

**Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees – Executive Committee**  
**Zoom Meeting/YouTube Stream<sup>1</sup>**  
**Tuesday, October 31, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order
2. Public Comment – [Sign Up for VSC Board of Trustees Public Comment \(google.com\)](#) <sup>2</sup>
3. Approval of Minutes of October 17, 2023 meeting
4. Update on Academic Optimization 2.0 and Administrative Optimization at Vermont State University
5. Executive Session – if needed to discuss personnel
6. Other Business
7. Adjourn

Meeting Materials:

- Minutes of October 17, 2023 committee meeting

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<sup>1</sup> The livestream link is on YouTube at [www.vsc.edu/live](http://www.vsc.edu/live)

<sup>2</sup> Note: To make a comment you must be logged into the live session at <https://www.vsc.edu/botzoom>. Please test your microphone and camera before logging into the session.

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting held Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom - UNAPPROVED**

*Note: These are unapproved minutes, subject to amendment and/or approval at a subsequent meeting.*

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Executive Committee met on Tuesday, October 17, 2023.

Committee members present: Lynn Dickinson (Chair), Megan Cluver (Vice Chair), Karen Luneau, David Silverman

Other Trustees: Betsy Bloomer, David Durfee, Bob Flint, Sue Zeller

Presidents: Joyce Judy, Mike Smith (Interim)

Chancellor's Office staff: Katherine Levasseur, Director of Governmental & External Affairs  
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director  
Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor

Shared Services: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst  
Wilson Garland, Director of Transformation Projects  
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operating Officer  
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, Vermont State University  
Beth Walsh, Co-President, VSCUP, Vermont State University

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Chair Dickinson welcomed new Trustee Betsy Bloomer

2. Public Comment

Beth Walsh provided a comment advocating for the inclusion of faculty and staff on the Chancellor Search Committee as a way to improve employee morale.

3. Approval of October 5, 2023 Minutes

**Trustee Luneau moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the motion to approve the minutes for the October 5, 2023 meetings. The motion was approved unanimously.**

4. Update on how the Castleton community is managing following the murder of retired Dean Honoree Flemming

VTSU President Mike Smith shared that a memorial service is planned for October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 2pm, on the VTSU Castleton campus. There are currently no updates from the State Police. Police protection has been lifted on campus and the state police has brought down their enhanced coverage of the town. President Smith will keep the Trustees and community apprised of further updates as he is aware.

5. Update on FY2025 Legislative ask

Director of Governmental and External Affairs Katherine Levasseur shared that the VSC current ask of the legislature is:

- \$48 M base plus an inflationary increase
- \$10 M bridge funding
- Support for the Vermont Tuition Advantage program at CCV (\$5M)
- And requests for a few language adjustments to previous programs in the Budget Adjustment Act for FY24, additional Global Commitment funds to support our allied health programs, as well as some funding to support high-priority deferred maintenance exacerbated by the July 2023 flooding.

6. Discussion of any public updates on the upcoming period of transition

Chancellor Zdatny shared that details on the Presidential transition are being finalized, and all trustees are invited to attend the currently scheduled Executive Committee meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m., which is being converted to a special meeting of the full Board). Additionally, work continues on the final draft of the NECHE progress report, which is due on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

7. Executive Session

**At 8:43 a.m. Trustee Cluver moved that the Committee enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss the employment of a public official. Along with the members of the Board present at the meeting, the Committee invited the Chancellor, the Chief Financial and Operating Officer, President Mike Smith, President Joyce Judy, the Director of Transformation Projects, and the Director of Governmental and External Affairs to attend. Trustee Luneau seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.**

The committee exited executive session at 10:00 a.m. and took no action.

8. Other Business

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 10:01 a.m.