

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees' Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee hybrid meeting held Thursday August 19, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom and at the Office of the Chancellor, 575 Stone Cutters Way, Montpelier - APPROVED

The VSCS Board of Trustees Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee met on Thursday, August 19, 2021 via Zoom.

Committee Members present: Megan Cluver (Chair), Karen Luneau (Vice Chair), Ryan Cooney, Dylan Giambatista

Absent: Janette Bombardier, Mary Moran

Other Trustees Present: Lynn Dickinson

Presidents: Joyce Judy, Pat Moulton, Jonathan Spiro

Chancellor's Office Staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Shelby Bizub, Legal Intern
Kellie Campbell, Chief Information Officer
Wilson Garland, Director of Transformation
Katherine Levasseur, Director of Governmental & External Relations
Katrina Meigs, System Director of HR & Benefits Administration
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Kathryn Santiago, Assistant General Counsel & System Investigator
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operating Officer
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

From the Colleges: Andrew Alexander, Faculty, Castleton University
Nolan Atkins, Provost, Northern Vermont University
Sarah Chambers, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Castleton University
Ana Gaillat, Dean of Academic Affairs, Vermont Technical College
John Kidder, Faculty, Vermont Technical College
Hannah Miller, Faculty, Co-Director of Inclusive Childhood Education Program, Northern Vermont University
Tom Mauhs-Pugh, Provost, Castleton University

Tyrone Shaw, Faculty, Northern Vermont University
Debby Stewart, Dean of Academic Affairs, Community College of
Vermont
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

1. Call to Order

Chair Cluver called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. Approval of May 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Giambatista moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve the May 24, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Chancellor's Update

Chancellor Zdatny provided an update to the Committee as the VSCS prepares for the approaching academic year. The Chancellor reminded the Committee of the Executive Committee's approval of [Resolution 2021-018](#) requiring vaccinations for all students attending residential campuses. Avenues are also being explored to increase vaccination rates amongst faculty and staff. All colleges currently have a mask mandate in place, which will be reevaluated as guidance from the CDC warrants. The Chancellor then thanked all faculty for their work on the Program Optimization work which is crucial for the new university transformation. Additionally, Chancellor Zdatny referred to the [Transformation Updates](#) issued every two weeks and the information that can be found within, including updates from the transformation teams, the formation of a student advisory council, an update from the Branding Identity Team, and the academic program array update.

4. Summer Program Optimization Project Results

Chief Academic Officer Yasmine Ziesler presented a report on the results of the Summer Program Optimization Project. That presentation can be found [here](#) on pages 16-36. Faculty members Dr. John Kidder of Vermont Technical College, Dr. Hannah Miller of Northern Vermont University and Dr. Andrew Alexander of Castleton University each shared their perspectives on the optimization work and proposals. Dr. Ziesler then concluded with program investment recommendations and next steps for the Board including an expedited approach to Policy 102, Approval of New Degrees and Majors and the suspension of Policy 101, Program Review and Continuous Improvement Process.

5. Policy 101 Status Update

Dr. Ziesler discussed the recommendation to suspend Policy 101 reviews for the 2022 and 2023 cycles of programs outlined in the report, given the significant transformation work ahead to create the optimized program array.

Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to recommend to the Board the suspension of Policy 101 reviews for 2022 and 2023 cycles of programs outlined in the Program Array Optimization Report. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Preliminary Discussion of Policy 109 Revisions

Dr. Ziesler reminded the committee that Policy 109 focuses on enrollment and reviewing the cost effectiveness of programs. When the Board adopted rpk GROUP's recommended program portfolio evaluation framework it was thought that Policy 109 was the place to embed that framework approach. Dr. Ziesler then shared some initial concepts for discussion as identified by the Chief Academic Officers including the incorporation of minimum thresholds for framework metrics, differentiation between CCV and the new combined entity, and EPSL's role in reviewing the results and subsequent actions resulting from an annual analysis using the framework.

7. Update on Employer Partner Survey

Dr. Ziesler shared with the Committee that the Employer Partner Survey was sent out to 1200 employer partners receiving 138 responses. About half of the respondents expressed interest in partnering with the VSCS to provide training or credentials – 37% already partner with one of our institutions. The Career Services team will be working with the soon to be launched Workforce Development Team to take advantage of the future opportunities.

8. Other Business

There was no other business.

9. Comments from the public

Tyrone Shaw shared a comment with the Committee, which can be found [here](#).

Chair Cluver adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.