

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Friday, January 15, 2021, at 1:00pm
via ZOOM – APPROVED**

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Friday, January 15, 2021, via ZOOM.

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson (Chair), Megan Cluver, Ryan Cooney, Dylan Giambatista, Adam Grinold, Bill Lippert, Karen Luneau, Jim Masland (1:35 p.m.), Linda Milne, Mary Moran, Mike Pieciak, David Silverman, Shawn Tester

Absent: Janette Bombardier

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

Chancellor's Office Staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Doug Eastman, Director of Information Technology
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: Kellie Campbell, Chief Technology Officer, Vermont Technical College
Sarah Chambers, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Castleton University
Michele Feiner, Coordinator of Disability Services, Northern Vermont University
Michael Fox, Dean of Enrollment and Marketing, Northern Vermont University
Ana Gaillat, Dean of Academic Affairs, Vermont Technical College
Maureen Hebert, Associate Dean of Industrial Relations & Workforce Development, Vermont Technical College
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Castleton University
Tom Mauhs-Pugh, Provost, Castleton University
Toby Stewart, Dean of Administration, Northern Vermont University
Littleton Tyler, Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical College

Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm.

Chancellor Zdatny shared the process for providing public comment at the meeting. The Chancellor then introduced Vermont Technical College Chief Technology Officer Kellie Campbell and Director of Information Technology Doug Eastman. Ms. Campbell and Mr. Eastman are working closely with IT Council and IT employees to ensure a smooth transition, following the recent resignation of Chief Information Officer Kevin Conroy.

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. December 7, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

Trustee Moran moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve the minutes from December 7, 2020. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Report from Executive Committee

- a. Review/approve changes to Board Bylaws
- b. Review/approve changes to Trustee Handbook

General Counsel Patty Turley provided an overview of the proposed amendments to the Bylaws and Handbook and answered the trustees' questions.

Trustee Lippert moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to amend the language in the EPSL Committee charter on Areas of Responsibility, #6, to read "Support and assess VSCS goals to achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion among its personnel and students." The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Lippert moved and Trustee Silverman seconded the motion to amend the Nominating Committee charter to reflect that the Chair of the Nominating Committee be appointed by the Chair of the Board. The motion was passed unanimously.

Trustee Grinold moved and Trustee Tester seconded the motion to accept the changes to the Bylaws and Handbook, with the exception of the amendments noted above. The motion was approved previously.

Further discussion ensued regarding the newly amended Bylaws, specifically the inclusion of term limits for Board-appointed Trustees. Trustee Lippert expressed concern that while term limits can be a good thing, consideration should be given to the importance of continuity and retaining knowledge and perspective on the Board given the work ahead. He recommended that this provision be deleted from the Bylaws and that the question of term limits be revisited in the future.

Trustee Lippert moved and Trustee Grinold seconded the motion to strike the sentence in Article I, Section 3 of the Board Bylaws referencing term limits. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Discuss/approve resolution on creation of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee of the Board

Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Cooney seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2021-002: Creation of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee. The was motion was approved unanimously.

5. Discuss/approve resolution regarding Board's role regarding collective bargaining agreements

Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2021-001: Board ratification of collective bargaining agreements. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Grinold asked about the Board's past practice with respect to contract negotiations and Trustee Milne noted that, historically, the Board did have input into the collective bargaining process.

6. Report from Education, Personnel and Student Life Committee

Trustee Cluver reviewed the items covered at the January 9th Committee meeting. This includes the EPSL Committee Plan, which outlines the five areas of focus for the upcoming year: Academic Program Array, Transferability, Workforce Education, Student Success and Retention and Partnership with Vermont PK-16 education, Technical Education and Adult Basic Education. EPSL will begin to identify an initial set of metrics to assist in tracking progress in these five areas. EPSL has added a meeting in April to share presentations from students on student success. EPSL heard from the Provosts of Castleton University and Northern Vermont University regarding collaborative discussions that are underway among faculty in duplicate program areas. Some programs will undergo teachout and closure, while others will see curriculum revisions. Trustee Cluver shared that a letter of appreciation was sent to the faculty at Castleton and Northern Vermont University, on behalf of the Committee, thanking them for their hard work. Chief Academic Officer Dr. Yasmine Ziesler shared that the letters were well received.

