

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Monday, January 23, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom – APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Monday, January 23, 2023, via Zoom

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson, Janette Bombardier, Megan Cluver, David Durfee, Adam Grinold (1:20 p.m.), Shirley Jefferson, Karen Luneau, Mary Moran, Perry Ragouzis, David Silverman, Shawn Tester, Sue Zeller

Absent: Bill Lippert, 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
Kathryn Santiago, Associate General Counsel
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
Lindsey Melo, Assistant Vice President of People & Culture, Vermont State University
Maurice Ouimet, Vice President of Admissions, Castleton University
Andy Pallito, Dean of Administration, Community College of Vermont

Denise Rhodes, Consultant, Finance & Registration Services,
Castleton University
Dannielle Spring, Chief Budget & Finance Officer, Northern
Vermont University
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

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

Beth Walsh shared her concerns regarding the use of VSC campuses by organizations who might share unwelcome messages and that. She instead wants to provide a safe space for students, faculty, and staff deserve a safe campus. Chair Dickinson referred Ms. Walsh to the most recent [DEI Committee meeting](#) and the presentation given by President Smolla of Vermont Law and Graduate School. Chancellor Zdatny explained that when allowing outside groups to use their facilities, public institutions of higher education cannot discriminate on the basis of people's viewpoints.

3. Approval of Minutes
 - a. October 31, 2022

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the motion to approve the October 31, 2022 minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Report from Finance & Facilities Committee
 - a. Motion/vote to approve name change of the Family Fund to the Rolf1941 Farm Family Fund
 - b. Motion/vote to approve creation of the Mary Elizabeth Trudeau Baker Nursing Scholarship Endowment
 - c. Motion/vote to approve Policy 403, *System Annual Operating Budget*, and sub-policies 403-A, 403-B, 403-C, and 403-D
 - d. Motion/vote to approve System Carryforward Request

Trustee Silverman asked President Grewal to introduce the two Endowment requests to the committee. Vermont State University President Parwinder Grewal explained that the request to rename the Farm Family Fund to the Rolfe1941 Farm Family Fund is being made at the behest of the Rolfe family because there is another endowment at Vermont Technical College with a similar title.

Trustee Moran moved and Trustee Zeller seconded the motion to approve the name change of the Family Fund to the Rolfe1941 Farm Family Fund. The motion was approved unanimously.

President Grewal described the endowment to be titled the Mary Elizabeth Trudeau Baker Nursing Scholarship Endowment as a scholarship that will be awarded to students who are studying nursing through the legacy nursing program that originated at Vermont Tech. Former President and current Executive Director of Workforce, Pat Moulton, shared additional information about the donor, a former nurse.

Trustee Moran moved and Trustee Ragouzis seconded the motion to approve the creation of the Mary Elizabeth Trudeau Baker Nursing Scholarship Endowment. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Silverman shared that the revisions to Policy 403, *System Annual Operating Budget*, is the culmination of a year of work by the Finance and Facilities Committee and the Business Affairs Council. Chief Financial and Operating Officer Sharron Scott presented an overview of the Policy 403 System Annual Operating Budget calculations and those slides can be found [here](#).

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to approve Policy 403, System Annual Operating Budget, and sub-policies 403-A, 403-B, 403-C, and 403-D. The motion was approved unanimously.

CFOO Scott explained that the system carryforward requests directly support system financial sustainability by moving funds into the newly created Economic Stabilization Fund and the Information Technology Capital Fund. The requests also include the creation of a VSCS Strategic Reserve to fund strategic initiatives. Further information on the System carryforward Requests can be found [here](#) on page 48.

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Tester seconded the motion to approve the System carryforward request. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Report from Nominating Committee

- a. Motion/vote on nomination of Megan Cluver to serve a second term as a Board-elected trustee
- b. Motion/vote on election of at least three trustees to serve on the Nominating Committee

Trustee Grinold reported that the Nominating Committee recommends Trustee Cluver be elected to serve a second term as a Board-elected trustee.

Trustee Luneau moved and Trustee Bombardier seconded the motion to approve the appointment of Megan Cluver to serve a second term as a Board-elected trustee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Dickinson shared that Trustee Grinold will be stepping down as a trustee when his term concludes and will not continue to serve on the Nominating Committee. Trustee Bombardier and Trustee Lippert have agreed to continue to serve and Trustee Moran volunteered to join the Committee.

Trustee Grinold moved and Trustee Jefferson seconded the motion to elect Trustee Bombardier, Trustee Lippert and Trustee Moran to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2023-2024 calendar year. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. Report from Education, Personnel and Student Life Committee

- a. Motion/vote to approve Resolution 2023-001: *Resolution Honoring the Shared Governance Leadership of Faculty Assemblies*
- b. Motion/vote to approve VSC Policy 107-A, *Posthumous Degrees*
- c. Motion/vote to approve Resolution 2023-003-2: *Establishment of EPSL Committee Liaisons*

Trustee Cluver reported that the EPSL Committee heard an overview of student success from Kelley Beckwith, Vice President for Student Success at Vermont State University. Sarah Potter, Chief Human Resources Officer, shared an update on the vision and goals for Human Resources Shared Services. Nolan Atkins, Vermont State University Provost, reported on academic transformation projects, including the approval of the program array and the general education program.

