

Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees Meeting held Monday, April 15, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at VTSU Lyndon Campus, Moore Community Room, Lyndonville, VT – 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, April 15, 2024, at VTSU-Lyndon

Board members present: Lynn Dickinson (Chair), Megan Cluver (Vice-Chair), David Durfee, Bob Flint (via Phone), Shirley Jefferson, Karen Luneau, Marc Mihaly, Perry Ragouzis, David Silverman, Shawn Tester, Sue Zeller

Absent: Betsy Bloomer, Janette Bombardier, Jim Masland

Presidents: David Bergh, Joyce Judy

Chancellor's Office Staff: Beth Mauch, Chancellor
Jen Porrier, Administrative Director
Drake Turner, Director of Governmental & External Affairs
Yasmine Ziesler, Special Assistant to the Chancellor

Shared Services: Kellie Campbell, Chief Information Officer
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial & Operating Officer
Wilson Garland (via phone), Director of Transformation Projects
Toby Stewart, Controller
Patty Turley, General Counsel
Meg Walz, Director, Project Management

From the Colleges: Nolan Atkins, Provost, VTSU
Kelley Beckwith, Vice President, Student Success, VTSU
Terry Dwyer, VSEA Unit Steward, VTSU
Barb Flathers, Executive Assistant to the President, VTSU
Jason Kaiser, Learning Spaces Technology Specialist, VTSU
Nicole Mace, Dean of Administration, CCV
Maurice Ouimet, Vice President, Admission & Enrollment, VTSU
Sarah Truckle, Vice President, Business Operations, VTSU
Beth Walsh, Co-President, VSCUP, VTSU

From the Public: Sophie Zdatny, Former Chancellor, VSC

1. Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

Chair Dickinson welcomed new legislative Trustee Marc Mihaly to the Board and asked the Trustees and the rest of the meeting attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Public Comment

Beth Walsh provided a comment sharing that this is her last year as President of the VSC United Professionals Union. She has enjoyed the work and is looking forward to a productive last year as their president and working with the Board .

3. Approval of January 22, 2024 Minutes

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Silverman seconded the motion to approve the January 22, 2024 meeting minutes. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Presentation: VTSU Student Success Initiative

Kelley Beckwith, VP of Student Success, shared a presentation on the VTSU Student Success Initiative. That presentation can be found [here](#) on pages 13-23.

5. Report from the Finance & Facilities Committee

Trustee Silverman shared that since the last Board of Trustees meeting, the Finance & Facilities Committee has met twice, on February 12 and on April 5. At the February meeting, the committee reviewed the second quarter financial materials and the first pass of the FY25 budget. They also received an update on the ERP assessment project. At the April meeting, the committee reviewed the second pass of the budget and received a thorough briefing on the ERP assessment and Roadmap. They also reviewed an endowment request.

Chair Dickinson provided information on the Sophie Zdatny Scholarship Endowment, stating that upon the departure of Sophie Zdatny from the position of Chancellor, a Scholarship Endowment was established in her honor. \$36k was raised with an additional \$11k pledged to the scholarship. Eligible students will receive a scholarship in their last term at CCV and in their first year at VTSU. The goal is to support student affordability and accessibility taking advantage of the high value transfer pathways between the two colleges. Further information can be found [here](#) on pages 25-27. Former Chancellor Zdatny spoke to express her appreciation for the establishment of the Endowment.

Trustee Luneau moved and Trustee Jefferson seconded the motion to approve the Sophie Zdatny Scholarship Endowment. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Silverman continued, stating that the budget is shaping up favorably. At present, the system is within \$500k of hitting its target of \$10 million deficit for FY25. The third and final pass of the budget will come before the committee on May 20 in advance of our Annual Meeting in June. Lastly, the committee received a briefing from Chief Information Officer, Kellie Campbell, on the ERP assessment and Roadmap. The Board will hear more about that later in this meeting.

6. Report from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee

Trustee Jefferson provided a report from the March 11th meeting of the DEI committee. At that meeting the committee received an educational presentation from Rodney Smolla, President of Vermont Law and Graduate School, on the United States Supreme Court decision on race-conscious admission programs at colleges and universities. 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. Following President Smolla's presentation, the Trustees and staff engaged in a question-and-answer period. The presentation can be found on the VSC YouTube channel at www.vsc.edu/live.

7. Report from the Education, Personnel and Student Life Committee

Trustee Cluver provided an overview of the March 11th meeting of the EPSL committee which included an update on student success efforts and student advancement data being tracked at CCV; an update on the development of the VTSU student experience in the areas of career services and academic support and advising; a preliminary overview of anticipated updates to VSC Policy 101 (Program Review & Continuous Improvement Process); and an update on the most recent and anticipated future work on workforce development efforts at CCV and VTSU. Finally, the committee recommended awarding two faculty fellowships for Dr. Anne Slonaker and Dr. Michael Talbott. Further information on their nominations can be found [here](#) on pages 29-35.

Trustee Ragouzis moved and Trustee Zeller seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2024-001, Faculty Fellowship for Dr. Anne Slonaker. The motion was approved unanimously.

Trustee Ragouzis moved and Trustee Zeller seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2024-002, Faculty Fellowship for Dr. Michael Talbott. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Report from the Audit & Risk Management Committee

Trustee Zeller reviewed the outcome of the February 12th meeting of the Audit & Risk Management Committee. At that meeting the committee reviewed and approved the system's FY24 internal audit. This audit is focused on the payment of stipends and one-time payments and is designed with an eye toward process improvement. The results of the audit will be available at the next regularly scheduled committee meeting. The committee also received an update on the FY23 single audit findings, and finally, there was an executive session where the committee received a briefing on cyber security and GLBA.

