

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee meeting held Monday May 24, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom – APPROVED

The VSCS Board of Trustees Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee met on Monday, May 24, 2021 via Zoom.

Committee Members present: Megan Cluver (Chair), Karen Luneau (Vice Chair), Janette Bombardier (10:14 a.m.), Ryan Cooney, Dylan Giambatista, Mary Moran

Other Trustees Present: Lynn Dickinson, David Silverman

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 Governmental & External Relations
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/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
Karen Madden, Director of Academic Support Services, Northern Vermont University
Tom Mauhs-Pugh, Provost, Castleton University
Tyrone Shaw, Faculty
Debby Stewart, Dean of Academic Affairs, Community College of Vermont
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

From the Public: Mary Brumbach, Chief Strategy Officer, Dallas College
Katie Hagan, Senior Associate, rpk GROUP
Cyndi Miller, American Federations of Teachers, Vermont
Rick Staisloff, Senior Partner, rpk GROUP

1. Call to Order

Chair Cluver called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Approval of March 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Giambatista moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the approval of the March 15, 2021 meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

3. Update on EPSL Data Dashboard: Employer Partner Survey

Chief Academic Officer Yasmine Ziesler explained that the EPSL data dashboard identified two separate metrics to be developed: outcomes for graduates, and employer perspectives on workforce development. The Employer Partner Survey is being created and distributed across all networks to conduct a needs assessment to find the gaps employers have and in what ways the System can support a Workforce Development strategy. Trustees expressed enthusiasm and support for this work.

4. Update on System-wide General Education Framework

Dr. Ziesler gave an overview of the work to date to address the Board's August 12, 2020 charge to develop a single general education program core. The proposal creates a fully transparent framework of seven requirements that each institution within the VSCS agrees to adopt as part of each institution's full general education program. Additionally, there is a statement of commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion arrived at through work by members of the VSC Social Justice Group. Dr. Ziesler noted that there is more work necessary to provide professional development for the integration of the DEI learning outcomes. She also noted that faculty have identified that the VSC graduation standards are now at least partially embedded in the new framework and that faculty are asking that the current approach to assessing the standards be suspended.

Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to recommend to the Board the commendation of the significant work accomplished by the faculty on the VSC general education working group and all academic governance groups to achieve initial implementation of the single system-wide general education program core. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to recommend to the Board that it direct the VSC Chief Academic Officers Group to convene a system-wide general education committee for the next academic year to develop a plan to integrate the Policy 106 VSC graduation standards into the new general education framework and continue system-wide professional development in DEI to support implementation into the general education program, including how world languages fit into the program, with a

follow-up progress report to be provided to EPSL by May 2022. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Follow-Up Focus on Early College Programs: Dallas College

Chair Cluver introduced Dr. Brumbach, Chief Strategy Officer for Dallas College who gave a presentation on [Exploring Early College High School and Pathways to Technology School Options](#).

6. Presentation on Academic Portfolio Recommendations by rpk GROUP

Chair Cluver reviewed the work being done by rpk GROUP, beginning in January with an academic program review across Northern Vermont University, Vermont Technical College and Castleton University. This was a collaborative process to deliver a framework for evaluation of academic programs, including identifying gaps in the existing academic portfolio relative to the needs of the Vermont labor market. rpk GROUP Senior Partner Rick Staisloff presented the final report to the Committee which can be found [here](#). The three recommendations are: to adopt the Program Evaluation Framework, optimize the academic portfolio, and make final decisions on the recommendations for program investment and elimination.

Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to recommend to the Board the adoption of the Program Evaluation Framework to guide review of the academic portfolio going forward. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to recommend to the Board that it charge the Chancellor and the Chief Academic Officers to work with the faculty to develop a plan for program optimization and to report back to the EPSL Committee in August with an evaluation of that work and decisions on the program investment and elimination recommendations made by rpk GROUP. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

8. Comments from the public

Tyrone Shaw provided a comment urging the Board to support the joint resolution of the four constituent assemblies to rescind the graduation standards.

Chair Cluver adjourned the meeting at 12:18 p.m.