EPSL brought two resolutions and a new policy to the Board for approval. The first is a Resolution recognizing the work accomplished by the leaders of the Faculty Assemblies.

Trustee Ragouzis moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2023-001: Resolution Honoring the Shared Governance Leadership of Faculty Assemblies. The motion was approved unanimously.

VSC Policy 107-A, *Posthumous Degrees*, a new Board policy, addresses an existing gap in the Board's policies and is consistent with how other Vermont and regional public institutions of higher education address the granting of degrees to deceased students.

Trustee Moran moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve VSC Policy 107-A, Posthumous Degrees. The motion was approved unanimously.

Resolution 2023-002 reflects the EPSL Committee's interest in hearing additional staff and faculty voices and their perspectives on the Committee's work.

Trustee Moran moved and Trustee Jefferson seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2023-002: Establishment of EPSL Committee Liaisons. The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Report from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Trustee Jefferson reported that the DEI Committee heard a presentation from Vermont Law and Graduate School President Rodney Smolla. He spoke on the intersection between freedom of speech, academic freedom, and DEI on public universities and campuses. That presentation can be viewed [here](#).

8. Government Affairs Update

Katherine Levasseur, Director of External and Governmental Affairs, provided an update on the VSC's budget request for Fiscal Year 2024. Trustees Dickinson, Silverman and Zeller attended the VSC's budget presentation to the administration in the fall and this assisted in conveying the depth and breadth of the transformation work and the value of the VSC to its students and the state. The Governor's recommended budget proposal, as announced on January 20, 2023, included a total of \$78.2 million for the VSC. This was comprised of \$48 million in annual appropriation (an increase of \$2.5 million), \$10 million in one-time funding for capital transformation, \$9 million in one-time bridge funding, and \$10 million in one-time funding to pilot a two-year tuition reduction at Community College of Vermont for students enrolled in specific programs. The Governor's proposal fulfills the Select Committee's recommended increase to the VSC base appropriation, provides the bridge funding needed for FY24, gives

significant funds for Capital transformation, and includes support for a workforce development pilot at CCV.

The FY2023 federal budget was signed into law in December and the VSC received support in the form of Congressionally Directed Spending and Community Projects in this budget. A total of \$8,088,000 was earmarked for the VSC, which includes: \$6.3 million for the nursing program to support infrastructure expansion, \$850,000 to support semiconductor technician apprenticeship in partnership with Global Foundries, \$188,000 to support the full or partial removal of the Glen Brook Dam on the Castleton University campus, and \$750,000 to support energy efficiency renovations of the Alexander Twilight Theater at the NVU-Lyndon campus.

9. Workforce Development Update

Pat Moulton, Executive Director of Workforce Development, shared an update on her work, which includes interfacing with 33 different companies, sectors, and initiatives. Her work covers a wide range including preparation of the USDOL nursing expansion grant and workforce opportunities like the EPSCoR grant with Norwich and UVM. Jayshree Bhat has joined the team as the new Associate Vice President of Workforce, Community and Economic Development for VTSU and will be taking over the supervision and operations of Vermont Tech's CEWD team. Work continues on designing the business processes and operations for VTSU's workforce staff.

The VSC is applying to the US Department of Labor for a \$4.9 million grant over 5 years to educate over 100 existing nurses in Vermont with Master's degrees to meet accreditation standards to be clinical instructors. With additional nursing educators, more nursing students can be added. A marine repair training pilot project is underway in Colchester, in collaboration with the auto program at Vermont Tech.

10. Presidents' Reports

Community College of Vermont President Joyce Judy shared the exciting news that one of its students won a gold medal at the recent university games (FISU) at Lake Placid in the Nordic Combined event.

Spring 2023 enrollment continues to hold steady at CCV as compared with past years, after a significant increase during 2020. There are 427 veteran and military connected students enrolled for the spring. Only 16% of CCV's courses are in person now and the rest are either fully remote or a hybrid combination. This is a continuing trend as accessibility becomes a factor and CCV continues to monitor its physical footprint. The 802 Opportunity program was expanded to enable students whose adjusted gross income is under \$75,000 to attend CCV at no cost. Participation in dual enrollment and concurrent enrollment is robust, with many more in early college. CCV seeks to reach students in 7-12th grade. Early college enrollment almost doubled in the current year and 44% of the students this year are 1st generation.

Vermont State University President Grewal shared his presidential update in presentation form that can be found [here](#).

11. Transformation Update

Director of Transformation Projects Wilson Garland shared a Transformation Update with the Board that included a summary of progress and core team updates. A copy of the presentation can be found [here](#). Mr. Garland, with the input of CHRO Sarah Potter, Chief Information Officer Kellie Campbell, and CFOO Sharron Scott reviewed their respective areas of the ongoing transformation work.

12. Additional Business

There was no other business.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.