


## MEMORANDUM

TO: VSCS Board of Trustees

FROM: Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor 

DATE: November 10, 2023

SUBJECT: Board of Trustees' Meeting on Monday, November 13, 2023

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Trustees:

Materials are now available for the Board meeting scheduled for **1:00 p.m. on Monday, November 13<sup>th</sup>**. The meeting will take place via Zoom and will be livestreamed on YouTube. The public will have the opportunity to provide comments.

Following public comment and the approval of the minutes from the Board's October 30, 2023 meeting, the Board will receive reports from the Presidents and the Chancellor, which will be followed by reports from the recent Committee meetings and votes on their recommendations.

The Community College of Vermont and Vermont State University will be providing reports on the status of state-funded projects, such as CCV's Tuition Advantage and several of the legislatively-funded programs at VTSU. CIO Kellie Campbell will then provide an update on the ongoing planning for the ERP replacement project and will be seeking approval of a resolution on the project's governance structure. Vermont State University will then present a proposal for free tuition for students with adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less.

An executive session will be held for the Board to receive an update on labor relations agreements with employees, following which action is expected to be taken. Following any additional business, the Board will go back into executive session to meet with Kerin Stackpole, a Director with the law firm of Paul Frank + Collins, for a training on Vermont's recent amendments to the Fair Employment Practices Act (Act 80). No action is expected to be taken following this session.

cc: Presidents and Senior Leaders

**Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Zoom Meeting/YouTube Stream**  
**Monday, November 13, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to order
2. Comments from the public - signup for public comment at [www.vsc.edu/signup](http://www.vsc.edu/signup).<sup>1</sup>
3. Approval of Minutes – October 30, 2023
4. Reports from the Presidents
5. Report from the Chancellor
6. Report from the Finance and Facilities Committee
  - a. Motion to approve Florilla Ames Endowment
  - b. Motion to approve changes to the Bridges to Vermont Scholarship
  - c. Motion to approve changes to the Alumni Association Endowment
7. Report from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
8. Report from the Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee
  - a. Motion to approve award of honorary degree to Howard Coffin
  - b. Motion to approve revisions to VSC Policy 208: *Criminal Background Checks*
9. Report from Executive Committee
10. Report on State-funded Projects from CCV and VTSU
11. Update on planning for ERP replacement and motion to approve resolution in support of project governance structure
12. VTSU free tuition proposal – discussion and motion to approve
13. Executive session on collective bargaining – action expected to be taken upon exit
14. Additional business
15. Executive session – Board training on Vermont’s recent amendments to the Fair Employment Practices Act (Act 80) – no action expected upon exit
16. Adjourn

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<sup>1</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.

## MEETING MATERIALS

- Item 1: October 30, 2023 Minutes for Approval
- Item 2: Florilla Ames Endowment
- Item 3: Bridges to Vermont Scholarship
- Item 4: Alumni Association Endowment
- Item 5: Howard Coffin Honorary Degree Resolution
- Item 6: VSC Policy 208: *Criminal Background Checks*
- Item 7: Vermont Tuition Advantage Fall 2023 Update
- Item 8: Resolution 2023-013: ERP Project Implementation Governance
- Item 9: VTSU Free Tuition Guarantee

ITEM 1:  
October 30, 2023 Meeting Minutes

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Monday, October 30, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom – UNAPPROVED**

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

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Monday, October 30, 2023, via Zoom

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson, Betsy Bloomer, Janette Bombardier, Megan Cluver, David Durfee, Bob Flint, Shirley Jefferson, Karen Luneau, Perry Ragouzis, David Silverman, Shawn Tester, Sue Zeller

Absent: Bill Lippert, Jim Masland

Presidents: Joyce Judy, Mike Smith, (Interim)

Chancellor's Office Staff: Jen Porrier, Administrative Director  
Katherine Levasseur, Director of Governmental & External Affairs  
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  
Kathryn Santiago, Associate General Counsel  
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial & Operating Officer  
Patty Turley, General Counsel  
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, Vermont State University  
Kelley Beckwith, Vice President of Student Success, Vermont State University  
Karry Booska, Director of Career Development, Vermont State University  
Mary Brodsky, Dean of People & Culture, Community College of Vermont  
Rich Clark, Faculty, Vermont State University  
Mary Droege, Faculty, Vermont State University  
Maurice Ouimet, Vice President of Admissions & Enrollment, Vermont State University  
Julie Theoret, Faculty, Vermont State University  
Sarah Truckle, Vice President, Business Operations, Vermont State University  
Beth Walsh, Co-President, VSCUP, Vermont State University

