

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting held Thursday, March 4, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom - APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Executive Committee met on Thursday, March 4, 2021 via Zoom.

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

Chancellor's Office staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Katherine Levasseur, Director of External & Governmental Affairs
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor

From the Colleges: Sarah Chambers, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Castleton University
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

Guest: James Page

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.
2. Approval of December 17, 2020 Minutes

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve the minutes of December 17, 2020. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Proposed suspension of Long Range Planning Committee

Chancellor Zdatny raised the possibility of suspending the Long Range Planning Committee. Given the significant increase in the frequency of Board meetings, the full engagement of the EPSL and F&F Committees in the transformation process, and that the Committee Chair, Mike Pieciak, has stepped off the Board effective February 28, 2021, at the conclusion of his term, the Chancellor inquired as to whether it would be in the best interest of the Trustees to suspend the LRPC for the time being. Chair Dickinson stated that the Trustees will be spending a great deal of time on the transformation of the VSCS, as well as on Board development activities in the coming months and therefore she was in favor of this proposal. Trustee Silverman concurred, stating he is also mindful of the workload on staff in preparing for Board and committee meetings. Trustee Luneau was in favor of suspension and using other committees, including the Executive Committee, to funnel any work that might have originally been done by the LRPC.

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the motion to recommend to the Board the suspension of the Long Range Planning Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Discussion regarding livestream recordings

Chancellor Zdatny explained that, when the Board's meetings switched from in person meetings to Zoom at the start of the pandemic, meetings were simultaneously livestreamed to YouTube. The livestreams have been available for viewing after the meetings and, given the volume of meetings over the past year, a question has been raised as to the appropriate length of time for posting the livestreamed recordings. The livestreams have been popular and have enabled many viewers to watch the meetings on their own schedules, increasing transparency and access to the Board's meetings. Additionally, with the availability of live transcription on Zoom, the Chancellor sought the Committee's input on using this feature at Board and committee meetings moving forward so as to increase accessibility for participants and viewers. Discussion ensued and, as the minutes are the official record of the Board's meetings, Trustee Silverman suggested that the YouTube recording of meetings be archived once the minutes of a meeting have been approved at a subsequent meeting. The Committee agreed that the live auto-transcription function of Zoom be enabled at future meetings.

Trustee Luneau moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the motion to recommend to the Board the formalization of the process for retaining the YouTube video of a VSCS Board or Committee meeting on the vsc.edu/live website until such time as the minutes for that meeting have been duly approved at which time the video will be archived. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Executive Session

At 1:33 p.m. Trustee Dickinson moved that the VSCS Executive Committee enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A) to discuss contracts; 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) to discuss labor relations agreements with employees; and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(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. Along with the members of the Board present at the meeting, the Board invited the Chancellor, the VSCS General Counsel and James Page to attend. Trustee Silverman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Committee exited executive session at 2:47 p.m. and took no action.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 2:49 p.m.