

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Monday, May 10, 2021, at 1:00 p.m.  
via ZOOM – APPROVED**

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Monday, May 10, 2021, via ZOOM.

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson (Chair), Janette Bombardier (1:22 p.m.), Megan Cluver, Ryan Cooney, Dylan Giambatista, Adam Grinold, Bill Lippert (2:18 p.m.), Karen Luneau, Jim Masland, Linda Milne, Mary Moran, David Silverman, Shawn Tester

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

Chancellor's Office Staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst  
Kellie Campbell, Chief Information Officer  
Katherine Levasseur, Director of External & Governmental Affairs  
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: Kim Crowe, Faculty, Vermont Technical College  
Michael Fox, Dean of Enrollment & Marketing, Northern Vermont University  
Ana Gaillat, Dean of Academic Affairs, Vermont Technical College  
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Castleton University  
Karen Madden, Director of Academic Support Services, Northern Vermont University  
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  
Toby Stewart, Dean of Administration, Northern Vermont University  
Littleton Tyler, Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical College  
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

From the Public: Regina Beidler, Organic Valley  
Louise Calderwood, Echo Hill Farm Maple Products

Ellen Kahler, Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund/VT Farm to Plate  
John Mills  
Jim Page, Former Chancellor, University of Maine System

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.
2. Approval of March 27, 2021 Minutes

**Trustee Grinold moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to approve the minutes from March 27, 2021. The motion was approved unanimously.**

3. Board Development: Presentation on VSCS Budget

Chief Financial and Operations Officer Sharron Scott shared a presentation on System-Wide Budgeting explaining the life cycle of the budget process. This presentation can be found [here](#) on pages 2-16.

4. Chair's report on Board's self-assessment

Chair Dickinson reported on the Board self-assessment and shared four areas for improvement. These included accountability, transparency, role clarity and succession plans for various roles including Board Chair, Chancellor and critical management positions. This work is currently underway or yet to begin.

5. Report from Audit Committee
  - a. Recommendation/vote on Resolution 2021-008: Acceptance of the FY2020 Uniform Guidance Single Audit Report

Trustee Milne shared that in October the Board accepted the Financial Statements at the October 2020 Audit Committee meeting, however completion of the Uniform Guidance Single Audit Report was delayed pending issuance of the compliance supplement issued by the Federal Government.

**Trustee Milne moved and Trustee Giambatista seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2021-008: Acceptance of the FY2020 Uniform Guidance Single Audit Report. The motion was approved unanimously.**

Chancellor Zdatny noted that an additional Audit Committee meeting will be added to the calendar once the BerryDunn report on the payroll audit is complete.

6. Report from the Finance & Facilities Committee
  - a. Recommendation/vote on Resolution 2021-009: USDA Authorized Signers
  - b. Recommendation/vote on Resolution 2021-010: Use of FY2020 Carryover Funds

**Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Milne seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2021-009: USDA Authorized Signers. The motion was approved unanimously.**

**Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2021-010: Use of FY2020 Carryover Funds. The motion was approved unanimously.**

## 7. Transformation Update

Chancellor Zdatny provided an update on the ongoing transformation work. The presentation can be found [here](#) on pages 17-37.

## 8. Legislative Update

Director of External and Governmental Affairs Katherine Levasseur provided an update on the 2021 Legislative session. In January, the Governor had recommended that the VSCS receive \$20 million in one-time funds, in addition to the \$30 million base appropriation. In March, the House recommended funding for the VSCS at levels consistent with the recommendations of the *Select Committee on the Future of Public Higher Education in Vermont*, plus \$20.5 million in Critical Occupations Scholarships, workforce development proposals, and free tuition programs for students. The Senate is in agreement with the House on the increase of \$5 million to the base appropriation, \$21 million in bridge funding, and \$20 million in transformation costs, but with some differences over the scholarships, workforce development and free tuition proposals. Additionally, H.315/Act 9 recently passed into law which provides funding for three VSCS programs: Vermont Tech's Practical Nursing Program, Workforce Development Initiative 2.0, and the Green Mountain Graduation Gift free courses to 2020 and 2021 Vermont high school graduates at any VSC institution.

## 9. Report from Vermont Tech's Agriculture Transformation Group

Vermont Technical College President Pat Moulton introduced Ellen Kahler, Regina Beidler and Louise Calderwood to present on Agriculture & Food System Education Transformation Project at the VT Tech Randolph Campus. President Moulton described this project as a reexamination of its low enrolled and expensive Agriculture program. This presentation can be found [here](#) on pages 38-66.

## 10. Executive Session

**At 3:27 p.m. Trustee Cluver moved that the VSCS Board of Trustees enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 (1)(F) for the purpose of receiving confidential attorney client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services because premature general public knowledge of these discussions would place the VSCS at a substantial disadvantage; and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2) to discuss negotiating or securing real estate purchase or lease options and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to consider the employment of a public employee. Along with the members of the Board present at the meeting, the Board invited the Chancellor, and General Counsel. Trustee Moran seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.**

The Board exited executive session at 4:44 p.m. and no action was taken.

## 11. Additional Business

There was no additional business.

## 12. Comments from the Public

Beth Walsh asked for clarity on the Chancellor's use of the term "academic spaces" with respect to upcoming cleaning of ductwork in her Transformation presentation and wondered if that was referring to spaces where faculty spent time. CFOO Scott responded that the Coronavirus relief funds will first be allocated to cleaning ductwork and improving airflow in spaces where there are large gatherings of students, like classroom buildings. Any remaining funds will then be used for administrative spaces.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 4:46 p.m.