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.
2. Approval of Minutes
  - a. September 18-19, 2023 Board Retreat
  - b. September 19, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
  - c. September 22, 2023 Special Meeting
  - d. October 24, 2023 Special Meeting

**Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Bombardier seconded the motion to approve the September 18-19, 2023, September 19, 2023, September 22, 2023 and October 24, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was approved with one abstention.**

3. Report from the Audit and Risk Management Committee
  - a. Motion/vote on Resolution 2023-011, *Acceptance of the FY2023 Audited Financial Statements and Single Audit Report*

Trustee Zeller provided a report from the October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023 Audit & Risk Management Committee meeting stating the committee reviewed the results of the financial and single audits. Both audits were successful with the financial audit experiencing no findings and the single audit noting several findings related to student aid programs, also known as Title IV funding. Trustee Zeller noted that the findings related to student aid are relatively common issues, and ones that tend to recur on college campuses. Each of the Vermont State Colleges have identified appropriate mitigation strategies to address these issues and the Audit Committee will receive a regular update on progress toward achieving this goal. Trustee Zeller added that the committee met privately with Withum to discuss the internal workings of the audit and were satisfied with the results. The committee is forwarding resolution 2023-011 *Acceptance of the FY2023 Audited Financial Statements and Single Audit Report* to the Board for approval.

**Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Silverman seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2023-011, *Acceptance of the FY2023 Audited Financial Statements and Single Audit Report*. The motion was approved unanimously.**

4. Comments from the public

Julie Theoret expressed dismay at the recent decisions and actions taken by President Smith and Vice President Truckle in relationship to Administration Optimization. She believes the staff cuts are short sighted and that the six staff affected that are based on the Johnson campus will adversely affect the students there. She stated that cuts at a higher level would better serve the institutions. She felt the decisions were made on faulty data.

Rich Clark urged the Board to call out the state of Vermont for its lack of funding provided to the Vermont State Colleges, which he believes led to what he's called the flawed decision making of Administration Optimization.

Mary Droege shared how stunned she was with the choices of staff who were laid off recently, stating how hard working and integral to student life they are. She wondered who will now do the work that they performed. She felt that the Board has made a grave error and has the authority to reverse this decision.

Beth Walsh reiterated her position that she believes the Vermont State Colleges should eliminate the Chancellor position, and now, as well, the Director of Transformation Projects position. She believes the needs of the students were not put first with the decisions recently made. She lamented the loss on the Johnson campus of the Associate Dean of Students, budget coordinator, a financial aid position, and a conferences and events position.

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 12:48 p.m.

UNAPPROVED

ITEM 2:  
Florilla Ames Endowment





October 9, 2023

Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor  
Vermont State Colleges System  
PO Box 7  
Montpelier, VT 05601

Dear Chancellor Zdatny,

I am pleased to send you the New Funding Source Document for establishing a new endowment at Vermont State University.

Florilla Ames studied at Montpelier Seminary and then went on to receive her teaching credential from Lyndon Normal School in the early 1930's. Thereafter, she taught for two years in the one-room schoolhouse in Waterbury Center and then in Derby, VT, where she met her beloved husband, Darrel Ames.

Mrs. Ames was Vermont's oldest resident when she passed away in 2021 and left a generous bequest to the university in the amount of \$88,000, which will be used to establish a scholarship fund in her name.

In accordance with her wishes, the **Florilla Ames Scholarship Endowment** will provide scholarships to undergraduate students attending Vermont State University's Lyndon campus. There will be no other restrictions on this scholarship.

We look forward to the VSC Board of Trustees' approval for the establishment of this new endowment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Smith", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael K. Smith  
Interim President

Attachments: Funding Source C document

ITEM 3:  
Bridges to Vermont Scholarship



October 9, 2023

Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor  
Vermont State Colleges System  
PO Box 7  
Montpelier, VT 05601

Dear Chancellor Zdatny,

I am pleased to provide you with updated criteria for the existing **Bridges to Vermont Scholarship Endowment**. This endowment was approved and funded in 1995 by Vermont Technical College (VTC) alumnus and Alumni Association President, Richard M. Roderick. Upon our unification to become Vermont State University, Mr. Roderick reviewed his endowment and is requesting to update the criteria to make it accessible to more students.

