

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees' Education, Personnel, and Student Life
Committee meeting held Monday May 22, 2023 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom - APPROVED**

The VSCS Board of Trustees Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee met on Monday, May 22, 2023 via Zoom.

Committee Members present: Megan Cluver (Chair), Karen Luneau (Vice Chair), Janette Bombardier, Shirley Jefferson, Mary Moran, Perry Ragouzis

Absent: Jim Masland

Other Trustees present: Lynn Dickinson, David Durfee, Bob Flint (2:00 p.m.), Bill Lippert, David Silverman (2:00 p.m.), Shawn Tester (2:00 p.m.), Sue Zeller (2:00 p.m.)

Committee Liaisons: Katherine Penberthy, CCV Faculty Liaison to EPSL Committee
Erin Wetherell, CCV Staff Liaison to EPSL Committee

Presidents: Joyce Judy, Mike Smith

Chancellor's Office Staff: Wilson Garland, Director of Transformation
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial & Operating Officer
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor
Yasmine Ziesler, Chief Academic Officer

Shared Services: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Kellie Campbell, Chief Information Officer
Sarah Chambers, Director of Learning Technologies
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management

From the Colleges: Victoria Angis, Associate Dean of Students, Castleton University
Nolan Atkins, Provost, Northern Vermont University and Vermont State University
Kelley Beckwith, Vice President of Student Success, Vermont State University
Debby Stewart, Dean of Academic Affairs, Community College of Vermont
Sarah Truckle, Vice President of Business Operations, Vermont State University
Beth Walsh, President, VSCUP, Northern Vermont University

1. Call to Order

Chair Cluver called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. Comments from the Public

Beth Walsh requested that the Board consider providing remote access for its in person Board meetings. She also voiced her concern that key programs were being moved away from the Johnson campus without input from constituents first. And finally, Beth shared her concern that to create a “career ready” university collaboration is needed with career development staff.

3. Approval of March 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Jefferson moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve the March 13, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Vermont State University transformation progress updates

Chair Cluver shared that as EPSL continues to monitor progress on transformation it will hear updates from various stakeholders on their progress. At this meeting the committee heard from the Student Association, Faculty Governance, and Vermont State University on its initial strategic plan.

a. Student Association

Trustee Ragouzis provided updates on the current plans for: the student activities fee for 2023-2024; the development of a consistent approach for the recognition of student clubs and procedures to allow students to join organizations on other campuses (such as Castleton’s NAACP chapter); and ongoing work with IT to design a new tile on the portal for sharing information and making materials available about student clubs and student government. VTSU is in the process of hiring a new Dean of Students who will likely have ideas for initiatives and there will be ongoing evaluation and re-evaluation during the coming year.

b. Faculty Governance

Provost Nolan Atkins provided an overview of the intensive work faculty are currently undertaking to draft a governance model for the new university by the end of May. Faculty leaders began developing thoughts around possible governance models two years ago as part of the Labor Taskforce work and the faculty assembly moderators prepared a summary of the challenges and potential solutions for equitable decision-making last fall. Faculty are being polled on the refined plan. A small drafting group of ten faculty is currently working on the overall structure and committee descriptions, some of which will be school-based and some of which will be university-wide. The drafts will be shared with a larger group of faculty and administrators, whose feedback will be given to the drafting group so the drafts can be finalized next week. A special joint meeting of the existing faculty assemblies to consider and vote on the proposed model is scheduled for early June. It is anticipated that elections for leadership positions in the new structure will be held early in the fall semester.

c. Vermont State University Strategic Plan

Vermont State University Interim President Mike Smith spoke about the Board’s strategic priorities, which were adopted in in the fall of 2020. These priorities are related to affordability, accessibility, quality, and relevance, and can be found [here](#). President Smith shared VTSU’s strategic plan, which is a living document, setting guideposts and objectives for the new university. The objectives in the plan are in alignment with VTSU’s mission and vision statements. The individual projects and metrics will be further socialized with the VTSU community. Further information can be found [here](#) in the materials on pages 11-17. President

Smith and his team answered questions about the advising and counseling available about pathways to other credentials and certificates for those students who for whatever reason are unable to complete a degree. President Smith agreed to provide the full Board with the proposed reporting timelines for the metrics set forth in the plan.

Trustee Luneau moved and Trustee Moran seconded the motion to recommend to the Board the approval of Vermont State University's initial strategic plan. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Approval of revisions to VSC Policies 108 and 111

Chair Cluver explained that these policy revisions were first shared with the EPSL Committee at its March 13th meeting and were now being brought forward for approval. Chief Academic Officer Yasmine Ziesler described the changes to VSC Policy 108, *Transfer of Credit*, to cover a VSC institution (rather than naming the individual institutions) and to include granting credit for coursework completed at an institution accredited by both the U.S. Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, such as credits earned through the military. VSC Policy 111, *Academic Data Management*, includes changes that have evolved from the work of transformation, including the codification of informal practices and norms of the registrars. The revised policy establishes more clarity about how the VSC documents shared courses on a single academic transcript for all VSC students. Further information about these changes can be found [here](#) on pages 18-30. An additional revision to Policy 111, section 4, Class Level, was identified to replace the reference to VTC with VTSU as the institution offering a three-year program. Chair Cluver requested that information about the mix of atypical programs (such as the three-year dental hygiene program) be shared at the committee's August meeting.

Trustee Jefferson moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to recommend to the Board approval of the revisions to VSC Policies 108 and 111. The motion was approved unanimously.

6. General education status update and recommendations

Dr. Ziesler provided an update on the progress to integrate graduation standards established by the Board within the new system-wide general education framework and the related efforts to complete a general education program design for VTSU. The VSC Chief Academic Officers Group has provided a status memo, including an overview of general education requirements at CCV and VTSU, along with two recommendations for consideration, which can be found [here](#) on pages 32-35. Trustee Luneau raised a concern about limiting the focus of equity and inclusion skills solely to race. The definition used in the memorandum was illustrative and came from the National Association of Colleges and Employers' *Competencies for a Career-Ready Workforce*. This concern will be shared with the VSC Chief Academic Officers Group as they continue evaluating the VSC's Graduation Standards over the 2023-2024 academic year. Chair Cluver requested that the committee receive updates on this work over the coming year.

Trustee Moran moved and Trustee Jefferson seconded the motion to recommend to the Board:

1. **To accept the recommendation of the VSC Chief Academic Officers' Group as documented in their memo to review and bring recommendations back to the Board on updated VSC Graduation Standards.**
2. **To recommend to the Board that it approve the option to suspend existing implementation of VSC Policy 106 graduation standards as standalone requirements for incoming students and where necessary, implement waiver procedures for continuing students in prior catalog years when, due to new general education program implementation, standalone requirements are no longer available.**

The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Other Business

There was no other business.

Chair Cluver adjourned the meeting at 2:29 p.m.