

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees hybrid Meeting held Monday, December 6, 2021, at 1:00 p.m. via ZOOM and at the Office of the Chancellor, 575 Stone Cutters Way, Montpelier– APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Monday, December 6, 2021, via ZOOM.

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson (Chair), Janette Bombardier, Megan Cluver (Vice Chair), Ryan Cooney, Adam Grinold, Shirley Jefferson, Bill Lippert, Jim Masland, Mary Moran, David Silverman, Shawn Tester, Sue Zeller

Absent: Dylan Giambatista, Karen Luneau

Presidents: Joyce Judy, John Mills, Pat Moulton, Jonathan Spiro

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
Kathryn N. Santiago, Associate General Counsel & System Investigator
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operations Officer
Toby Stewart, System Controller
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Littleton Tyler, Lead Financial Analyst
Meg Walz, Director, Program Manager
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, Northern Vermont University
Kelly Boulan, Development & Alumni Relations Specialist, Vermont Technical College
Sarah Chambers, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Castleton University
Barbara Egan, Marketing, Vermont Technical College
Ana Gaillat, Dean of Academic Affairs, Vermont Technical College
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Castleton University
James Lambert, Associate Dean of Advancement, Castleton University
Tom Mauhs-Pugh, Provost, Castleton University

Andy Pallito, Dean of Administration, Community College of Vermont
Sylvia Plumb, Director of Marketing & Communications, Northern Vermont University
Dave Rubin, Acting Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical College
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

From the Public:

Christine Black
Tina Churchill
Amy Ferris
Samantha Flint
Erica Kim, Senior Marketing Strategist, VisionPoint Marketing
Bruce Ortiz, Account Director, VisionPoint Marketing
Tony Poillucci, Vice President & Creative Director, VisionPoint Marketing

1. Vice Chair Cluver called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m. and explained that Chair Dickinson would be participating in the meeting, but not chairing it, due to recent minor surgery.
2. Approval of October 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Silverman seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the October 25, 2021 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of Scholarships
 - a. Brenda Churchill Flint Memorial Scholarship – Vermont Tech
 - b. Student Engagement Scholarship Honoring Victoria Angis - Castleton University

Trustee Silverman requested approval of two new scholarships that were being brought directly to the Board, rather than to the Finance and Facilities Committee, so that they could be established before the end of the calendar year. Vermont Technical College President Pat Moulton shared some background information about the Brenda Churchill Flint Memorial Scholarship, which will establish a scholarship at Vermont Tech in Brenda's memory to benefit a student in the business program.

Trustee Jefferson moved and Trustee Cooney seconded the motion to approve the Brenda Churchill Flint Memorial Scholarship at Vermont Technical College. The motion was approved unanimously.

Castleton University President Jonathan Spiro presented the Student Engagement Scholarship Honoring Victoria Angis, who recently retired after 41 years of service at Castleton University.

Trustee Moran moved and Trustee Grinold seconded the motion to approve the Student Engagement Scholarship Honoring Victoria Angis at Castleton University. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Approval of revisions to Policy 505, Strategic Planning

General Counsel Patty Turley described the proposed revisions to Policy 505 to reflect the current suspension of the Long Range Planning Committee.

5. Approval of revisions to Vermont State Colleges By-Laws and to Board of Trustees' Handbook

Ms. Turley outlined the proposed revisions to the By-Laws and the Trustee Handbook to ensure consistency regarding the timing of the election of officers, and some minor updates and revisions to the information on the Audit & Risk Management Committee, the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, and the Nominating Committee in the Handbook.

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Jefferson seconded the motion to approve the revisions to VSC Policy 505, the Vermont State Colleges By-Laws and the Board of Trustees Handbook. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Presentation from VisionPoint Marketing on branding for Vermont State University

Chancellor Zdatny invited VisionPoint Marketing to present their work on the branding pillars and personality traits for the new university. VisionPoint Marketing Account Director Bruce Ortiz, Senior Market Strategist Erica Kim, and Vice President & Creative Director Tony Poillucci shared a [presentation](#) on their progress.

7. Report from EPSL Committee

Vice Chair Cluver provided an update on the EPSL Committee held earlier in the day. The Committee received a report on the next steps for completion of the program array optimization work and its planned timeline. Chief Academic Officer Yasmine Ziesler shared that this approach to meeting the transition timeline goals was developed and agreed to by the four Faculty Assembly Moderators and the President of the Faculty Federation. Trustee Lippert expressed concern regarding the timeline for the program array. The original motion brought forward from the EPSL committee was then amended to reflect the Board's support for the established timeline.

Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Grinold seconded a motion that the Board affirms the timeline established for the program array and charges the Chancellor and the Chief Academic Officer with providing administrative direction to support achieving the academic program array timeline goals as developed and agreed to by all four faculty assembly leaders and President of the Faculty Federation, and to provide a status update to EPSL in January. The motion was approved unanimously.

General Counsel Patty Turley informed the Board of the EPSL Committee's approval of Northern Vermont University's request to relinquish the FCC licenses for its two campus radio stations. NVU will pursue streaming opportunities similar to the approach taken by Castleton University. Vermont Tech is retaining its FCC license for its radio station at this time.

Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Jefferson seconded the motion to approve the relinquishment of the Northern Vermont University FCC licenses. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Presentation on Legislative Ask

Director of External and Governmental Affairs Katherine Levasseur and Chief Financial and Operating Officer Sharron Scott shared a [presentation](#) summarizing the Vermont State Colleges legislative ask.

9. Transformation Update

Director of Transformation Projects Wilson Garland presented an update and summary of progress on transformation, which can be found [here](#).

10. Additional Business

There was no additional business.

11. Comments from the Public

There were no comments.

12. Executive Session

At 3:20 p.m. Trustee Silverman moved that the VSCS Board of Trustees enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) to discuss labor relations agreements with employees because premature general public knowledge would place the public body involved at a substantial disadvantage. Along with the members of the Board present at this meeting, the Board invited the Chancellor and the General Counsel to attend. Trustee Silverman further moved that the VSCS Board of Trustees enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss the appointment and employment of a public officer. The motion stated that no formal or binding action would be taken in executive session. Upon the exit of General Counsel from the executive session, the Board invited President Jonathan Spiro and Provost Tom Mauhs-Pugh to join trustees in executive session. Trustee Moran seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The Board exited executive session at 4:38 p.m.

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Dickinson seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2021-024, Appointment of Thomas Mauhs-Pugh as Interim President of Castleton University. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Lippert thanked President Spiro for his invaluable service and thanked Provost Tom Mauhs-Pugh for his willingness to take over as President. Chancellor Zdatny also voiced her appreciation for President Spiro and shared her pleasure in working with him. President Spiro expressed his thanks to the Board,

Vice Chair Cluver adjourned the meeting at 4:43 p.m.