**Existing Criteria:** The *Bridges to Vermont Scholarship* will be awarded annually to a non-Vermont resident attending Vermont Technical College and entering their second year at VTC or transferring to VTC after having completed at least one year at another college; who has at least a 2.5 GPA; and is actively involved in at least one college club, student government, or community organization. Preference will be given to applicants enrolled in associate's degree programs.

**Proposed Changes:**

- language that includes restricting the scholarship to students attending campuses and learning sites that were historically associated with Vermont Technical College,
- increasing eligibility to include students who are not United States citizens,
- increasing eligibility to include 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year students (when he created this, two year degrees were the only option at VTC), and
- decreasing the minimum GPA requirement from 2.5 to 2.0.

**New Criteria:** The *Bridges to Vermont Scholarship* will be awarded annually to a non-Vermont resident or non-United States citizen attending a campus that was historically part of Vermont Technical College and entering their second, third, or fourth year at VTC or transferring to VTC after having completed at least one year at another college; who has at least a 2.0 GPA; and is actively involved in at least one college club, student government, or community organization.

We look forward to the VSC Board of Trustees' approval of these proposed changes to the Bridges to Vermont Scholarship Endowment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. Smith", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael K. Smith  
Interim President

ITEM 4:  
Alumni Association Endowment



October 9, 2023

Sophie Zdatny, Chancellor  
Vermont State Colleges System  
PO Box 7  
Montpelier, VT 05601

Dear Chancellor Zdatny,

I am pleased to provide you with a proposal to update the criteria for the existing **Alumni Association Endowment** established by the Vermont Technical College Alumni Association (VTCAA) in 2005. This endowment was established with the intention of funding both the *George F. Wellman Scholarship* and the *Edward F. Kibby Sports Award*.

Mr. Wellman graduated from the Vermont School of Agriculture in 1947 and was a long-time manager of the college's farm. The George F. Wellman Scholarship was created to honor Mr. Wellman's dedication to Vermont agriculture.

The Edward F. Kibby Sports Award was intended to provide a \$100 award to a student-athlete, but has not been issued since its inception because NCAA Division III rules prohibit creating awards specifically for student-athletes.

Upon our unification to become Vermont State University, the Vermont Technical College Alumni Association reviewed their endowment and would like to update it to remove problematic criteria and make it more accessible to students. These proposed changes were voted on and approved by the Vermont Technical College Alumni Association this summer.

**Existing Criteria:** Applicants to the *George F. Wellman Memorial Scholarship* must meet the following eligibility requirements: any student enrolled in the Dairy Farm Management or Agribusiness programs who has completed his/her first year of college and has an unmet financial need to continue their education. Preference will be given to Vermont residents. Students must hold at least a 2.5 GPA to qualify.

**Proposed Changes:**

- Changing the name of the scholarship from "George F. Wellman Scholarship" to "VTCAA George F. Wellman Memorial Scholarship";
- Updating the eligible majors from Dairy Farm Management to all the agriculture programs: Center for Ag & Food Entrepreneurship, Forestry, Landscape Contracting, and/or Veterinary Technology;
- Eliminating the Edward F. Kibby Sports Award and honoring the original intent of the award by updating the language to say "preference given to a student involved in athletics". This would include students who are not varsity athletes, but may be involved in sports by coaching a youth soccer team, dancing, or playing a club sport.

**New Criteria:** Applicants to the *VTCAA George F. Wellman Memorial Scholarship* must meet the following eligibility requirements: any student enrolled in an agriculture program, including: Center for Ag & Food Entrepreneurship, Forestry, Landscape Contracting, and/or Veterinary Technology who has



Vermont State  
University

completed his/her first year of college. Students must hold at least a 2.5 GPA to qualify. Preference will be given to student involved in athletics.

We look forward to the VSC Board of Trustees' approval of these proposed changes to the Alumni Association Endowment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Michael K. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style and is followed by a horizontal line.

