

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Monday, December 7, 2020, at 1:00pm via ZOOM – APPROVED**

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Monday, December 7, 2020, via ZOOM.

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson (Chair), Janette Bombardier, Megan Cluver, Ryan Cooney, Dylan Giambatista, Adam Grinold (1:25 p.m.), Bill Lippert, Karen Luneau, Jim Masland (1:20 p.m.), Linda Milne, Mary Moran, Mike Pieciak, David Silverman, Shawn 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  
Katherine Levasseur, Director of External and Governmental Affairs  
Katrina Meigs, System Director of HR and Benefits Administration  
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director  
Kathryn Santiago, Assistant General Counsel  
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: Carl Brandon, Faculty, Vermont Technical College  
Sarah Chambers, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Castleton University  
Erica Dana, Academic Scheduler, Vermont Technical College  
Robin Goodall, Coordinator of Disability Services, Vermont Technical College  
Joan Richmond-Hall, Faculty, Vermont Technical College  
Maureen Hebert  
Leslie Hills, Faculty, Vermont Technical College  
Gisele Hodgdon, Director of Business Operations, Community College of Vermont  
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Castleton University  
John Kidder, Faculty, Vermont Technical College  
Karen Madden, Director of Academic Support Services, Northern Vermont University  
Kathleen Mason, Coordinator of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Vermont Technical College

Tom Mauhs-Pugh, Provost, Castleton University  
Sandra Noyes, President, VSC Staff Federation, Northern Vermont University  
Linda Olson, VP Education AFT-VT, Castleton University  
Andy Pallito, Dean of Administration, Community College of Vermont  
Michelle Sama, Faculty, Vermont Technical College  
Toby Stewart, Dean of Administration, Northern Vermont University  
Littleton Tyler, Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical College  
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University  
Carrie Wright, Continuing Ed & Workforce Development, Vermont Technical College

From the Public:

Barbara Brittingham, President, NECHE (ret)  
Shirley Jefferson, Esq., Vermont Law School  
James Page, Chancellor, University of Maine (ret)  
Lola Duffort, Reporter, VT Digger

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm.
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. November 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

**Trustee Lippert moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to approve the minutes from November 16, 2020. The motion was approved with one abstention.**

3. Presentation by Shirley Jefferson, Esq., Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity at Vermont Law School, on addressing the challenges faced by students of color in higher education in Vermont

Chancellor Zdatny introduced Dean Jefferson who currently serves as the Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Diversity at Vermont Law School. Dean Jefferson discussed ways that the member institutions of the Vermont State Colleges System can be more welcoming of students of color.

4. Presentation by Dr. Barbara Brittingham and Dr. James Page on accreditation

Chancellor Zdatny introduced Dr. Barbara Brittingham, former President of the New England Commission of Higher Education, and Dr. James Page, former Chancellor of the University of Maine System. Dr. Brittingham and Dr. Page gave a presentation on accreditation generally, the process for requesting a substantive change, and some of the benefits and challenges of bringing

multiple institutions together under a single accreditation. The at presentation PowerPoint can be found [here](#) on page 44.

#### 5. Chancellor's Update

Chancellor Zdatny reminded the Board that VSCS is seeking \$45 million in bridge funding in FY2022, in addition to base appropriation of approximately \$30 million. VSCS has also requested \$22 million in the capital bill. These are significant requests that reflect the system's need based upon the projected deficit of \$42-\$47 million for FY22 and over \$100 million of deferred maintenance. Chancellor Zdatny further shared that the Legislative Select Committee's initial report was released on December 4<sup>th</sup> and two subsequent reports are due in mid-February and mid-April. The report emphasizes that transformative change is necessary and highlights the need for additional investment from the state. The initial report can be found [here](#).

#### 6. Review and approval of resolution on tuition and fees for FY22

Trustee Silverman shared that the Finance and Facilities Committee met earlier in the day and heard a summary of the capital appropriation proposal and a draft first pass system-wide budget proposal for FY2022. Additionally, the Committee is recommending to the Board a tuition freeze for AY2021-2022. This recommendation allows for an increase in room and board fees of 3%. Trustee Cooney stated his support for the tuition freeze but his opposition to the increase in room and board fees.

**Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Moran seconded to motion to approve Resolution 2020-021 Tuition Freeze. The motion was approved with thirteen ayes and one nay.**

#### 7. Presidents' strategies for implementing the Boards strategic priorities

Chancellor Zdatny reminded the Board that at its October 16, 2020 meeting the Board adopted and defined four Strategic Priorities: Affordability, Accessibility, Quality of Academic Programs, and Relevance of Programs. At its November meeting, the Board approved the Chancellor's recommendations for Strategic Actions in this Academic Year. Based on the Board's strategic priorities and the Chancellor's recommended strategic focus for this academic year, the Presidents have identified college-specific strategies and benchmarks, which can be found in the [packet](#) starting on page 66.

#### 8. Election of Trustee Giambatista and Trustee Moran to the Audit Committee

Chair Dickinson reviewed the new assignments for Committees including Trustee Cluver as Chair of EPSL and Trustee Grinold as Vice Chair of Finance & Facilities, as well as members of the Investment Sub-Committee.

**Trustee Lippert moved and Trustee Silverman seconded the motion to elect Trustee Giambatista and Trustee Moran to the Audit Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### 9. Additional Business

Trustee Lippert wished to recognize the extraordinary gift made to NVU. President Collins shared that it was a \$3.5 million gift made by Carhartt CEO and Chairman Mark Valade and his

wife Molly. This gift will make a transformational change to NVU. The entire VSCS community is extremely grateful.

10. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.