

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Friday, October 16, 2020, at 1:00pm  
via ZOOM – APPROVED**

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Friday, October 16, 2020, via ZOOM.

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson (Chair), Janette Bombardier, Megan Cluver, Ryan Cooney, Dylan Giambatista, Adam Grinold, Bill Lippert, Karen Luneau, Jim Masland, Linda Milne, Mary Moran, Mike Pieciak, David Silverman, Sean Tester

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

Chancellor's Office Staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst  
Kevin Conroy, Chief Information Officer  
Renee Hunt, Controller (incoming)  
Katherine Levasseur, Director of External and Governmental Affairs  
Katrina Meigs, System Director of HR and Benefits Administration  
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director  
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operations Officer  
Patty Turley, General Counsel  
Meg Walz, Director, Program Manager  
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor  
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, Northern Vermont University  
Emmett Avery, Student Reporter, Northern Vermont University  
Solil Devyn Borthwick, Student Reporter, Northern Vermont University  
Amy Bremel, Coordinator of Advocacy, Activism & Non-Violence Education, Castleton University  
Sarah Chambers, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Castleton University  
Mike Fox, Dean of Enrollment & Marketing, Northern Vermont University  
Gillian Galle, Associate Academic Dean, Castleton University  
Leah Hollenberger, University Development & External Relations Officer, Northern Vermont University  
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Castleton University  
Karen Madden, Director of Academic Support Services, Northern Vermont University  
Elizabeth Lehr, Faculty, Community College of Vermont

Kathleen Mason, Coordinator of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion,  
Vermont Technical College

Tom Mauhs-Pugh, Provost, Castleton University

Hannah Miller, Faculty, Northern Vermont University

Linda Olson, VP Education AFT-VT, Castleton University

Andy Pallito, Dean of Administration, Community College of  
Vermont

Patricia Shine, Faculty, Northern Vermont University

Miles Smith, Assistant Director Athletics, Northern Vermont  
University

Toby Stewart, Dean of Administration, Northern Vermont  
University

Littleton Tyler, Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical  
College

Jamey Ventura, Associate Dean of Athletics, Northern Vermont  
University

Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

From the Public: Church Hindes, former Trustee

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
2. Introduction of Trustee Moran and Trustee Tester

Chair Dickinson introduced the newest trustees on the Board; Mary Moran from Rutland and Shawn Tester from Lyndonville. Chair Dickinson then invited all attendees on zoom to introduce themselves to the new trustees.

3. Introduction of Katherine Levasseur, Director of External and Governmental Affairs

Chancellor Zdatny introduced Katherine Levasseur. In her new role as Director of External and Governmental Affairs she will be building public support for and raising the profile of Vermont State Colleges, developing partnerships and alliances to support the VSC, liaising with state and federal elected officials, and leading VSC's communications strategy.

4. Resolution for Former Chair and Trustee J. Churchill Hindes

Chair Dickinson read Resolution 2020-019 honoring the service of J Churchill Hindes.

**Chair Dickinson moved and Trustee Milne seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2020-019, Resolution Honoring the Service of J Churchill Hindes. The Resolution was approved unanimously.**

Trustees Milne, Pieciak, Lippert and Luneau offered words of gratitude and congratulations to Church Hindes for his years of service. Chancellor Zdatny thanked him for his work in assisting with the transition of the Chancellorship and for his good works.

5. Approval of Minutes
  - a. September 28, 2020
  - b. September 19, 2020

**Trustee Lippert moved and Trustee Cooney seconded the approval of the September 28, 2020 and September 19, 2020 minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.**

6. Discussion of and adoption of priorities of VSCS

Chancellor Zdatny reminded the Board of the exercise from the September 19<sup>th</sup> Board meeting, where priorities were identified in three different categories: Accessibility, Affordability and Cost Effectiveness, and Quality and Relevance of Academic Programs. Following that Board meeting a draft was sent to the Trustees for their consideration. Further refinement led to the document now in the Board packet for approval today.