Michael K. Smith  
Interim President

ITEM 5:  
Howard Coffin Honorary Degree Resolution



**Vermont State President's Office**  
Michael.Smith@VermontState.edu  
802.635.1240

October 25, 2023

Chancellor Sophie Zdatny  
VSC Board of Trustees  
P O Box 7  
Montpelier VT 05601

Dear Chancellor Zdatny and VSC Board of Trustees:

It is my pleasure to nominate Mr. Howard J. Coffin for an honorary degree, which we would like to present to him at the Lyndon Commencement on May 19, 2024.

J. Kevin Graffignino, a former executive director of the Vermont Historical Society, has contacted the president's office on several occasions about awarding Howard an honorary degree. He states that Howard is "unquestionably the most respected and important Vermont Civil War historian of our time." His letter explains his strong feeling for giving this award- that "it's important for Vermont public colleges and universities to recognize instate excellence."

Howard, a sixth generation Vermonter, born and raised in Woodstock, attended Lyndon State College from 1960-1962 before leaving for Vietnam as part of the United State Army. He returned to Vermont where he worked as a reporter for the Rutland Herald, public information staff at Dartmouth College, news director at the University of Vermont, and press secretary to Senator James Jeffords.

He has also written many books on, served on boards, lectured, and lead bus tours to Civil War battlefields and sites. In 2004 he was given a resolution in honor of his "literary and advocacy efforts to record and preserve Vermont's Civil War history."

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Smith".

Michael Smith  
Interim President



VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
RESOLUTION

Honorary Degree Status  
Mr. Howard J. Coffin

- WHEREAS, Mr. Howard J. Coffin, a sixth generation Vermonter born and raised in Woodstock, attended Lyndon State College from 1960-1962 before leaving for Vietnam as part of the U.S. Army; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Howard J. Coffin established a career in journalism and communications in Vermont as well as authoring several books and giving numerous public lectures on Vermont history; and
- WHEREAS, Mr. Howard J. Coffin's efforts to record and preserve Vermont's Civil War history were recognized by the Vermont State Legislature in 2004; and
- WHEREAS, The recommendation from Vermont State University Interim President Mike Smith to award an honorary degree is in full accordance with the criteria set forth in Policy 107; therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the VSC Board of Trustees in the name of Vermont State University grants Mr. Howard J. Coffin an honorary Doctor of Letters degree to be awarded at its next Commencement.

ITEM 6:

VSC Policy 208: *Criminal Background Checks*



## VSC Policy

Title  <b>CRIMINAL AND CREDIT BACKGROUND CHECK POLICY</b>	Number  208	Page  1 of 2
	Date <b>Effective Date:</b> <b>2/1/24</b>	

### POLICY STATEMENT

Criminal background checks will be conducted on all external candidates to whom an offer of paid employment or appointment has been extended and who have not been actively employed by VSC within the past two years. Employment will be contingent on successfully passing the background check. In addition, a background check (criminal and/or credit) may be performed for a current employee applying for a sensitive position or a position involving the handling of cash or financial assets or for unpaid associates (e.g., Graduate Assistants) who are expected to work with vulnerable populations, including minors.

VSC will adhere to the requirements of the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act as well as the Vermont Fair Credit Statute: [9 V.S.A. § 2480b](#)

### PURPOSE

Vermont State Colleges strives to provide a safe environment for visitors, students, faculty, and staff. Information obtained by means of criminal and credit background checks helps determine the applicant's overall employability, ensuring the protection of the current people, property, and information of the organization. It is the purpose of this policy to require criminal background checks on all new (not employed within the past two years) full-time and part-time employees (excluding student employees) and certain contract employees (part-time faculty, instructors and temporary employees who regularly interact with students) to protect vulnerable persons and others who work for, enroll in, or attend programs through the Vermont State Colleges and to protect the integrity of the Vermont State Colleges financial operations.