7. Report from the Long Range Planning Committee
 - a. Review/approve Chancellor's recommendation in *VSCS Structural Transformation: Preliminary Analysis* to move forward with exploring project planning questions

Trustee Pieciak provided a report from the January 8th LRPC Committee meeting at which the Legislative Selective Committee's Initial Report was discussed, along with Chancellor Zdatny's recommendation to continue exploring the viability of the structural model and administrative consolidations proposed by the Select Committee Chair Dickinson proposed inviting representatives from NCHEMS (the external consultant to the Legislative Select Committee) to give a presentation to the Trustees at a future Board meeting. This suggestion was well received.

Trustee Pieciak moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to advance the Chancellor's recommendation to explore and address the project planning questions regarding transformation. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Report from the Presidents

Community College of Vermont President Joyce Judy shared that CCV classes start on January 25th and enrollment is currently at 101%. CCV continues to offer courses in five different modalities. The synchronous and online courses are currently the most popular. CCV employs full COVID-19 protocol for those students, faculty and staff that do come on campus in person.

Castleton University President Jonathan Spiro shared that while CU provided instruction entirely online last semester, this semester faculty were offered their choice of modality for instruction. This resulted in a mix of half of the courses being taught online synchronously, a handful online asynchronously and a third face to face. Spring semester will be starting slightly later than usual this year, on February 1, to reduce the potential for a “COVID surge”. Enrollment is down slightly, but predictably. CU has strict COVID protocols in place, including a Spartan Pledge that all students sign, and prolific testing. While CU did not have athletic competitions in the fall, there will be spring sports competitions with strict testing and protocols in place and no overnight travel.

Northern Vermont University President Elaine Collins shared that NVU will be starting classes on February 1st but are welcoming athletes back today. Classes will continue to be taught using face to face, remote and hybrid modalities. All students will quarantine prior to arrival. Enrollment for spring semester is up 39%. President Collins proudly shared news of a national award the marketing team won for their virtual commencement in summer 2020.

Vermont Technical College President Pat Moulton began by expressing her gratitude for her faculty and staff for their hard work during these past difficult months. VTC hired a COVID Coordinator to assist with the complexity of tracking COVID compliance requirements, which has been very beneficial. VTC is starting classes on February 1st and will continue with their same mix of delivery models as the previous semester. They will continue to offer single occupancy rooms and have updated their testing protocols and frequency. Spring enrollment is down about 18% from last year, due in most part to the change in instruction modality. Vermont Technical College Dean of Administration Littleton Tyler discussed the VTC contract with the Vermont Department of Defense for an \$8 million budget to install additive manufacturing equipment, both for education of VTC students and in partnership with local businesses for manufacturing use.

9. Election of Trustees to the Nominating Committee and the Chair of the Nominating Committee

Chair Dickinson reminded the Board that the current existing members of the Nominating Committee are Trustee Lippert, Trustee Dickinson, Trustee Grinold and Trustee Bombardier. She called for nominations to the Committee for the new year.

Trustee Masland moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to nominate Trustees Dickinson, Trustee Lippert, Trustee Grinold and Trustee Bombardier to serve on the Nominating Committee for 2021. The motion was approved unanimously.

10. Additional Business

There was no additional business.

11. Comments from the Public

There were no comments from the public. Chancellor Zdatny noted that public comment can be submitted for consideration by the Trustees through the link at: www.vsc.edu/transformation. Additionally, the Board has scheduled a public listening session on February 17th at 6:00 p.m. Information will be forthcoming.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 3:10 p.m.