

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting held Thursday, November 5, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom - APPROVED**

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Executive Committee met on Thursday, November 5, 2020 via Zoom.

Committee members present: Lynn Dickinson (Chair), Megan Cluver (Vice Chair), Karen Luneau

Absent: David Silverman

Chancellor's Office staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst  
Katherine Levasseur, Director of External & Governmental Relations  
Patty Turley, General Counsel  
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director  
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial & Operating Officer  
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management  
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor  
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

From the Colleges: Karen Madden, Director of Academic Support Services, Northern Vermont University

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

**Trustee Luneau moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the motion to approve the minutes of February 3, 2020 and July 14, 2020. The motion was approved unanimously.**

3. Planning for upcoming Board meetings and Committee meetings

Chair Dickinson reminded the Committee of the upcoming Board meetings on November 16<sup>th</sup> and December 7<sup>th</sup>. Potential agenda items were discussed. Chancellor Zdatny shared some information on expected speakers lined up to attend future Board meetings.

The Executive Committee discussed the timeline for making decisions regarding the future of the VSCS, particularly with respect to seeking approval of NECHE (accreditor) and the Department of Education for the release of student financial aid. Concern was expressed regarding the need for sufficient time to engage in thoughtful pre-planning work. The need to identify a team and the likely need for additional resources to accomplish this work were discussed. Trustee Cluver indicated that the Select Committee report would likely include recommendations on a common accreditation for Castleton and Northern Vermont University, as well as the need for consolidation of back office functions.

In a discussion about scheduling a Nominating Committee meeting for December, Chancellor Zdatny mentioned that five Trustees have terms that are expiring in the upcoming calendar year: four are gubernatorial appointees and one is a Board appointee. This is the final transition year and the Governor will appoint three trustees, and the Board will appoint two. The addition of two Board meetings on January 15, 2021 and February 22, 2021 was discussed, as well as potential external speakers for these meetings. The scheduling of an Executive Committee meeting on December 17, 2020 was discussed, as well as ensuring the entire Board is aware of and invited to said Committee meeting.

4. Preliminary discussion of updates to Bylaws and Trustee Handbook

General Counsel Patty Turley discussed the need for some minor updates to the Trustee Handbook, as well as to the Bylaws to reflect upcoming changes in the NECHE accreditation standards, which go into effect on January 1, 2021.

5. Other Business

Director of External and Governmental Affairs Katherine Levasseur advised that the Chancellor's Office shared recaps of the Committee meetings from the prior week with the Joint Fiscal Office and some legislators. These were well received.

6. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 3:31p.m.