### DEFINITIONS

**Sensitive position:** A job which requires contact with minors or other "vulnerable populations" as defined by the National Child Protection Act as Amended in 1994. Regular access to residence halls, day care centers, and, at the discretion of the Chancellor or Presidents, other programs or facilities where vulnerable populations are known to be congregated, are factors used to determine whether a position is considered "sensitive". A Security Officer is an example of a "sensitive position." The following non-exclusive considerations may be used to determine which positions are considered "sensitive positions":

- Master key access to buildings, including residences or other facilities
- Direct responsibility for the care, safety, and security of people, or the safety and security of personal and university property (includes childcare workers, physicians, student affairs officers, residence hall supervisors, coaches, transit drivers, etc.)
- Direct responsibility for the care, safety, and security of animals

## POLICY

The Chancellor shall develop procedures, which may be amended from time to time, to implement a system of criminal background checks that at a minimum addresses the following:

### **A. Job Postings**

The requirement to pass applicable background checks must be included in external job postings (except for student workers, some temporary, and some non-compensated positions).

### **B. Persons Covered**

To the extent permitted by law, criminal background checks, including but not limited to those provided by online services, shall be conducted on all persons to whom an offer of employment has been made and who have not been employed by VSC within the previous two years. In addition, fingerprint-supported criminal background checks shall be conducted on all persons, including student employees, to whom an offer of employment has been made for a sensitive position. Credit background checks shall also be conducted on all persons whose employment involves substantive financial or fiduciary duties.

Existing employees who seek different employment within the Vermont State Colleges system need not undergo new criminal background checks if one had been performed upon initial hiring or thereafter. However, the results of the prior check may be weighed by the hiring authority, if relevant and material to the position under consideration. For existing employees who have not undergone any prior criminal background check within the Vermont State Colleges system, one must be performed if the employee is offered a "sensitive position" (e.g. moving to a job in a residence hall or summer camp).

Consent for a Background Check must be obtained prior to conducting the check. If the services of a Consumer Reporting Agency are used, FCRA-compliant authorizations and disclosures must be provided to the candidate. Candidates may decline to authorize a background check; in such cases, no background check is performed, and the candidate's application is not considered further. Absent extenuating circumstances, candidates who fail to participate fully or who provide inaccurate information in a background check will be eliminated from further consideration.

**C. Confidentiality of Criminal Background Check Information**

Information obtained in the context of criminal background checks shall be kept confidential in accordance with applicable state and federal laws.

It is the responsibility of the Chief Human Resources Officer to ensure policy compliance and work with VSC institutions to establish background check procedures as appropriate for their respective campuses.

Signed by:  
  
Chancellor

Date	Version	Revision	Approved By
04/20/2006	1.0	Adopted	VSCS Board of Trustees
07/21/2010	2.0	Updated	VSCS Board of Trustees
07/29/2016	3.0	Updated	VSCS Board of Trustees
11/16/2020	4.0	Updated	VSCS Board of Trustees
11/13/2023	5.0	Updated (proposed)	VSCS Board of Trustees

**ITEM 7:**  
**Vermont Tuition Advantage Fall 2023 Update**

# VERMONT TUITION ADVANTAGE

## FALL 2023 UPDATE

### THE NUMBERS

- First Generation: 69%
- Adults (24 or older): 60%
- POC or Hispanic: 15%
- New Students: 34%
- Age Range: 16 to 64 years old
- Average Age: 29
- Most popular programs: Healthcare (29%), Business & Accounting (23%), Early Childhood Education (19%), Behavioral Sciences (18%)
- Enrollment Increases: Business (17%), IT (17%), Behavioral Sciences (12%), Healthcare (7%)

During the 2023 legislative session, Governor Phil Scott proposed, and the legislature funded, a program to reduce CCV's tuition by 50% for the 2023-2024 academic year in certain degree and certificate programs. The program is designed to provide more Vermonters with education and training for high-demand jobs.

