

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting held Thursday, October 27, 2022 at 2:45 p.m. via Zoom - APPROVED**

The VSCS Board of Trustees Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee met on Thursday, October 27, 2022 via Zoom.

Committee Members present: Shirley Jefferson (Chair), David Durfee, Bill Lippert, Karen Luneau, Mary Moran, Perry Ragouzis

Absent: Jim Masland

Other Trustees Present: Lynn Dickinson

Presidents: Joyce Judy

Chancellor's Office Staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst  
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director  
Sarah Potter, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Kathryn Santiago, Associate General Counsel  
Patty Turley, General Counsel  
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management  
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor  
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

From the Colleges: Jae Basiliere, Chief Diversity Officer, Vermont State University  
Mary Brodsky, Dean of People and Culture, Community College of Vermont  
Kathleen Mason, Coordinator for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Vermont Technical College

1. Call to Order

Chair Jefferson called the meeting to order at 2:55 p.m.

2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of August 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes

**Trustee Ragouzis moved and Trustee Lippert seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2022 meeting The motion was approved unanimously.**

#### 4. Update on DEI at Vermont State University

Dr. Jae Basiliere, Chief Diversity Officer for Vermont State University, provided an update on the DEI work at VTSU. Dr. Basiliere shared four main areas where DEI is a focus.

- Transformation: Work continues on integrating diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice into the VTSU transformation process. On October 8th, Dr. Basiliere presented a design for the Office of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Social Justice to the VTSU cabinet and transformation sponsors. The proposal was well-received.
- Listening Sessions: Dr. Basiliere just completed a listening session tour where they presented their vision for the Office of DEISJ, collected feedback about priorities, and listened to community concerns. The information collected at these listening sessions will inform future project prioritization.
- Curriculum Integration: Dr. Basiliere and Kathleen Mason have been collaborating to build cultural competencies and integrate DEI into the Nursing Program curriculum at VTC, as well as in the Electrical and Plumbing Apprenticeship program. They hope to have the capacity to scale this up and offer support to other programs in the future. Faculty are currently reviewing the General Education curriculum and incorporation of DEI outcomes. This will be phased in to ensure that faculty are well-supported
- BARWE: The Vermont State University chapter of [Building Antiracist White Educators](#) (BARWE) has been extremely successful thus far. There is a mailing list of 120 VSCS faculty and staff, and our first two meetings each had over 45 people in attendance.

#### 5. Update on DEI at Community College of Vermont

Mary Brodsky, Dean of People and Culture at Community College of Vermont, provided an update on DEI activities at CCV. Dean Brodsky shared that CCV and VTSU came together to create a joint BIPOC Student Affinity space drop-in session. While the turnout wasn't high, there was representation from all campuses and significant interest in holding more gatherings. Secondly, CCV had its first in-person professional development since fall of 2019. The day included introspective and thought-provoking activities to help guide discussion on how to incorporate and apply DEI principles into everyday work. Finally, the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education is forming a chapter in New England and Dean Brodsky has joined and looks forward to the relationships that can be formed in the future.

#### 6. Informational Presentation on the language of social justice at VTSU

Dr. Basiliere began by quoting from the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) Board of Directors' Statement on Diversity Equity and Inclusion. Dr. Basiliere explained that they are using this language to help contextualize the language of social justice at Vermont State University. This statement, along with other resources related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice, are available to all Vermont State Colleges' trustees through the membership with AGB.

7. Other Business

Chair Jefferson shared information about a case currently before the United States Supreme Court concerning whether race conscious admission programs at Harvard and University of North Carolina are lawful. This case is raising doubt about the future of race conscious admissions in higher education. Chancellor Zdatny shared that the Supreme Court's decision is unlikely to have an immediate impact upon the Vermont State Colleges as its institutions are non-selective, with an open admissions systems.

Chair Jefferson adjourned the meeting at 3:58 p.m.