**Trustee Cluver moved the Board adopt the Strategic Priorities as set forth in the meeting materials at p. 15-16, and direct the Chancellor, following consultation with the Presidents, to recommend which strategic initiatives be addressed first. She further moved that the recommendation be presented to the Long Range Planning Committee of the Board at its upcoming meeting on October 29, 2020, for its review and approval, prior to presentation to the full Board at its November 16, 2020 meeting. Trustee Cooney seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.**

7. Update on Four Charges stemming from the work of VSCS Forward Task Force

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Yasmine Ziesler gave a brief update on the recommendations to develop a single general education program core and single framework for online course access. She also gave an introduction to the combined report from Castleton University and Northern Vermont University on Academic Programs, which was a response to the charge to address low enrolled and duplicate programs. Recommendations included a process for NVU and CU faculty to jointly generate proposals to increase cost efficiency, program quality and student access as well as to identify obstacles to collaboration.

**Trustee Cluver moved that the Board direct the presidents of Castleton University and Northern Vermont University:**

**1. to report their plans for immediate action to address low-enrolled programs already identified by Policy 109 to EPSL at its October 29<sup>th</sup> meeting; and**

**2. to provide an update to EPSL at its February 1, 2021 meeting on a joint plan of action to address duplicate programs or program clusters, as informed by the recommendations contained in the Castleton-NVU Academic Programs Group's report, as well as the first draft report from NCHEMS to the Legislative Select Committee, which is expected in early December. Trustee Bombardier seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.**

Vermont Technical College President Pat Moulton discussed the ongoing work on co-locating and the discussions occurring between CCV and VTC surrounding a potential expansion in St. Albans and the possibility of the Hartness Library becoming the single virtual library for the System. Additional discussions are occurring around certificates and pathways from CCV to VTC and creating additional opportunities to enable direct progression, possibly in Allied Health

and Engineering. A final area of discussion is the business operations, or back office, and sharing of best practices between CCV and VTC.

#### 8. Update from the Chancellor

Chancellor Zdatny reminded the Board that the Governor signed the budget and VSC received bridge funding for FY2021. The Chancellor then discussed the \$2.3 million in CRF received by the VSC to provide programs for Vermonters adversely affected by the coronavirus to upskill or reskill. The Governor mentioned the initiative at his press conference earlier in the day and the VSC issued a press release. Programs will be offered at all four colleges to people who have been impacted by the virus: both credit and non-credit bearing courses. The funding also provides for wrap around services for technology, childcare, housing, etc. This program was only launched the previous day but there has been considerable interest already. Finally, Chancellor Zdatny discussed the spring plans for the institutions. The Administration has issued updated mandatory guidance on Safe and Healthy Return to Campus, which is included in the Board materials. NVU President Collins shared an upcoming mini-break for students to address student fatigue and VTC President Moulton provided an update on Vermont Tech's plans for a safe spring break in the coming semester.

The Board took a ten minute break.

#### 9. Presentation by VSC Social Justice on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives across the VSCS

Chancellor Zdatny introduced the VSC Social Justice group, comprised of representatives from each of the colleges. Professor Patricia Shine of NVU-Lyndon provided an introduction followed by presentations from Kathleen Mason (VTC), Elizabeth Lehr (CCV), Hannah Miller (NVU-Johnson) Linda Olson (Castleton) and concluding with Miles Smith (NVU-Johnson).

#### 10. Additional Business

Chair Dickinson shared that she would be resigning from the Audit committee and requested that the Board elect Shawn Tester to serve on the that committee in her stead.

**Trustee Lippert moved and Trustee Masland seconded a motion to elect Trustee Tester to the Audit Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### 11. Comments from the Public

Beth Walsh shared that the Career consortium is looking for a robust list of employers for new interns and staff. She went on to share some thoughts with the Board on low enrolled programs, residency of students and online learning.

Executive Session:

**At 4:31 p.m. Trustee Cluver moved that the VSC Board of Trustees enter executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss the evaluation of employees. The motion stated that no formal or binding action would be taken in the executive session. Along with the members of the Board present at the meeting, the Board invited the Chancellor to attend. Trustee Moran seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

The Board exited Executive session at 5:06 p.m.

**Trustee Cluver moved that, upon the recommendation of the Chancellor, Elaine Collins, President, Northern Vermont University; Jonathan Spiro, Interim President, Castleton University; Patricia Moulton, President, Vermont Technical College; and Joyce Judy, President, Community College of Vermont each be reappointed for a term through to June 30, 2022, subject to and in accordance with the terms of letters of reappointment, to be signed by the Chancellor. Based on each president's performance during the past year, the Chancellor's evaluation of each president, and for the reasons discussed during the executive session, the Board believes each president remains the best candidate to lead her or his Institution. Trustee Masland seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.**

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 5:08 p.m.