

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Monday, January 24, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. via ZOOM – APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Monday, January 24, 2022, via ZOOM.

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson (Chair), Janette Bombardier, Megan Cluver (Vice Chair), Ryan Cooney, Dylan Giambatista, Adam Grinold, Shirley Jefferson, Bill Lippert, Jim Masland (2:32 p.m.), Mary Moran, David Silverman, Shawn Tester, Sue Zeller

Absent: Karen Luneau

Presidents: Joyce Judy, John Mills, Tom Mauhs-Pugh, Pat Moulton

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
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operations Officer
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
Ana Gaillat, Dean of Academic Affairs, Vermont Technical College
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Castleton University
Jonathan Kaplan, VP, VSCFF, Northern Vermont University
Dave Rubin, Acting Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical College

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
2. Approval of December 6, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Jefferson seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the December 6, 2021 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Report from Finance & Facilities Committee
 - a. Vote on Russ and Amy Bailas Endowment (Northern Vermont University)

Trustee Silverman encouraged trustees to attend the Finance and Facilities Committee's meeting on February 7th at which the strategic financial plan and the system's facilities will be discussed. Trustee Silverman then invited Northern Vermont University President John Mills to introduce the Russ and Amy Bailas Endowment for NVU. President Mills stated that this endowment is for students studying digital communications entering their junior or senior year and that preference is to be given to out-of-state students.

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Tester seconded the motion to approve the Russ and Amy Bailas Endowment at Northern Vermont University. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Report from Executive Committee

Chair Dickinson reported that the Executive Committee received an update on planning for the Spring semester in response to the Omicron variant of COVID-19. Some of those plans subsequently evolved following the meeting and the Presidents can provide an update on how the response to the virus is going with the return of students with their reports. The Committee also received an update on transformation expenditures. This information is publicly available and is posted on the VSC website [here](#).

5. Report from Nominating Committee

- a. Vote on Board-elected trustee
- b. Vote on Nominating Committee membership

Trustee Grinold reported that the Nominating Committee met on January 10th to consider recommendations for the Board appointed Trustee position. The Committee recommended that David Silverman be elected to serve a second term on the Board. Additionally, Trustee Grinold shared that the current members of the Nominating Committee expressed their willingness to serve another term.

Trustee Grinold moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the motion to elect David Silverman to a second term as a Board-elected Trustee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Grinold moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to approve Adam Grinold, Janette Bombardier, Lynn Dickinson (*ex officio*), and Bill Lippert to serve on the Nominating Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Transformation Update

Director of Transformation Projects Wilson Garland shared an update and summary of progress on transformation projects, which can be found [here](#). Several trustees had questions about the work of the Workforce Development Team and encouraged the team to engage with external stakeholders.

7. Presidential Reports

Community College of Vermont President Joyce Judy shared that CCV began its spring semester on January 24th. CCV is up 3% in headcount and 4% in course placements, with 5,000 students enrolled. CCV is not seeing pent up demand for in-person courses but rather has been adding online courses and canceling under-enrolled in-person classes. Only 13% of course placements

are in person for the coming semester. CCV is hosting a NECHE reaccreditation visit in March of this year, the preparation for which takes 18 months. She acknowledged and thanked her faculty and staff for their hard work in this process. CCV is requiring students who are enrolled in any in-person classes to be vaccinated and is strongly recommending all faculty and staff be vaccinated. Masks are also required in all buildings. CCV is having immense success with conducting their student orientations virtually and are seeing increased attendance over any in-person sessions from the past. CCV has also provided over 60 professional development seminars for faculty over the past 12 months, in which hundreds of faculty have participated.

Castleton University President Tom Mauhs-Pugh shared that Castleton offered remote classes for the first week of the semester to spread out the expected impact of Omicron infections and to mitigate impact on local services. Castleton is back with in-person classes now, after the students arrived in stages over the course of three weeks. President Mauhs-Pugh shared several recent athletics successes for Castleton's sports teams, including wrestling, Alpine and Nordic skiing. All of Castleton's athletics teams have a 3.0 GPA or higher. Castleton is undergoing its ten-year accreditation with NECHE and the visiting team came to the campus in October. The team had twice as many commendations as concerns and the concerns were minor. NECHE will be considering the final report at its April 2022 meeting. Enrollment is up 1.5% this fall semester and while headcount is 20 below budgeted projections, this has not had an adverse impact on the budget given the mix of students. The size of the expected deficit for this year has been reduced due to increased room and board receipts and lower salary and benefits costs.

Northern Vermont University President John Mills reported that NVU followed the same opening procedures as Castleton, with the first week of classes being held virtually, thereby spreading out the arrival of students over the course of three weeks. Enrollment is up by 45 full pay equivalents for the spring semester and deposits for Fall 2022 are up over 21% as compared to last year. President Mills has been taking trips into the communities and schools to speak with principals, superintendents, and guidance counselors to create connections and reassure people that NVU is here to stay. People are thankful to hear what we are doing and excited by the direction in which we are going. NVU will be celebrating Black Excellence Month.

Vermont Technical College President Pat Moulton shared that this year's class was successful in recovering much of the loss from last year's decline in enrollment. The 2022 fall semester currently shows an increase of 35% in applications over last year with most of those applications coming from Vermonters. Vermont Tech is requiring students to perform COVID-19 tests prior to returning to campus and isolating or returning home if they receive a positive result. Vaccines and booster shots are mandated for all students. Work on re-imagining the Agricultural program is going slowly. Vermont Tech is seeking an EDA grant to provide seed funding for a director of the Center for Agriculture and Food Entrepreneurship. Vermont Tech has hired a world-renowned expert to teach Mechanical Design this semester, as part of the Advanced Manufacturing program. The official ribbon-cutting for the Advanced Manufacturing Lab, with Senator Leahy, is anticipated for March. President Moulton discussed recent staffing changes and vacancies in the Nursing program, and shared that, for the third year in a row, VT Tech's nursing students exceeded the national NCLEX pass rate by a fair margin.

8. Additional Business

There was no additional business.

9. Comments from the Public

There were no comments.

10. Executive Session

At 3:07 p.m. Trustee Cluver 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 clearly place the public body involved at a substantial disadvantage. Trustee Cluver 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. Along with the members of the Board present at this meeting, the Board invited the Chancellor, the General Counsel, and the Chief Financial and Operating Officer to attend. Trustee Silverman seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The Board exited executive session at 4:34 p.m.

Trustee Dickinson moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to formally ratify the recently-negotiated collective bargaining agreements with CCV United Faculty and with the Part-Time Faculty Federation and that Chair Dickinson is authorized to sign each agreement on behalf of the VSC Board of Trustees. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 4:35 p.m.