

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom – APPROVED

The Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, via Zoom

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson, Betsy Bloomer, Janette Bombardier, Megan Cluver, David Durfee, Bob Flint (8:55 a.m.), Shirley Jefferson, Karen Luneau, Jim Masland (8:43 a.m.), Perry Ragouzis, David Silverman, Sue Zeller

Absent: Bill Lippert, Shawn Tester

Presidents: David Bergh, Incoming Interim President, VTSU
Joyce Judy, President, CCV
Mike Smith, Interim President, VTSU

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

Shared Services: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Sarah Chambers, Director, Learning Technologies
Wilson Garland, Director of Transformation Projects
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial & Operating Officer
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, 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 8:30 a.m.
2. Comments from the public

Beth Walsh thanked Chancellor Zdatny for attending the women's soccer match at the Johnson campus this weekend and noted that it is a morale boost to see administrators and trustees on campus. Ms. Walsh then commented on the anxiety about the upcoming Administrative Optimization plan being felt by the staff and faculty on campuses. The Staff Federation and the United Professionals unions both express concern that further cuts will stress an already thinned out workforce. Ms. Walsh expressed concern that this planning is based on current enrollment as opposed to future enrollment. Ms. Walsh requested prior notification of any possible reductions in workforce in order to prepare her union members.

3. Motion/vote on Resolution 2023-012, Presidential Transition at Vermont State University

Chair Dickinson read Resolution 2023-012, *Appointment of Provost Atkins to serve as Acting President of Vermont State University Pending Arrival of Interim President David Bergh.*

Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Bombardier seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2023-012 Appointment of Provost Atkins to serve as Acting President of Vermont State University Pending Arrival of Interim President David Bergh. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Dickinson thanked Interim President Mike Smith for his hard work during his short but effective term as interim president. She then welcomed future President David Bergh.

4. Executive Session

At 8:37 a.m. Trustee Cluver moved that the VSCS Board of Trustees enter executive session pursuant to 1 VSA 313(a)(1)(3) to discuss the employment of public employees. Along with members of the Board present at the meeting, the Board invited the Chancellor, the Chief Financial and Operating Officer, President Mike Smith, President Joyce Judy, VTSU's Vice President of Business Operations, Provost Nolan Atkins, incoming President David Bergh, the Director of Transformation Projects, General Counsel, and the Director of External and Governmental Affairs to attend. Trustee Zeller seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The Board exited executive session at 9:41 a.m.

5. Motion/vote to approve VTSU's proposed Administrative Optimization plan

Trustee Masland moved and Trustee Jefferson seconded the motion to approve Vermont State University's proposed Administrative Optimization plan. The motion was approved with one abstention by Trustee Ragouzis.

Chair Dickinson noted that for three years the Vermont State Colleges have been implementing a plan put forth by the legislature with the goal of preventing the closure of campuses. The unification and transformation of the system have included across the board changes, including changes to academic offerings, faculty, and now the administration. The goal is to realize the savings as outlined by the Select Committee.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 9:47 a.m.