

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee meeting held Monday, March 11, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. via Zoom - UNAPPROVED

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

The VSCS Board of Trustees Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee met on Monday, March 11, 2024 via Zoom.

Committee Members present: Shirley Jefferson (Chair), Betsy Bloomer, Megan Cluver, Bob Flint, Perry Ragouzis

Absent: Jim Masland

Other Trustees Present: Lynn Dickinson

Presidents: David Bergh, Joyce Judy

Chancellor's Office Staff: Beth Mauch, Chancellor
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director

Shared Services: Donny Bazluke, Network/Security Analyst
Sarah Chambers, Director of Learning Technologies
Helen Linda, Business and Process Analyst
Kathryn Santiago, Associate General Counsel
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial & Operating Officer
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management

From the Colleges: Oyibo Afoaku, Chief Diversity Officer, VTSU
Kelley Beckwith, Vice President of Student Success, VTSU
Mary Brodsky, Dean of People and Culture, CCV
Rich Clark, Faculty, VTSU
Aurora Hurd, Assistant Director of DEISJ Outreach and Accountability, VTSU
Denise Rhodes, Student Financial Support Specialist, VTSU
Sarah Truckle, Vice President, Business Operations, VTSU

From the public: Rod Smolla, President, Vermont Law and Graduate School

1. Call to Order

Chair Jefferson called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m.

2. Public Comment

Chair Jefferson noted that the committee has heard the concerns presented during public comment at recent meetings and is taking them seriously, following up to learn more, and is connecting with the appropriate VTSU administrators to address concerns.

Denise Rhodes provided a comment requesting that the presentation heard by the committee from Mary Brodsky, CCV's Dean of People and Culture, at the most recent meeting, on "Calling in vs. Calling out" be made available for the VTSU community.

3. Approval of January 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Chair Jefferson reminded the committee that Robert's Rules of Order, which guides parliamentary procedure in public meetings, does not necessitate the need to abstain from voting on minutes, even if the meeting was not attended personally, as this could lead to quorum issues.

Trustee Flint moved and Trustee Ragouzis seconded the motion to approve the January 8, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Educational Presentation on the United States Supreme Court decision on race-conscious admission programs at colleges and universities

Associate General Counsel Kathryn Santiago welcomed Rodney Smolla, President of Vermont Law and Graduate School. President Smolla is an accomplished litigator and scholar, renowned for his work in constitutional law, civil rights, freedom of speech, and mass media law, particularly matters relating to libel and privacy. A first-generation college student, President Smolla received his JD from Duke University School of Law and his BA, cum laude, from Yale University. President Smolla provided an Educational Presentation on the recent "United States Supreme Court decision on race-conscious admissions programs at colleges and universities." Following President Smolla's presentation, the Trustees and staff engaged in a question-and-answer period. The presentation can be found [here](#).

5. Other Business

There was no other business.

Chair Jefferson adjourned the meeting at 12:26 p.m.