

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Executive Special Committee meeting held Thursday, July 22, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom - APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Executive Special Committee met on Thursday, July 22, 2021 via Zoom.

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

Other Trustees Present: Ryan Cooney, Jim Masland (4:35 p.m.)

Presidents: Joyce Judy, Pat Moulton, Jonathan Spiro

Chancellor's Office staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Katherine Levasseur, Director of Government & External Affairs
Katrina Meigs, System Director of HR & Benefits Administration
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Kathryn Santiago, Assistant General Counsel
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor

From the Colleges: Sarah Chambers, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Castleton University
Jonathan Davis, Dean of Student Life, Northern Vermont University
Jason Enser, Dean of Students, Vermont Technical College
Andy Pallito, Dean of Administration, Community College of Vermont
Dennis Proulx, Dean of Students, Castleton University

From the Public: Amy Ash Nixon, Reporter, Caledonian Record
Lola Duffort, Reporter, VT Digger
Carolyn Sistrand, Reporter, News5

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. Approval of July 7, 2021 Minutes

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve the minutes of July 7, 2021. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. COVID-19 vaccination

Chancellor Zdatny made a recommendation to the Executive Committee that the COVID-19 vaccination be required for the students returning to campus for the fall semester to Castleton

University, Northern Vermont University and Vermont Technical University. Castleton University Dean of Students Dennis Proulx, Vermont Technical College Dean of Students Jason Enser, and Vermont Technical College President Pat Moulton voiced their support for this mandate.

Community College of Vermont President Joyce Judy shared that Dr. Levine and Commissioner Pieciak are in favor of CCV's decision to not require the vaccine given the nonresidential nature of the intuition. CCV based its decision on the fact that 81% of its students are part time, the average age of the student is 28, the majority of the students are Vermonters and come to class once per week for 3 hours, and only 25% of CCV classes will be in person in the fall. Additionally, CCV has launched an extensive and significant social norming campaign around the importance of vaccination.

Trustee Cooney expressed his support for the mandate but also urged the Committee to discuss mandating that faculty and staff be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity on campus. Chancellor Zdatny explained that the focus at this time is on students but further discussion with Union partners regarding his suggestion could be warranted.

4. Executive Session

At 4:16 p.m. Chair Dickinson moved that the VSCS Executive Committee enter executive session pursuant to 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 VSC at a substantial disadvantage. The motion stated that any final decisions, and the reasons for them, shall be made in open session. Along with the members of the Board present at the meeting, the Committee invited the Chancellor, the General Counsel and the Assistant General Counsel to join. Trustee Silverman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Committee exited executive session at 4:53 p.m.

General Counsel Patty Turley read Resolution 2021-018 for the record.

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2021-018 Endorsing vaccination requirement for students at Castleton University, Northern Vermont University and Vermont Technical College. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Silverman suggested that VSCS leadership work with the VSCS's Union partners towards the goal of encouraging faculty and staff to achieve the highest percentage of fully vaccinated personnel as possible. The rest of the Committee endorsed this suggestion.

5. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 5:02 p.m.