

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Long Range Planning Committee meeting held Friday, January 8, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom – UNAPPROVED

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

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Long Range Planning Committee conducted a meeting Friday, January 8, 2021, via Zoom

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

Absent: Bill Lippert

Other Trustees Present: Ryan Cooney, Linda Milne, Mary Moran, David Silverman

Presidents: Elaine Collins, Joyce Judy, Pat Moulton, Jonathan Spiro

Chancellor's Office Staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Kevin Conroy, Chief Information Officer
Katherine Levasseur, Director of Governmental & External Affairs
Katrina Meigs, System Director of HR and Benefits
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Kathryn Santiago, Assistant General Counsel
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial and Operating Officer
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management
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
Ana Gaillat, Dean of Academic Affairs, Vermont Technical College
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Ofc., Castleton University
Tom Mauhs-Pugh, Provost, Castleton University

Toby Stewart, Dean of Administration, Northern Vermont
University
Littleton Tyler, Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical
College

From the public: Martha Molnar, community member, Castleton

1. Chair Pieciak called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Chancellor Zdatny shared the process for public comment during this meeting, which will occur mid meeting.

2. Approval of the October 29, 2020 minutes

Trustee Grinold moved and Trustee Giambatista seconded the motion to approve the meeting minutes from October 29, 2020. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Chancellor's Presentation on:
 - a. Select Committee's Initial Report;
 - b. System transformation recommendation; and
 - c. Proposed next steps

Chancellor Zdatny presented the *VSCS Structural Transformation: Preliminary Analysis of Recommendation* to the Committee, which can be found on page 98 of the materials. The Chancellor shared the three key recommendations from the legislative Select Committee's Initial Report: restructuring, coordination of administrative service operations, and strategic funding of the VSCS system. Chancellor Zdatny then shared the vision for the proposed model, followed by a discussion of opportunities and risks, costs, savings and necessary criteria for success. The Chancellor concluded by recommending that the Committee approve that the Chancellor, in consultation with the Presidents, continue to explore the viability of the model proposed by the Select Committee. The proposed model would be comprised of two institutions – CCV, as a separate institution, and a common accreditation for CU, NVU and VTC. The Chancellor believes this could achieve the stated objective but recognizes this will be a significant undertaking and, in order to be successful, all of the necessary criteria for success will need to be met. The Legislative Select Committee will release its second report on February 12th and on February 22nd the Board will discuss that report.

4. Comments from the Public

Martha Molnar of Castleton shared her thoughts on the proposed transformation and merging of Castleton University with other VSCS institutions. She expressed her concerns for the loss of Castleton's brand and "waste of tax dollars." She asked for the preservation of Castleton University as a whole.

5. Discussion of Select Committee's Initial Report and review/approval of system transformation recommendation

A robust discussion ensued amongst Trustees, Presidents, and administrators surrounding the transformation recommendation. Savings, branding, speed of action, cost of action versus inaction and sustainability were all discussed at length.

Trustee Luneau moved and Trustee Dickinson seconded the motion to recommend to the Board the advancement of the Chancellor's recommendation to explore and address the project planning questions regarding transformation. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Scheduling an additional LRPC meeting

Chancellor Zdatny reminded the Committee that today's meeting was initially scheduled for February 1st and the next regularly scheduled meeting isn't until May 24th. Therefore, the proposal was made to the Committee to add a meeting in March. It was agreed that a date in mid-March would be explored for availability.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

Chair Pieciak adjourned the meeting at 3:48 p.m.