

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Executive Special Committee hybrid meeting held Friday, January 7, 2022, at 3:30 p.m. via Zoom and at the Office of the Chancellor, 575 Stone Cutters Way, Montpelier - APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Executive Special Committee met on Friday, January 7, 2022.

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

Absent: Karen Luneau

Chancellor's Office staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Wilson Garland, Director of Transformation Projects
Katherine Levasseur, Director of External & Governmental Affairs
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Kathryn N. Santiago, Associate General Counsel & System Investigator
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operations Officer
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

From the Colleges: Sarah Chambers, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Castleton University
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. July 22, 2021
 - b. November 2, 2021

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the motion to approve the minutes of July 22, 2021 and November 2, 2021. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Update on planning for Spring semester in response to Omicron variant of COVID-19

Chancellor Zdatny discussed the challenges of the constantly changing environment caused by the COVID-19 virus. Currently, the plan is for students to return for the spring semester as scheduled. Requirements are already in place for student vaccinations (with permitted exemptions). We plan to ask all employees to upload either proof of their vaccination status or a weekly negative test through UKG. VSC does not anticipate providing free testing to those that are not vaccinated. It is anticipated that this will be in effect by the end of the month. We continue to wait to see if the federal OSHA Emergency Temporary Standard will be upheld by the Supreme Court.

4. Update on transformation expenditures to date

Chief Financial & Operations Officer Sharron Scott shared a presentation on the current transformation budget. Those slides can be found [here](#).

5. Public Comment

Beth Walsh inquired whether unvaccinated employees would be required to use a certain type of COVID test (*i.e.* rapid vs. PCR) and if the current VSC health insurance would cover the cost of testing. Chancellor Zdatny replied that federal guidance is expected to be issued on January 15th that should assist with answering the question regarding health insurance coverage for testing. With respect to the type of COVID test, the VSC will follow federal and state guidance.

6. Executive Session

At 3:59 p.m. Trustee Dickinson moved that the VSCS Executive Committee enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A) to consider contracts, because premature general public knowledge would clearly place the Vermont State Colleges at a substantial disadvantage; and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss the appointment and employment of public employees. The motion stated that no formal or binding action would be taken in executive session. Along with the members of the Board present at the meeting, the Committee invited the Chancellor, the Chief Financial and Operating Officer, the Director of Transformation Projects and the Associate General Counsel to join. Trustee Silverman seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The Committee exited executive session at 5:34 p.m. and took no action.

7. Other Business

Chancellor Zdatny shared that work is underway to create formal onboarding procedures for new Trustees. The terms for three of the trustees expire at the end of February and the goal is to have the new procedures formalized in time to onboard any new trustees.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.