9. Report from the Executive Committee

Chair Dickinson shared that the Executive Committee discussed the addition of CCV and VTSU faculty and staff liaisons to all the remaining committees, following the example of EPSL. The committee tasked management with presenting a uniform plan of action for this undertaking. The committee also agreed it would like to see increased training for Trustees and it was agreed that General Counsel would present a plan to the Board at the June 10th meeting for future trainings.

10. ERP Assessment Update

CIO Kellie Campbell provided an update on the system's Enterprise Resource Planning Assessment project. With the work concluded, the project steering committee and key stakeholders have created a recommendation regarding how to move forward with additional context. The presentation can be found [here](#) on pages 29-48.

11. Report from the Chancellor

Chancellor Beth Mauch shared her optimism for the future of the VSC with the Board. She shared her plans to steer VSC towards initiatives that will bolster Vermont's futures and her plans for achieving this. Those plans include: expanding education access for Vermonters of all ages by broadening their education opportunities; investing in infrastructure by increasing investments in facilities to ensure they remain vibrant centers of education that are integral to the economic vitality of our communities; and fostering community partnerships by collaborating with community leaders and building strong business and organizational partnerships to yield mutual benefits for Vermont.

Chancellor Mauch shared some key updates including encouraging news regarding enrollment outlook as robust trends for the upcoming fall semester are observed. Given the recent difficulty nationally for the FAFSA recently, the VSC has undertaken some proactive measures in engaging students to assist with their FAFSAs including working with VSAC and remaining in contact with Senator Sanders' office. With labor negotiations underway, the focus is on striving to offer competitive compensation and sustainable benefits to employees. Diligent preparation is underway for the integration of a new Enterprise Resource Planning system to enhance our operational efficiency. President Bergh has initiated discussions on the infrastructure at VTSU, encouraging participation from both campus and community members, with conversations set to continue into the fall. Chancellor Mauch shared her commitment to visiting centers and campuses across the state with President Judy and President Bergh. She was excited to see some of the early renovations for VTSU's nursing program expansion and was delighted to be able to attend an Access Day at CCV Winooski. The Chancellor stated that the financial reports are encouraging, showing that we are on track to meet our projected budget estimates. She concluded her report by thanking the Board for their support as it fuels the collective mission.

12. Government Affairs Update

Drake Turner, Director of Governmental and External Affairs, gave a report as the legislature is in the final weeks of its session. The Chancellor had the opportunity to build relationships with legislative leaders, testifying to key committees in the House and Senate, and sharing updates on transformation and exciting news from CCV and VTSU.

House and Senate committees have heard updates on specific programs like: Nursing expansion and Allied Health Programs, the importance of Early College, the supports offered to homeless students and students exiting the foster system, CCV's Corrections Post-Secondary Education Initiative, and Workforce programming across CCV and VTSU.

With regards to the budget update, the House passed budget contains the following VSC appropriations:

- Base appropriation: \$49.4 million, which reflects a 3% increase.

- Bridge funding: \$10 million dollars, which reflects the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Future of Public Higher Education to offset the expected FY25 deficit.
- \$1 million to support CCV's Vermont Tuition Advantage Program, which offers tuition support to eligible students.

The budget is currently under consideration in the Senate. Several bills are also currently under consideration in the House and Senate that pertain to the VSC, which Ms. Turner will keep the Board apprised of. Finally, there was a Lyndon legislative breakfast earlier today where the Chancellor and President Bergh were able to speak with a group of local legislators and business and community leaders in the Lyndon region to discuss how to continue to partner to ensure vibrancy at VTSU-Lyndon.

13. Report from the Presidents

VTSU President David Bergh shared updates from VTSU that included current work on the Master Plan for VTSU. In concert with DumontJanks, a lot of work has been done looking at the facilities and space planning, concluding that there is a commitment to maintaining five vibrant campuses but also utilizing underutilized space and deciding what to do with spaces that might require new uses. Academic planning continues under Provost Atkins with implementation of Optimization 2.0 over the summer and next fall. CCV Pathways work continues to be very successful with seven pathways currently completed and many more in development. Enrollment planning is underway with cautious optimism for significant increases resulting from current implemented strategies. The campus signage project is also almost complete. VTSU is very excited to be approaching their first commencement in May. There will be four ceremonies in two days for the milestone event and President Bergh hoped to see many of the Trustees there.

CCV President Joyce Judy started by offering a data response to a Trustee's question from a previous meeting about secondary education programs at CCV. That information can be found [here](#). President Judy shared information about an event CCV was involved in along with UVM, the McClure Foundation, VSAC, VCF and The Curtis Foundation, featuring Richard Reeves, focusing on closing the opportunity gap of disengaged men and boys. President Judy mentioned CCV's International Food Festival occurring on April 18th and the significance of celebrating CCV's international student community. CCV's commencement is June 1st on the Norwich campus.

14. Review and Discuss: Board of Trustees 2024-2025 calendar

Chair Dickinson asked the Trustees to review the draft calendar in the packet and provide feedback to Jen Porrier if anyone has issues with any proposed dates. This calendar will be finalized at the June 10th annual Board meeting.

15. Executive Session

At 3:17pm Chair Cluver moved that the VSC Board of Trustees enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) to discuss labor relations agreements with employees, 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2) to discuss negotiating or securing real estate or lease options, and pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to consider the employment of a public employee, and because premature general public knowledge of these discussions would place VSC at a substantial disadvantage, it was appropriate for the Committee to enter executive session.

Along with the members of the Board present at this meeting, the Board invited the Chancellor, the VSC Chief Financial and Operating Officer, the General Counsel, the President of Vermont State University, and the President of Community College of Vermont to attend. Trustee Jefferson seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.

The Board exited executive session at 4:01 p.m. and took no action.

16. Additional Business

There was no additional business.

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 4:02 p.m.

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