

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting held Monday, January 18, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom - APPROVED

The VSCS Board of Trustees Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee met on Monday, January 18, 2023 via Zoom.

Committee Members present: Shirley Jefferson (Chair), Bill Lippert, Karen Luneau, Mary Moran, Perry Ragouzis

Absent: David Durfee, Jim Masland

Other Trustees Present: Megan Cluver, Lynn Dickinson

Presidents: Parwinder Grewal, Joyce Judy

Chancellor's Office Staff: Donny Bazluka, Network/Security Analyst
Kellie Campbell, Chief Information Officer
Helen Linda, Business & Process Analyst
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Sarah Potter, Chief Human Resources Officer
Kathryn Santiago, Associate General Counsel
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, Vermont State University
Kelley Beckwith, Vice President of Student Success, Castleton University
Mary Brodsky, Dean of People and Culture, Community College of Vermont
Andrew Clark, Student, Vermont Technical College
Ana Gaillat, Dean of Academic Affairs, Vermont Technical College
Aurora Hurd, Assistant Director of DEISJ Outreach and Accountability, Vermont State University
Kathleen Mason, Coordinator for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Vermont Technical College
Elizabeth Powell, Faculty, Northern Vermont University

From the Public

Rodney Smolla, President, Vermont Law School

1. Call to Order

Chair Jefferson called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2. Public Comment

Chair Jefferson stated that public comment would be moved to the general discussion session following the presentation by President Smolla.

3. Approval of October 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Trustee Moran moved and Trustee Luneau seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2022 meeting. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Education Presentation on the intersection of Freedom of Speech, Academic Freedom, and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Principles by President Rodney Smolla, the President of Vermont Law and Graduate School

Chair Jefferson introduced Vermont Law and Graduate School President Rodney Smolla. President Smolla shared that the First Amendment has been the focus of his academic research and writings. He provided an overview of the intersection between freedom of speech, academic freedom, and DEI on public universities' campuses. This was followed by a robust question and answer session with Trustees and meeting attendees. The presentation and discussion are available [here](#).

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments separate from the discussion following President Smolla's presentation.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

Chair Jefferson adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.