

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Monday, August 14, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. via Zoom – APPROVED**

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Monday, August 14, 2023, via Zoom

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson, Janette Bombardier, Megan Cluver, David Durfee, Bob Flint, Shirley Jefferson, Bill Lippert, Karen Luneau, Jim Masland, Perry Ragouzis, Shawn Tester, Sue Zeller

Absent: Mary Moran, David Silverman

Presidents: Joyce Judy, Mike Smith (Interim)

Chancellor's Office Staff: Wilson Garland, Director, Transformation Projects  
Katherine Levasseur, Director of External and Government Affairs  
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director  
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor  
Yasmine Ziesler, Special Assistant to the Chancellor

Shared Services: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst  
Kellie Campbell, Chief Information Officer  
Sarah Chambers, Director, Learning Technologies  
Pat Moulton, Executive Director, Workforce Development  
Sarah Potter, Chief Human Resources Officer  
Kathryn Santiago, Associate General Counsel  
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operations Officer  
Patty Turley, General Counsel  
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management

From the Colleges: Angie Albeck, Associate Dean of Students & Policy 311/Title IX Coordinator, Community College of Vermont  
Nolan Atkins, Vice President of Academic Affairs, Northern Vermont University  
Kelley Beckwith, Vice President of Student Success, Castleton University  
Mary Brodsky, Dean of People and Culture, Community College of Vermont  
Amy Daviarz, Title IX & Protected Rights Coordinator, Vermont State University  
Gretchen DeHart, Senior Director of Engagement & Academic Centers, Community College of Vermont  
Marianne DiMascio, Senior Director of Engagement & Academic Centers, Community College of Vermont

Jenney Izzo, Regional Director of Academic Centers & Community Engagement, Community College of Vermont  
Katie Mobley, Dean of Enrollment & Community Relations, Community College of Vermont  
Nicole Mace, Dean of Administration, Community College of Vermont  
Amy Miller, VSCUP Co-President, Vermont State University  
Maurice Ouimet, Vice President of Admissions, Castleton University  
Debby Stewart, Dean of Academic Affairs, Community College of Vermont  
Littleton Tyler, Assistant Vice President, Finance & Compliance, Vermont State University  
Tiffany Walker, Senior Director of Workforce Education, Community College of Vermont  
Heather Weinstein, Dean of Strategic Initiatives & Student Affairs, Community College of Vermont

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.
2. Comments from the public

Amy Miller introduced herself to the Board as co-chair of VSC United Professionals, with Beth Walsh.

3. Approval of Minutes
  - a. June 12, 2023
  - b. July 7, 2023

**Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Jefferson seconded the motion to approve the June 12, 2023 minutes, and the July 7, 2023 minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.**

4. Annual Board Trainings:
  - a. VSC Policy 311, *Non-discrimination and Prevention of Harassment and Related Unprofessional Conduct*
  - b. VSC Policy 311-A, *Sexual Harassment, Sexual Exploitation, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking*
  - c. VSC Policy 316, *Protection of Minors and Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect*

Chair Dickinson introduced Angie Albeck, Associate Dean of Students and Policy 311/Title IX Coordinator for CCV, and Amy Daviarz, Title IX and Protected Rights Coordinator for Vermont State University. Together, they presented a training on VSC Policies 311, 311A and 316. The presentation can be found [here](#). Associate General Counsel Kathryn Santiago provided

information on the VSC formal complaint process, including data on reports made over the past three years.

5. Report from Ad Hoc Search Committee for an Interim President of Vermont State University

Chair Dickinson provided a report on behalf of the Ad Hoc Search Committee, which was created by the Board at the Annual meeting on June 12<sup>th</sup>. The committee has met four times so far with another three meetings scheduled over the next month. The Board is seeking an interim President for a term of approximately 18-24 months and expects to conduct a full, traditional search for a permanent President during the 2024-2025 academic year. The committee has asked the Chancellor to work with AGB Interim Search to identify 2-3 qualified candidates, in addition to the nominations and recommendations of potential candidates already being explored by the committee. The committee has collected feedback on the “Qualifications and Characteristics” section of the Presidential Portfolio that was developed for the previous Presidential search. A revised draft of the desired “Qualifications and Competencies” for the interim President has been prepared for the committee’s consideration at its upcoming August 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. The committee will be working with the search firm to identify ways to incorporate additional voices into the selection process once final candidates have been identified.

6. Reports from the Presidents

VTSU President Mike Smith reported on the progress of his three main goals: reducing turmoil, obtaining accreditation, and beginning the process of financial stability. Having accomplished the first two goals, he is currently focused on the third, which he intends to achieve through class size optimization and program alignment. His goal is to have a recommendation to faculty for their consideration by October 1<sup>st</sup>. He acknowledged that it will likely take several years to implement Optimization 2.0 of academic programs. President Smith spoke of expanding the Nursing capabilities and programs, particularly on the Johnson campus, using the \$6.3 million nursing infrastructure grant. Vermont State University is developing a strategic plan for admissions that recognizes the different skillset needed to recruit traditional and non-traditional students. He intends to bring the strategic plan to the Board once it has been finalized. President Smith discussed the University workforce development plans and some anticipated restructuring to reduce the amount of bureaucracy. Finally, he shared information about a housing pilot on the Randolph campus in which part-time students can reside in housing, including those taking a single class. The pilot seeks to attract some of 45% of Vermont high school graduates who do not typically go onto college by encouraging them to move out of the family home and experience college, with the hope they will continue their education.

CCV President Joyce Judy reported that CCV is firing on all cylinders. She noted how closely CCV and VTSU are working together on the Respiratory Therapy program. She also referenced an employer partnership with Southwestern Vermont Medical Center, in which the employer helps to support the upskilling of its employees. President Judy also shared information about a resolution the Board passed in 2021 involving a boundary adjustment for the CCV Winooski property. The adjustment has now been made, by which a small piece of land has been conveyed to the city in exchange for a significant discount on parking. President Judy further shared some information regarding the significant uptick in the number of students taking advantage of Early College – they come from 47 high schools in Vermont and represent 13 of the 14 counties.

There is also a significant representation of first-generation students and BIPOC students. President Judy will provide a full enrollment report at the September retreat.

7. Executive Session

**At 4:22 p.m. Trustee Dickinson moved that the VSCS Board of Trustees enter executive session pursuant to 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(F) to receive confidential attorney-client communications because premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body involved at a substantial disadvantage; and 1 VSA 313(a)(3) to discuss the appointment and employment of public officers. Along with members of the Board present at the meeting, the Board invited the Chancellor, the General Counsel, and the Chief Information Officer to attend the executive session. Trustee Lippert seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.**

The Board exited executive session at 5:02 p.m. and took no action.

8. Additional Business

There was no other business.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 5:03 p.m.