

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Monday, April 18, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.
via ZOOM – APPROVED**

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Monday, April 18, 2022, via ZOOM.

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

Absent: Jim Masland

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

Chancellor's Office Staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Kellie Campbell, Chief Information Officer
Kathrine Levasseur, Director of External and Government Affairs
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operations Officer
Toby Stewart, System Controller
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, Northern Vermont University
Jae Basiliere, Director, Center for Teaching & Learning, Northern Vermont University
Roy Brock, Dean of Administration & Finance, Northern Vermont University
Beth Camp, Student Success Specialist, Vermont Technical College
Sarah Chambers, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Castleton University
Mary Cooper, Center for Academic Success Coordinator, Vermont Technical College
Barb Flathers, Executive Assistant, Northern Vermont University
Ana Gaillat, Dean of Academic Affairs, Vermont Technical College
Laura Jakubowski, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Castleton University
Siobhan Anderson-Judkins, Coordinator of Residence Life, Vermont Technical College
Mary Kathryn Juskiewicz, Associate Dean for Outreach & Support, Vermont Technical College

Andy Pallito, Dean of Administration, Community College of Vermont

Dannielle Spring, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Northern Vermont University

Laura St. George, Williston Coordinator at Ctr for Academic Success, Vermont Technical College

Denise Rhodes, Consultant, Finance & Registration Services, Castleton University

Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

From the Public:

Jen Harriger, Reporter, NBC5

Steve Leo, Managing Director, Storbeck Search

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

2. Approval of April 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2022 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Report from EPSL Committee – Approval of Faculty Fellows

Trustee Cluver asked Chief Academic Officer Yasmine Ziesler to share information with the Board on the two nominations for Faculty Fellow before the Board. Dr. Ziesler shared that these two nominees are both leaders in their field and both of their proposals are centered on helping fellow faculty prepare for the launch of Vermont State University. Gina Mireault, a professor of Psychology and Chair of the Behavioral Sciences Department at Northern Vermont University will be focusing on learning/working communities. Chris Boettcher, an English professor and the inaugural Chair of Castleton's Center for Teaching and Learning, will be focusing on the development of the "face to face plus" pilot.

Trustee Moran moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve the nominees of Christopher Boettcher and Gina Mireault for Faculty Fellowships for 2022-2023, as set forth in Resolution 2022-005 and Resolution 2022-006. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Report from Finance & Facilities Committee – Approval of CCV Northern Lights grant

Trustee Silverman shared information about the Community College of Vermont's pass-through grant with Northern Lights. Trustee Silverman stated that the grant offers professional development, career advising, and registry supports for early childhood educators and afterschool professionals.

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Luneau seconded to approve the CCV Northern Lights Grant. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Report from Presidents

Vermont Technical College President Pat Moulton shared that the recent Vermont Tech NECHE accreditation focused visit was very successful. President Moulton went on to share that a mediated settlement with Lucky S Ranch has been reached. Finally, Vermont Tech is proceeding with a reboot of their Agriculture Program at the Randolph campus and they are looking forward to renovations at the farm. Part of those preparations include the sale of the 80-cow dairy herd, a one year lease of Vermont Tech crop land, and a one year lease of Vermont Tech farm infrastructure. Vermont Tech is in the process of evaluating the proposals for those sales and leases.

Castleton University President Tom Mauhs-Pugh shared that in the initial CU adopted budget there was projected a \$9 million deficit but the budget is currently forecasting a \$2.3 million deficit. CU was able to close this gap by seeing an increase in tuition, room and board, increasing sales and services, saving on supplies and travel, and holding vacant positions open. There was also a federal HEERF grant offset that contributed. For fall 2023, applicants are running 20% higher than the previous year at this same time and deposited students are 6% higher.

Community College of Vermont President Joyce Judy shared that one of its students has received national recognition as a 2022 Phi Theta Kappa distinguished member. CCV is seeing a continuing trend with growing interest in online and remote learning and they continue to add sections to their already broad offering of online courses to meet the growing demand. President Judy also shared that she has been asked to serve as a Commissioner with the New England Commission of Higher Education.

Northern Vermont University President John Mills shared that recently, on the Johnson campus, there was a dedication of the Mamadou N'Diaye Resource Center, named in memory of a former NVU student. This center was created by the Coalition of Minority Students as a safe place for people of color and is open to all students, faculty, and community members as a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion resource center. NVU also announced the expansion of the Lyndon Learning Collaborative, in conjunction with the Lyndon Learning Institute to provide the opportunity for eligible Lyndon Institute juniors and seniors to obtain up to two full years of college academic credit through college-level courses offered by NVU. Lastly, President Mills shared that Gina Mireault was awarded an NIH grant for the next four years to support up to twenty students to work on grant-funded research on magic and humor in babies. President Mills shared that this is a highly competitive grant.

6. Comments from the public

There were no comments from the public.

7. Executive Session

At 2:38 p.m. Trustee Luneau 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. She further moved that the Board enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(E) to discuss pending civil litigation because premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body involved at a substantial disadvantage. Along with the members of the Board present at this meeting, the Board invited Steve Leo

from the firm of Storbeck Search, the Chancellor, and the General Counsel to attend. Trustee Moran seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The Board exited executive session at 4:06 p.m.

Trustee Luneau moved and Trustee Cooney seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2022-007, Appointing Dr. Parwinder Grewal to serve as the first President of Vermont State University and to serve as the President of Castleton University, Northern Vermont University, and Vermont Technical College for the 2022-2023 academic year. The motion was approved unanimously.

Dr. Grewal thanked the Board for their work in turning a crisis into an exciting opportunity and expressed his excitement at being able to transform higher education.

Chair Dickinson thanked the Search and Screen Committee and its Chair, Megan Cluver, as well as Storbeck Search and Sharron Scott for their work on the search for the first President of Vermont State University.

8. Additional Business

There was no additional business.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.