

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee informational meeting held Thursday October 29, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom - UNAPPROVED**

*Note: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at the subsequent meeting.*

The VSCS Board of Trustees Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee met on Thursday, October 29, 2020 via Zoom.

Committee Members present: Jim Masland (Chair) 9:42 a.m., Janette Bombardier, Karen Luneau (Vice Chair), Megan Cluver, Ryan Cooney, Dylan Giambatista, Mary Moran

Other Trustees Present: Lynn Dickinson (9:59 a.m.)

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

Chancellor's Office Staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst  
Kevin Conroy, Chief Information Office  
Katherine Levasseur, Director of Governmental & External Relations  
Katrina Meigs, System Director of HR and Benefits  
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director  
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operating Officer  
Patty Turley, General Counsel  
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor  
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, Northern Vermont University  
Sarah Chambers, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Castleton University  
John Diebold, Faculty, Vermont Technical College  
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Castleton University  
Karen Madden, Director of Academic Support Services, Northern Vermont University  
Helen Mango, Faculty, Castleton University  
Tom Mauhs-Pugh, Provost, Castleton University  
David McGough, Faculty, Northern Vermont University  
Sandra Noyes, President, VSC Staff Federation, Northern Vermont University  
Linda Olson, VP Education AFT-VT, Castleton University

Maurice Ouimet, Dean of Enrollment, Castleton University  
Philip Parisi, Faculty, Northern Vermont University  
Tyrone Shaw, Faculty, Northern Vermont University  
Toby Stewart, Dean of Administration, Northern Vermont  
University  
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont  
University

From the Public: Cyndi Miller, American Federation of Teachers, Vermont

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Luneau called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

2. Approval of June 1, 2020 Meeting Minutes

**Trustee Bombardier moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the approval of the June 1, 2020 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.**

3. Report on Policy 101 “PreCIP” program reviews; status updates for 2020 and status update for 2020 and approval of 2021 Review Cycle Plans

Chief Academic Officer Dr. Yasmine Ziesler gave a brief overview of the 2020 cycle of the “PreCIP” process. Given the pandemic, only a limited number of programs have completed reports for this year. These will be reviewed and the results shared with EPSL at its next meeting. Dr. Ziesler shared the selected programs recommended for review in the 2021 Review Cycle. These recommendations came from the Chief Academic Officers Group as designees of COP.

**Trustee Masland moved and Trustee Bombardier seconded the motion to approve the 2021 Review Cycle Plans. The motion was approved unanimously.**

4. Approval of revisions to Policy 208 Criminal Background Checks

General Counsel Patty Turley gave a review of the revisions to Policy 208. The current policy of the VSC requires all new employees to undergo fingerprint supported background checks, which is a lengthy process with significant delays. The proposed changes allow the system to use other background check options, including online services. These changes provide greater flexibility and the receipt of more timely results. The policy revisions create flexibility while still maintaining protections.

**Trustee Luneau moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the motion to recommend to the Board the approval of the revisions to Policy 208 Criminal Background Checks. The motion was approved unanimously.**

5. Report of plans to address low-enrolled programs at Northern Vermont University and Castleton

Dr. Ziesler reminded the Committee that, at its October 16, 2020 meeting, the Board charged the Presidents of Castleton University and Northern Vermont University to present their first step recommendations on Policy 109 low-enrolled programs; these are defined as programs with fewer than 5 graduates in a year or fewer than 25 enrolled students. The recommendations are preliminary pending consultation with Faculty Assemblies per the collective bargaining agreement. Dr. Ziesler further shared that while there would be some cost savings, these would primarily be due to reductions in course sections offered. Castleton University Provost Tom Mauhs-Pugh discussed the programs from CU with the proposed actions of “teach out and close.” Northern Vermont University Provost Nolan Atkins discussed programs at NVU proposed for three different actions: teach-out and close, transition to the new Digital Communication program, and programs proposed for collaborations and exploration with CU.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Comments from the public

Linda Olson shared her concern regarding the reduction of low enrolled programs and the effects on faculty. Ms. Olson specifically mentioned her concern regarding the minor in Women’s and Gender Studies as it provides a home to students that don’t always find a home elsewhere in the curriculum.

Chair Masland adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.