

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee informational meeting held Monday February 3, 2020 at the Office of the Chancellor, Montpelier, VT - APPROVED

The VSCS Board of Trustees Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee met on Monday, February 3, 2020 at the Office of the Chancellor, Montpelier, Vermont.

Committee Members present: Jim Masland (Chair), Megan Cluver, Peg Flory

Absent: Janette Bombardier, Izzy Gogarty, Karen Luneau

Other Trustees Present: Lynn Dickinson, Linda Milne

Presidents: Elaine Collins, Joyce Judy, Karen Scolforo

Chancellor's Office Staff: Jeb Spaulding, Chancellor
 Todd Daloz, Associate General Counsel
 Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
 Meg Walz, Program Manager, Library Coordinator
 Sophie Zdatny, General Counsel
 Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer (via phone)

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, Northern Vermont University
 Sam Boss, Director of Libraries, Northern Vermont University
 Jonathan Davis, Dean of Students, Northern Vermont University
 Ana Gaillat, Academic Dean, Vermont Technical College
 Eileen Gatti, Assistant Director of Hart, Community College of Vermont
 Kate Gold, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University
 Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Castleton University
 Maurice Ouimet, Dean of Enrollment, Castleton University
 Jonathan Spiro, Interim Provost, Castleton University

1. Call to Order

As there was not a quorum for this meeting, Chair Masland called an informational session to order at 12:35 p.m.

2. Approval of December 12, 2019 Meeting Minutes

This motion was deferred to the June 1, 2020 meeting due to a lack of quorum.

3. VSCS Open Educational Resources Task Force Presentation

Assistant Director of the Hartness Library serving CCV and VTC, Eileen Gatti and NVU Director of Libraries, Sam Boss gave a presentation on Open Education Resources (OER). OER is a response to the rapidly rising costs of education which includes rising textbook costs as well as other course materials. OER is a response to these high costs affecting students. OER encompasses teaching, learning and research materials that reside in the public domain with no-cost access. Individual VSCS Institutions have been launching OER cost-reduction initiatives: NVU's Center for Teaching and Learning is collaborating on this work; CCV is initiating some cost-reduction efforts as part of their strategic plan; VTC is piloting an OER course development program; and Libraries across the VSCS are advocating for OER while supporting faculty with textbook alternatives. The members of the Committee discussed different approaches currently being used and discussed within the VSCS, along with other possible alternative options, and broadly voiced their support for this initiative. Board members present expressed an interest in hearing an update on this work in six months, including potential recommendations for Board action to further support these efforts.

4. Discussion of Flexible and Faster Completion Options for Students

VTC Academic Dean Anna Gaillat and NVU Provost Nolan Atkins guided a discussion on Securing the Future: Flexible and Faster Completion Options for Students. Options include alternative modalities and pathways to degrees for students with different needs. Various strategies to address cost and time challenges include embedding dual enrollment and early college credits in degree pathways, opportunities to "bundle" or "stack" credentials, "earn while you learn" programs, compression models, and year-round course delivery.

5. Classroom Recording Policy

Associate General Counsel Todd Daloz shared that discussion of a classroom recording policy is in the draft phase. Faculty members currently record classes for different reasons and in order to ensure FERPA compliance, the VSCS anticipates having a policy in near-final form at the next EPSL meeting on June 1, 2020. The presidents expressed an interest in ensuring the policy also addressed students recording classes.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Comments from the public

There were no comments from the public.

Chair Masland adjourned the informational meeting at 2:01 p.m.