

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. via ZOOM– APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, via ZOOM.

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson (Chair), Janette Bombardier, Megan Cluver, Ryan Cooney, Dylan Giambatista, Shirley Jefferson, Bill Lippert, Karen Luneau, Jim Masland, Mary Moran, Shawn Tester, Sue Zeller

Absent: Adam Grinold, David Silverman

Presidents: Joyce Judy, Pat Moulton, Jonathan Spiro, Nolan Atkins (on behalf of Northern Vermont University)

Chancellor's Office Staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Kellie Campbell, Chief Information Officer
Wilson Garland, Director of Transformation Projects
Katherine Levasseur, Director of External & Governmental Affairs
Katrina Meigs, System Director of HR & Benefits Administration
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operations Officer
Toby Stewart, System Controller
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Meg Walz, Director, Program Manager
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
Barbara Egan, Marketing, Vermont Technical College
Ana Gaillat, Dean of Academic Affairs, Vermont Technical College
Alexandra Huff, Student, Northern Vermont University
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Castleton University
James Lambert, Associate Dean of Advancement, Castleton University
Ken Liatsos, Marketing, Vermont Technical College
Tom Maus-Pugh, Provost, Castleton University
Cathy McCullough, Director of Financial Aid, Vermont Technical College
Maurice Ouimet, Dean of Enrollment, Castleton University

Andy Pallito, Dean of Administration, Community College of Vermont

Sylvia Plumb, Director of Marketing and Communications, Northern Vermont University

Littleton Tyler, Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical College

Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

From the Public:

Katy Campbell, VisionPoint Marketing

Erica Kim, VisionPoint Marketing

Linda Milne, Former VSC Trustee

Bruce Ortiz, VisionPoint Marketing

Holly Simons, VisionPoint Marketing

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.
2. Resolution 2021-022 Honoring the Service of Linda Milne

Trustee Luneau read Resolution 2021-022 Honoring the Service of Linda Milne.

Trustee Luneau moved and Trustee Bombardier seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2021-022 Honoring the Service of Linda Milne. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Dickinson thanked former Trustee Milne for being a valuable member of the Board and thanked her for her work as Chair of the Audit Committee. Trustees Bombardier, Lippert, and Masland joined in thanking her for her work and commitment. Former Trustee Linda Milne gave brief remarks and thanked everyone for the opportunity to bring closure to her work with the Vermont State Colleges.

3. Approval of August 4, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Masland seconded to motion to approve the August 4, 2021 minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Presentation by VisionPoint Marketing on recommendation for name of the new university

Chancellor Zdatny introduced the VisionPoint Marketing Firm's Bruce Ortiz and Katy Campbell to present the findings on their extensive audience research and discovery and to recommend a name for the new institution that will be unifying Castleton University, Northern Vermont University and Vermont Technical College. VisionPoint conducted 31 small group listening sessions with students, faculty, staff, leadership, alumni and community members across the VSC, led a brand perception study with over 3,000 respondents, and held a targeted brand workshop with 25 participants from the institutions with deep dive research into each institution. VisionPoint Marketing recommended that the name of the new unified institution be Vermont State University. This is the first step in a multi-step process, that includes developing mission

and vision, brand identity, academic program array, and the organization structure. The presentation materials can be found [here](#).

5. Report of Finance & Facilities Committee

- a. Approve Elizabeth Dolci Scholarship in Science and Sugarman-Sedutto Endowment Change Request at Northern Vermont University

Chief Financial and Operating Officer Sharron Scott shared that, at the August 23, 2021 Finance & Facilities meeting, the committee recommended for approval to the Board two endowments for Northern Vermont University. The first is to create the Elizabeth Dolci Scholarship in Science Endowment and the second is to change the name of the Sugarman Scholarship to the Kerry Sedutto Scholarship Endowment.

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve the Elizabeth Dolci Scholarship in Science Endowment and the Kerry Sedutto Scholarship Endowment name change. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ms. Scott went on to share that early results for FY21 are favorable as compared to budget and to the third quarter. It is anticipated that there will be around \$21 million in excess revenue over expenses. These are not considered surplus funds but will begin to put the VSC on more solid footing going forward.

6. Report of Education, Personnel and Student Life Committee

- a. Approve suspension of Policy 101 reviews for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023

Trustee Cluver shared a report from the August 19, 2021 EPSL meeting, reviewing results of the Summer Program Optimization Project. The original presentation can be found [here](#). There are 28 programs that still need additional review and refinement and 14 programs that need significant review. The Committee has requested to be updated on these programs at the October meeting.

Trustee Cluver then put forward the EPSL Committee's recommendation to suspend Policy 101 reviews for the 2022 and 2023 cycles of programs given the significant transformation work ahead to create the optimized program array. Trustee Bombardier proposed modifying the motion to include that if progress does not continue, the Board has the right to revoke the suspension.

Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to approve the suspension of VSC Policy 101 reviews for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 as long as progress continues to be strong on the programs to be optimized for the Program Array. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Reports from the Presidents

Community College of Vermont President Joyce Judy shared that fall enrollment is strong; up 6% from last fall. President Judy attributes this to the array of modalities CCV offers for their courses and the number of pathways CCV has towards a degree or certificate. CCV is in the final stages of NECHE accreditation process and will be speaking with Board members soon for this process.

Castleton University President Jonathan Spiro shared that CU has had a great start to the fall semester with the community exhibiting high morale. Instruction is face to face with masks in place. Enrollment is steady with increasing out of state enrollment and the largest group of international students this year. Event participation is high and the athletic program is in full swing.

Northern Vermont University Interim President Nolan Atkins shared that NVU continues its commitment to safety by offering weekly testing to the community, providing single occupancy dorm rooms, and outdoor teaching opportunities in tents on campus. There is an indoor mask requirement, a vaccination requirement for on campus students, and vaccination requirement for all visitors. Campus life is back in full swing this semester and athletic teams are practicing and competing.

Vermont Technical College President Pat Moulton shared that there are over 250 students in residence halls on both campuses, including the housing of some Vermont Law School students and some traveling nurses working at Central Vermont Medical Center. First year class is up 15% from last fall. All COVID protocols are being followed well on campus with athletes being tested weekly. Homecoming is planned for this weekend and the 2021 graduates will be recognized at that time.

8. Additional Business

There was no additional business

9. Comments from the public

Beth Walsh shared her thoughts regarding the staff attrition and low morale and difficulty of hiring due to low salaries. She expressed her thoughts on the need to spend money to hire more staff. Additionally, she shared that 84% of the 43% of staff who voted, voted to mandate vaccinations for staff.

Chancellor Zdatny added that a staff and faculty wide survey has shown that with just under 70% responding, 97% have been fully vaccinated. The VSC is waiting for the federal OSHA ruling regarding vaccination requirements for employees, and will then determine next steps.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.