

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Executive Committee meeting held Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. via Zoom - APPROVED

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: David Durfee

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
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operating Officer
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, Vermont State University
Denise Rhodes, Student Financial Support Specialist, Vermont State University

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

There was no public comment.

3. Approval of October 17, 2023 Minutes

Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the motion to approve the October 17, 2023 meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Update on Academic Optimization 2.0 and Administrative Optimization at Vermont State University

VTSU President Mike Smith shared that Academic Optimization 2.0 has resulted in a total reduction of 27 faculty positions through a combination of buyouts, retirements, unrenewed contracts, and one layoff. There have also been some refinements to the initial recommendations to the program array as a result of feedback. VTSU Provost Nolan Atkins added that feedback was received from faculty, deans, and students between October 2nd and October 27th, including counter proposals on the program array. It resulted in modifications of the recommendations in ten disciplinary areas, including not consolidating math with data science and statistics, retaining

fine arts at Castleton in anticipation of a sizeable gift, and establishing a standalone restorative justice degree and credential.

5. Executive Session

At 8:40 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, and the Provost of Vermont State University to attend. Trustee Silverman seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The committee exited executive session at 9:01 a.m. and took no action.

6. Other Business

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 9:02 a.m.