

VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION No. 2020-014

Establishing a System-Wide Budget

- WHEREAS, The Vermont State College System is facing deficits in excess of \$30,000,000 for FY2021; and
- WHEREAS, The State of Vermont, the United States, and the World are facing an unprecedented pandemic; and
- WHEREAS, The current budget model and approach emphasizes autonomy of institutional budgetary performance over the performance of the Vermont State Colleges System as a whole; and
- WHEREAS, The current budget model includes few opportunities for oversight by the Chancellor; and
- WHEREAS, The Joint Fiscal Office engaged Jim Page, former Chancellor of the University of Maine System, as an external consultant, to conduct an external review of the Vermont State Colleges; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Page's final report to JFO recommended creation of a System-wide budget model for the Vermont State Colleges System; and
- WHEREAS, A System-wide budgeting model offers the following key benefits 1) Allows VSCS institutions struggling to achieve a critical mass of human and capital resources to address the short-term and long-term issues related to the budget; and, 2) Enables multi-year comprehensive strategic planning and resource allocation; and 3) Allows the Board to exercise its full set of fiscal and audit responsibilities; and, 4) enables the System to meet the state-wide needs of Vermont.
- WHEREAS, The following policies govern the creation, management, and administration of the System-wide budget: Policy 403: *System Annual Operating Budget*, Policy 407: *Responsibility for Deficits Incurred after June 30, 1979*, and Policy 429: *Policy on Contracting for Goods and Services*; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees believes that a System-wide budget model is vital the short and long term success of the VSCS; and
- WHEREAS, Policy adjustments are necessary to support the creation, management, and administration of a System-wide budget; therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the VSC Board of Trustees directs the Chancellor to develop a System-wide budget model in cooperation and collaboration with the Council of Presidents; and be it further
- RESOLVED, That each President is responsible for executing the budget as approved by the Board as required by Policy 407: *Responsibility for Deficits Incurred after June 30, 1979*; and be it further

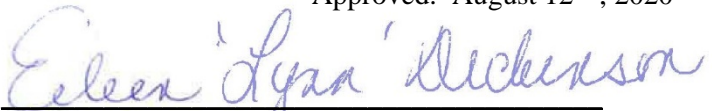
RESOLVED, That Policy 403: *System Annual Operating Budget* shall be amended as follows:
1) State Appropriation Formula shall be waived for all extraordinary funding such as transitional, bridge or CRF funding; and,
2) The Chancellor shall review and approve all changes to tuition programs for an institution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Policy 429: *Policy on Contracting for Goods and Services* shall be amended to require review and approval by the Chancellor for all purchases anticipated to be greater than or equal to \$100,000 per total transaction; or, with a term greater than twelve months; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Policy 403: *System Annual Operating Budget* and Policy 407: *Responsibility for Deficits Incurred after June 30, 1979* shall be suspended for the creation of the FY2022 budget; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Chancellor is directed to redraft Policy 403: *System Annual Operating Budget* and Policy 407: *Responsibility for Deficits Incurred after June 30, 1979*, with a draft supplied to the Board of Trustees on or before the final FY2022 budget is submitted for approval.

Approved: August 12 , 2020


Eileen "Lynn" Dickinson
Eileen "Lynn" Dickinson, Chair of the Board of Trustees