

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Long Range Planning Committee meeting held Monday, June 1, 2019, at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom – APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Long Range Planning Committee conducted a meeting Monday, June 1, 2019, via Zoom

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

Other Trustees Present: Ryan Cooney, Churchill Hindes, Jim Masland, Peg Flory, Linda Milne, David Silverman

Presidents: Elaine Collins, Joyce Judy, Pat Moulton, Jonathan Spiro (Interim)

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

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, Northern Vermont University
Sarah Chambers, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Castleton University
Michael Fox, Dean of Enrollment & Marketing, Northern Vermont University
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Ofc., Castleton University
Linda Olson, VP Education AFT-VT, Castleton University
Maurice Ouimet, Dean of Enrollment, Castleton University
Andy Pallito, Dean of Administration, Community College of Vermont
Sharron Scott, Dean of Administration, Northern Vermont University

Bethany Sprague, Office Manager, Castleton University
Michael Stevens, Director of Facilities, Northern Vermont University

Littleton Tyler, Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical
College
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

From the public: Lola Duffort, Reporter, VT Digger
Amy Nixon, Reporter, Caledonian Record

1. Chair Pieciak called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.
2. Approval of the minutes
 - a. October 21, 2019

Trustee Dickinson moved and Trustee Flory seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 21, 2019. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Secure the Future

- a. Overview by Chair on the background to the Secure the Future project

Chair Pieciak reviewed the Committee's work, starting in May 2019 with the *Secure the Future* project, followed by the release of the White Paper in August 2019. The White Paper identified six challenges facing the VSCS and the Committee solicited key stakeholder groups for ideas and recommendations over the summer and fall of 2019. At its October 2019 meeting, the Committee tasked the Presidents with reporting on their efforts on *Secure the Future* at the institution level to the LRPC Committee and the Board of Trustees.

- b. Presentation by Presidents with updates on actions that have been undertaken in response to *Secure the Future* and how each institution is continuing to plan and prepare for the future.

Northern Vermont University President Elaine Collins discussed an innovative model being developed to ensure the sustainability of NVU in the future. President Collins discussed NVU's new Advisory Committee: NVU Strong (<https://www.northernvermont.edu/about/support-northern-vermont-university/northern-vermont-university-strong>) comprised of students, faculty, staff and community members. The Advisory Committee will develop sustainable models, vet ideas and propose future models meeting the goals of the committee.

Vermont Technical College President Pat Moulton stated that Vermont Tech expects to end the year with a surplus which President Moulton credits to controlled expenses and solid enrollment. Vermont Tech is deactivating their BioDigester, resulting in a small number of layoffs. President Moulton discussed the possibility of establishing some permanent work from home positions reducing the overall footprint and need for office space on campus. Vermont Tech has created the Transformation Advisory Task Force, comprised of faculty, staff and students. It will be developing a transformation and implementation plan for a sustainable campus with return on investment and more student access through decentralized delivery and improving graduate satisfaction.

Castleton University Interim President Jonathan Spiro shared that CU froze spending in March. They will be archiving eight under-enrolled academic programs. CU is planning to partner with the town of Castleton and the city of Rutland to forge entrepreneurial partnerships. CU has created a taskforce to coordinate plans for a safe reopening of their campus. President Spiro views the current marketing challenge as one that can be met by marketing the actual state of Vermont and all it has to offer the students of the VSC, and that CU will continue to focus on what it does best, which is operate as a small New England University with small classes and individualized teaching.

Community College of Vermont President Joyce Judy shared that CCV's key asset is their strong relationships within the labor market and communities. Maintaining their crucial relationships with businesses keeps CCV responsive and agile. CCV has begun offering accelerated courses and flex courses and are expanding their apprenticeship programs, as well as expanding their offerings for adult learners and making courses more accessible.

4. Committee Discussion: System-wide Task Force

Chair Pieciak stated that this Task Force was approved by the Board of Trustees at their Special Board meeting earlier in the day. Interim Chancellor Sophie Zdatny then discussed the creation of the system-wide task force, which is charged with developing plans and advising the Chancellor's Office and Board of Trustees on how to move the organization forward to ensure quality, financial viability, and access to programs for students across Vermont. The 15-member task force, called *VSCS Forward*, is comprised of diverse and highly skilled individuals from across the VSC. Each college and full-time bargaining unit was asked to select participants. An outside professional facilitator will be hired to lead the group discussion and support the team's work.

5. Other Business

Chair Pieciak noted that the next Committee meeting is not scheduled until October 26th but that the Committee might like to have an additional meeting prior to that. Dates will be solicited for an additional meeting.

6. Comments from the public

There were no comments.

Chair Pieciak adjourned the meeting at 5:00 p.m.