Karen Scolforo, effective May 31, 2020. Trustee Masland seconded. Trustee Pieciak thanked President Scolforo for her service and leadership. Chair Hinds reminded us of his words of thanks to President Scolforo at the April 29th meeting and reiterated them. Trustee Gogarty spoke for the Castleton University community saying they will miss the President and support her. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Trustee Dickinson read Resolution 2020-002 (see attached).

Trustee Dickinson moved that the Board adopt the Resolution as read, appointing Castleton Interim Provost and Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Jonathan Spiro, to serve as Interim President of the University, effective June 1, 2020, until a successor President can be selected. The Board believes Dean Spiro is the best person to lead the University when President Scolforo steps down. Trustee Pieciak seconded the motion for approval of Resolution 2020-002. The motion passed unanimously.

Chair Hinds and Interim Chancellor Zdatny welcomed Interim President Spiro and are both looking forward to working with him.

5. Discussion regarding Search for Longer-Term Interim Chancellor

Chair Hinds deferred this discussion until the Monday, May 11, 2020 meeting

6. Discussion regarding May 11, 2020 Board Meeting

The May 11, 2020 Board Meeting will be held via Zoom at 1:00 pm. Contact Jen Porrier for more information.

7. Public Comment

Chief Academic Officer Yasmine Ziesler shared the process for providing public comment. Janet Currie, Chair of the Planning Commission for the town of Castleton shared her belief that it is important that the town of Castleton and CU work together in the future and she intends to be involved in the VSC meetings going forward. Chair Hinde agreed and welcomed her involvement.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

A recording of the meeting can be found at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46kvBT0XYpI>

Chair Hinde adjourned the meeting at 9:15pm

Duration (minutes)

180

71

0

Board of Trust 934-3873-3739

Attendee Details

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Job Title
Sharron	Scott	Northern Vermont University	Dean of Administration
Karen	Scolforo	Castleton University	President
Cyndi	Miller	AFT Vermont	Field Rep/Organizer to the VSCS
Linda	Olson	Castleton University	VSC FF and professor
BETH	WALSH	Northern Vermont University	Director of Career Dev't/Chapter Chair
Jessica	Van Deren	Vermont Tech	Assistant Dean of Admissions
Dottie	Dearborn	Northern Vermont University	Financial Aid
Elaine	Harvey	NVU-Johnson	Director of Student Engagement and Persistence
Ellen	Hill	Northern Vermont University	Internship Coordinator
Chiara	Carmolli-Anderson	NVU Online	Academic Advisor
Lauren	Philie	Northern Vermont University	Director of Development and Alumni Relations
Linda	Davis	VSC	Accounts Payable
Keven	John	Northern Vermont University	Athletic Administrator, Volleyball Coach
Dannielle	Spring	Northern Vermont University	Director of Conference & Events
Deneen	Russell	NVU	Bursar
Susan	Rand	JSC Alumni	retired
Margo	Warden	Nvu	Director FYE
Carrie	Koniuto	Northern Vermont Univeristy	Campus Visit Coordinator
michele	feiner	NCU-J	Coordinator of Dis services
Chassidy	King	VSC OC	AP Associate
Leah	Hollenberger	Northern Vermont University	Development and External Relations
David	Pasiak	Northern Vermont University	Head Men's Basketball Coach & Sports Information Director
Tyler	McInnis	Alumni	NVU-L
Katarina	Lisaius	Office of Senator Sanders	Outreach Representative
Courtney	Widli	Castleton University	Director of Development
Andrew	Lafrenz	NVU Johnson	Coordinator of Sport Management Concentration and Head Women's Soccer Coach
Nathaniel	Ball	Vermont Tech	Assistant Director of Admissions
Emily	Wiezalis	Castleton University	Assistant Dean of Enrollment
Michael	Fox	Northern Vermont University	Dean of Enrollment & Marketing
Nolan	Atkins	Northern Vermont University	Provost
Veronica	Golden	Vermont Technical College	Cataloger, Hartness Library
Nolan	Atkins	NVU	Provost
Kim	Hannon-Brobst	VT TECH/CCV	Hartness Library Remote Services Corrdinator
Kelly Rue	Riso	Vermont Tech	Director of Human Resources
Rasul	Jackson	Northern Vermont University	Assistant Director of Admissions
Rebecca	Flieder	Basement Medicine	Editor in Chief
Cathy	Petrics	NA	HS Educator
Jason	Enser	Vermont Tech	Dean of Students Affairs
Kellie	Campbell	VTC	CTO
Megan	Karb	Castleton Alumni	On board
Steve	Cormier	WDEV	General Manager
Flo	Keyes	Castleton University	Full Professor
Janet	Currie	Town of Castleton	Chair -Planning Commission
Jonathan	Spiro	CU	Provost
Katrina	Meigs	Vermont State College System	HR
Andre	Fleche	Castleton University	Professor of History
Sandra	Noyes	NVU-J	Office Manager
Littleton	Tyler	VTC	Dean of Admin
Amy	Nixon	Caledonian-Record	Reporter
Curtis	Ostler	Vermont Tech	Associate Dean of Resource Development
Mike	Austin	Faculty	Part time faculty
Keith	Whitcomb	Rutland Herald	Reporter
Kate	Richards	Castleton University	Director of Design
Jonathan	Wolff	Primmer Piper Eggleston & Cr	Government Relations Specialist
Kevin	Valentine	Nvu	Staff
Joseph	Gresser	the Chronicle, Inc.	Reporter
Lori	Arner	CU	Registrar
Lola	Duffort	VTDigger	Reporter
Anne	Blake	Retired	Former Higher Ed Administrator
Catherine	Landers	VTC	fitness instructor
Laura	Gannon-Murakami	ccv	Faculty
Erin	Brown	WCAX-tv	News reporter
Michelle	Graham	Vermont Tech	Exec Asst to the President
Karen	Madden	NVU-J	Director
Andrea	Silva McManus	self employed	facutly
carrie	savage	Castleton University	Alumni Coordinator
Michael	Stevens	Northern Vermont University	Facilities Director
Dick	Patterson	Personal	none
Candy	Daniels	Hartness Library - VTC	Acquisitions Coordinator
Angela	Elderton	WCAX	Photographer
FRED	BAGLEY	Castleton University	community booster

VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION 2020-002

Appointment of Jonathan Spiro as Interim President of Castleton University

- WHEREAS, The Vermont State Colleges System (VSCS) Board of Trustees is responsible under 16 V.S.A. § 2174, and under Article 5, Section 1, of the VSCS By-Laws for the appointment of the VSCS presidents; and
- WHEREAS, President of Castleton University, Karen Scolforo, has announced her intention to step down, effective May 31, 2020; and
- WHEREAS, The Board intends to search for a successor president over the coming months; and
- WHEREAS, President Scolforo and the Chair of the Board recommend that the vacancy created by President Scolforo's departure be filled by Castleton Interim Provost and Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, Jonathan Spiro; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That Jonathan Spiro be appointed as Interim President of Castleton University, with all the associated authority and responsibility of the office of President, effective June 1, 2020, and will serve until the Board appoints a successor.

Approved: May 6, 2020

J. Churchill Hinds, Chair of the Board of Trustees