

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Monday, October 31, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom – APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Monday, October 31, 2022, via Zoom

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson, Janette Bombardier, David Durfee, Adam Grinold (1:15 p.m.), Shirley Jefferson, Bill Lippert, Karen Luneau, Mary Moran, Perry Ragouzis, David Silverman, Shawn Tester, Sue Zeller

Absent: Megan Cluver, Jim Masland

Presidents: Parwinder Grewal, Joyce Judy

Chancellor's Office Staff: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Kellie Campbell, Chief Information Officer
Wilson Garland, Director, Transformation Projects
Katherine Levasseur, Director of External and Government Affairs
Pat Moulton, Executive Director, Workforce Development
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Sarah Potter, Chief Human Resources Officer
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operations Officer
Toby Stewart, System Controller
Littleton Tyler, Lead Financial Analyst
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Northern Vermont University
Jae Basiliere, Chief Diversity Officer, Northern Vermont University
Kelley Beckwith, Vice President of Student Success, Castleton University
Sarah Chambers, Coordinator of Instructional Technology, Castleton University
Laura Jakubowski, Assistant Vice President of Finance, Castleton University
Andy Pallito, Dean of Administration, Community College of Vermont
Denise Rhodes, Consultant, Finance & Registration Services, Castleton University
David Rubin, Dean of Administration, Vermont Technical College

Danielle Spring, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Northern Vermont University
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

From the Public:

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.
2. Comments from the public

There were no comments.

3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. September 20 and September 21, 2022 Board Meeting and Retreat

Trustee Luneau moved and Trustee Ragouzis seconded the motion to approve the September 20 and September 21, 2022 minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Report from Finance & Facilities Committee
 - a. Motion/vote to approve William Fosbrook Aviation Scholarship (Vermont Tech) and Ian Muller Memorial Endowment (NVU-Lyndon)
 - b. Motion/vote to approve Community College of Vermont and Vermont Tech's requests to carry forward funds

Trustee Silverman requested approval of two endowments by the Board. The William Fosbrook Aviation Scholarship for students in the Professional Pilot Program at Vermont Tech, and the Ian Muller Memorial Endowment for Veterans attending the NVU-Lyndon campus. Further details can be found [here](#) on pages 15-18.

Trustee Tester moved and Trustee Zeller seconded the motion to approve the William Fosbrook Aviation Scholarship and the Ian Muller Memorial Endowment. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Silverman outlined the carry forward requests by CCV and VT Tech. Both institutions have proposed use of carry forward funds for FY2023 activities. Further information can be found [here](#) on pages 20 and 21.

Trustee Ragouzis moved and Trustee Tester seconded the motion to approve the carry forward requests of the Community College of Vermont and Vermont Technical College. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Report from Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Trustee Jefferson reported that Dr. Basiliere, VTSU Chief Diversity Officer, shared an update on the DEI work at VTSU. Mary Brodsky, Dean of People and Culture at CCV, provided an update on DEI activities at CCV. Trustee Jefferson also shared information about a case currently before the US Supreme Court concerning race-based college admissions. More information on all of these points can be found in the complete DEI minutes [here](#).

6. Report from Audit and Risk Management Committee

- a. Motion/vote to approve Resolution 2022-016, Acceptance of FY2022 Audited Financial Statements and Single Audit Report

Trustee Zeller reported that O’Conner & Drew shared the Financial Statements and Single Audit Report. VSCS received an unmodified opinion on the financial statements and federal awards. There was a material weakness identified with the single audit and a detailed corrective action plan was shared and will be reviewed at each regularly scheduled Audit & Risk Management Committee meeting this year.

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Silverman seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2022-016 Acceptance of FY2022 Audited Financial Statements and Single Audit Report. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Report from Education, Personnel and Student Life Committee

Trustee Luneau, on behalf of Trustee Cluver, reported that the EPSL Committee welcomed Kathy Penberthy and Erin Wetherell as faculty and staff liaisons from CCV, and Hilary Linehan on behalf of VTSU. A fall enrollment update was shared from the most recent October 15 snapshot. The Committee heard presentations from Nicole Overley of Deloitte, and Mathew Barewicz of the Vermont Department of Labor. Both presentations provided valuable insight into the current workforce challenges and labor market. Trustee Ragouzis shared insights from the student perspective on workforce. Heather Weinstein, Dean of Strategic Initiatives and Student Affairs for CCV, also shared a presentation on the part time student experience and community college enrollment patterns. For complete EPSL Committee information, go [here](#).

8. Motion/vote to approve request to award an honorary degree at Northern Vermont University

VTSU President Parwinder Grewal shared the story of Claire Duke in support of his request to award an honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, to her at NVU’s commencement in December. Further information about her story can be found [here](#) on pages 22-34.

Chair Dickinson clarified that normally a request like this would go through the EPSL Committee first, but due to time constraints, this request came directly to the Board for approval.

Trustee Jefferson moved and Trustee Durfee seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2022-018, Conferral of Honorary Degree on Claire Diane Duke. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. Presidents’ Reports

President Grewal reported that transformation projects are going well and hiring for the VTSU leadership team is nearly complete. A draft of strategic priorities has been developed and shared with campus communities. Formal development of this plan is required by NECHE for accreditation. Admission staff is currently on the road recruiting students from Vermont and neighboring states. Open houses are occurring on each campus and school counselors are invited to share VTSU information with their students. Faculty is working hard to review programs in the program array and completion is projected for early December. The general education curriculum proposal is making progress and it will likely be approved by the end of November.

CCV President Joyce Judy shared information about occupational credentials, certificate programs, and short-term credentials. All are available at CCV and are intended to provide more immediate benefits from education. WCAX and Seven Days both did news stories on CCV's certification program for funeral directors. CCV continues to see student interest in some form of remote learning. That is forcing CCV to examine their physical space needs and lengths of leases. Monitoring enrollment patterns is crucial to determining these needs.

10. Government Affairs Update

Katherine Levasseur, Director of External and Governmental Affairs, provided an update on the VSC's budget requests, which included a total General Fund request of \$63.35 million. This includes requests for a \$48 million base appropriation, \$9 million for FY2024 one-time Bridge Funding, \$6 million to reduce CCV's tuition by 25%, and \$350,000 of one-time funding to grow VTSU's restorative justice program. The base and bridge requests conform to the Select Committee's recommendations.

Additionally, Ms. Levasseur shared the VSCS submitted a Capital funding request for both FY2024 and FY2025 of \$12.2 million. This request breaks down into \$6.3 million for major maintenance, \$1.1 million for transformation, and \$4.8 million to fund major renovations at Vail Hall in Lyndon and Green Hall at Randolph. Both the budget and capital bill requests will now be considered by the Governor and his team

11. Executive session

At 2:14 p.m. Trustee Grinold 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 public officers and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2) to discuss the negotiating or securing of real estate purchase or lease options. It was further moved that the Board of Trustees enter executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(A) to discuss contracts and 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. Along with the members of the Board present at the meeting, the Board invited the Chancellor, the Chief Financial and Operating Officer, the General Counsel, the President of Vermont State University, and the Chief Human Resources Officer to attend the executive session. Trustee Moran seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The Board exited executive session at 2:59 p.m.

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to approve the tentative agreement reached with the Vermont State Colleges Faculty Federation. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Ragouzis moved and Trustee Tester seconded the motion to approve the issuance of a letter of appreciation to VSC employees, signed by Chair Dickinson, on behalf of the Board of Trustees. The motion was approved unanimously.

12. Additional Business

There was no other business.

VSCS Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
October 31, 2022 Minutes APPROVED

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.