**2,400**

**VERMONTERS ENROLLED IN VERMONT  
TUITION ADVANTAGE PROGRAMS**

**\$2.44**

**MILLION DOLLARS IN TUITION SAVINGS TO  
VERMONTERS IN FALL 2023**

**32%**

**LESS LOAN BORROWERS IN VTA  
PROGRAMS COMPARED TO FALL 2022**

**ITEM 8:**

**Resolution 2023-013:ERP Project Implementation Governance**



VERMONT STATE COLLEGES SYSTEM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RESOLUTION 2023-013

ERP PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION GOVERNANCE

- WHEREAS, The Chancellor of the Vermont State Colleges has recommended assessment or review with possible replacement of the Vermont State Colleges long-standing Enterprise Resource Planning software, *Colleague*; and
- WHEREAS, The Chancellor’s recommendation includes development of a strategic roadmap that supports the full scope of all core business operations; and
- WHEREAS, The proposed project emphasizes cost containment, administrative consolidation, increased efficiency, and streamlined processes and procedures; and
- WHEREAS, The proposed project expects unified implementation of processes and procedures wherever possible, but recognizes that a modest amount of institutional customization may need to be accommodated, and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees agrees with the Chancellor’s recommendation and has already set aside \$10 million of funding to support a well-crafted replacement project; and
- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees has a fiduciary responsibility to oversee all efforts of significant size and scope; and
- WHEREAS, The size and scope of this replacement project extends to every aspect of the work of the Vermont State Colleges system and each member institution; and
- WHEREAS, The Chancellor has recommended that the Board of Trustees serve as the project sponsor and serve as the critical decision maker for issues governance; and
- WHEREAS, The Chancellor has recommended that the Finance and Facilities Committee of the Board of Trustees receive project updates as a standing agenda item at each regularly scheduled meeting; and

WHEREAS, The Chancellor has recommended that the Council of Presidents, Chief Financial and Operating Officer, and Chief Information Officer serve as the project stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, The Chancellor has recommended that the Chief Information Officer establish a Steering Committee comprised of key members with recognized subject matter expertise from the Community College of Vermont, Vermont State University, and Shared Services; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees agrees with the Chancellor’s recommendations; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees directs the Chancellor to develop a strategic roadmap that supports replacement of the current ERP solution with new or updated software that supports the full scope of all core business operations of the Vermont State Colleges system; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees establishes the following guiding principles:

1. Project governance shall include the Board of Trustees as project sponsors.
2. The Finance and Facilities Committee shall receive regular updates regarding the project and shall bring material issues of consequence to the full board where necessary.
3. Project decisions shall be made in the best interest of the system as a whole. Emphasis shall be placed on cost containment, administrative consolidation, increased efficiency, and streamlined processes and procedures.
4. The default expectation is that unified processes across all entities will be established, while recognizing that, where essential to the mission of an institution, customization may be considered.

THEREFORE BE IT,

Approved:

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Eileen “Lynn” Dickinson, Chair of the Board of Trustees

**ITEM 9:**  
**VTSU Free Tuition Guarantee**

## **Vermont State University Free Tuition Guarantee**

Vermont State University's tuition and scholarship packaging for 2023-2024 comes close to guaranteeing free tuition for students/families with an adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less. Because affordability is a critical goal of the Board of Trustees, Vermont State University further modest adjustments to its awarding rubric to guarantee free tuition for these students.

While this proposal slightly increases the institutional aid profile for Vermont State University the institution believes this adjustment is in the best interest of Vermonters, Vermont State University, and the Vermont State Colleges.

## Vermont State University Free Tuition Guarantee (info for students)

Beginning in the fall semester of 2024, qualified Vermont residents can attend Vermont State University tuition free. Delivering high quality and affordable education is our number one priority. With locations spanning across the entire state, Vermonters can be sure to have greater access to these programs going forward. VTSU will close the standard tuition\* gap with institutional aid after all federal, state, and employer supported aid is applied to a student's account.

### Who is eligible?

- Vermont residents of any age enrolling as new students in degree programs starting in the fall semester of 2024 or spring semester of 2025.
- Student/family adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less as reflected on their FAFSA.
- Students seeking their initial undergraduate degree. Those with previous bachelor's degrees do not qualify.

### How do I apply?

- Apply for and be admitted to Vermont State University
- Submit a [FAFSA](#) (School Code: 003698)
- Submit a [Vermont Grant Application](#) through VSAC

### Requirements

- Register for a minimum of 12 credits fall and spring semesters (does not include summer).
- Maintain good academic standing (2.0/4.0) and satisfactory academic progress towards degree completion.
- Eligibility will be reviewed each academic year based on the current year FAFSA.

\* The Vermont State University Free Tuition Guarantee covers standard program tuition only. Program tuition for Engineering and Technology; Nursing and Respiratory Therapy; and Dental and Radiologic is not covered by this program.