

**Minutes of the VSCS Board of Trustees' meeting held Monday October 28, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at the Stearns Performance Space, Vermont State University, Johnson Campus - APPROVED**

The VSCS Board of Trustees met on Monday, October 28, 2024 at VTSU Johnson.

Committee Members present: Lynn Dickinson (Chair), Megan Cluver (Vice Chair), David Durfee, Bob Flint, Karen Luneau (Secretary,) Jim Masland, Marc Mihaly, Jason Musal, David Silverman, Sue Zeller

Absent: Betsy Ide Bloomer, Janette Bombardier, Shirley Jefferson, Shawn Tester

Chancellor: Elizabeth Mauch

Presidents: David Bergh, VTSU President  
Joyce Judy, CCV President

Other Attendees: Nolan Atkins, Provost, VTSU  
Kayla Dewey, Executive Assistant  
Alice Godin, Librarian, VTSU Johnson  
Jason Kaiser, Learning Spaces Technology Specialist, VTSU  
Lyndon & Johnson  
Thomas Kehoe, Student Government Assoc. President, VTSU  
Castleton  
Candace Lewis, Associate Academic Dean, CCV  
Nicole Mace, Dean of Administration, CCV  
Katie Mobley, Dean of Enrollment, CCV  
Bryan O'Connor, Director of Corrections Education, CCV  
Kathryn Santiago, Associate General Counsel, VSC  
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial/Operations Officer, VSC  
Toby Stewart, System Controller, VSC  
Julie Theoret, Professor & Chair, VTSU Johnson  
Patty Turley, General Counsel, VSC  
Littleton Tyler, AVP Finance/Compliance, VTSU Johnson  
Tiffany Walker, Senior Director of Workforce Education, CCV  
Beth Walsh, Project Director, VTSU  
Yasmine Ziesler, Special Assistant to the Chancellor, VSC

1. Call to Order

Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m.

2. Comments from the Public

Beth Walsh, Director of the Road to Success Project, spoke about the need to support student teachers, the value of a liberal arts degree, and issuing degrees in generalist knowledge.

Jason Kaiser, Learning Spaces Technology Specialist, thanked the board for creating the liaison roles and provided constructive feedback and concerns. He offered the Labor Task Force's support for recommending liaisons.

3. Approval of September 16 and 17, 2024 Meeting Minutes

**Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the motion to approve the September 16 and 17, 2024. The motion was approved unanimously.**

4. Report from Executive Committee

Chair Dickinson reported on the executive committee meetings on October 14<sup>th</sup> and during the September retreat. A plan for the regular evaluations of employees was reviewed.

5. Report from Education, Personnel & Student Life Committee

The EPSL meeting had occurred that morning. Digital versions of the meeting materials distributed that morning will be made available to the committee as soon as possible.

6. Report from Audit and Risk Management Committee

Trustee Zeller reported that this morning the Audit Committee met with the auditors and received the report that there were no materials findings. There were a few minor findings related to compliance. The Audit Committee recommended the board accept the FY2024 financial statements and single audit report.

**Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Musal seconded the motion to accept the Resolution 2024-005 FY2024 financial statements and single audit report. The motion was approved unanimously.**

7. Report from the Chancellor and Presidents

Chancellor Mauch started by congratulating Joyce Judy on receiving Champlain College's 2024 Distinguished Citizen Award. She recognized VTSU staff who on this day were hosting a NECHE visit and working hard to make a positive impression and earn a favorable report. Chancellor Mauch provided updates on several projects and initiatives including VSC's budget request to the Governor, the Vision 2030 announcement, the five Chancellor's priority projects, and the ERP procurement project.

President Judy reported that the Metallica Foundation has sent t-shirts for their cyber security scholars in the mail. CCV has 30 students who receive \$1,000 scholarships from this fund. On Veteran's Day at 6:30, there will be a special presentation at CCV Winooski focused on Chittenden County veterans from WWI. The McClure Foundation sponsored three legislative events last week promoting free degree programs for students. Students were offered the opportunity to speak directly to legislators and it was well attended. CCV's Financial Aid Director Ryan Dulude was chosen by Vermont Biz as one of four rising stars in the State of Vermont.

President Bergh's presentation was deferred to later in the meeting (see below).

8. Presentation: CCV's Work with the Department of Corrections

Tiffany Walker, Senior Director of Workforce Education, and Bryan O'Connor, Director of Corrections Education, presented on the Department of Corrections programs at CCV. CCV offers tuition-free courses for inmates, corrections staff, and corrections staff family members with the goals of reducing recidivism, improving opportunities for these Vermonters, and building the Vermont workforce. This program is currently funded by 4.5 million in grants secured by Sen. Sanders with plans to transition to PELL grant funding overtime. Students in these programs demonstrate more optimism for the future, more self-confidence, and better connection with their families.

9. Additional business

Trustee Musal proved an updated from the student perspective. He reports that there is a lot of enthusiasm for the Chancellor's Innovation Fund and that there will be many submissions. Morale is high overall.

Trustee Musal called on Thomas Kehoe, SGA President, who expressed some concern across campuses that they could be losing their individuality because of the VTSU Castleton policies which are being imposed across the system. Concerns are related primarily to athletics and policies, but this could just be initial resistance to change which will resolve naturally overtime.

10. Report from VTSU President Bergh

President Bergh provided an updated on the NECHE visit which was ongoing at the time. The initial report was expected to be available by that Wednesday with a formal report to follow. Leadership had been working hard to pull together reporting and other preparations. Other updates included that VTSU more students were engaged in apprenticeships than ever before. President Bergh attended a "ribeye" (ribbon) cutting for new meat processing plant in Randolph, which was overall a positive event. Paul Yoon has been appointed as the new Chief Diversity Officer. Students were significantly involved with this search process.

11. Executive Session.

**At 2:35 p.m. Chair Dickinson moved and Trustee Luneau seconded that the VSC Board of Trustees enter executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) to receive confidential attorney-client communications, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) to discuss labor relations agreements with employees, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to consider the employment of a public employee, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313 § (a)(2) to discuss real estate, and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(F) to receive confidential attorney-client communications, because premature general public knowledge of these discussions would place VSC at a substantial disadvantage. The Board invited the VSC Chancellor, the Presidents of Community College of Vermont and Vermont State University, the VSC Chief Financial and Operating Officer, the VSC General Counsel, the VP of Business Operations for VTSU, the Dean of Administration for CCV, and Art Klugo to attend. The motion was approved unanimously.**

The Board exited executive session at 4:22 p.m.

## 12. Adjourn

Chair Dickinson adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.