

**Minutes of the VSC Board of Trustees Joint Meeting of Education, Personnel, & Student Life Committee (EPSL) and Finance & Facilities Committee (F&F) meeting held Monday, February 16, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. virtually at [vsc.edu/botzoom](https://vsc.edu/botzoom). – UNAPPROVED**

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

The VSC Board of Trustees Education, Personnel & Student Life (EPSL) and Finance & Facilities (F&F) Committees held a joint meeting on Monday, February 16, 2026 at 10:30 a.m. virtually at [vsc.edu/botzoom](https://vsc.edu/botzoom).

**Attendance**

EPSL Committee Members: Megan Cluver (Chair), Betsy Ide Bloomer (Vice Chair), Gwen Bailey-Rowe, Janette Bombardier, Shirley Jefferson, Amelia Vlahogiannis

Absent EPSL Members: Jim Masland

EPSL Liaisons: Joan Richmond-Hall (VTSU faculty), Sebastian Lury (VTSU staff), Katherine Penberthy (CCV faculty), Erin Wetherell (CCV staff)

F&F Committee Members: David Silverman (Chair), Marc Mihaly (Vice Chair, 11:28), Lynn Dickinson, David Durfee (11:15), Bob Flint, Sue Zeller (11:12)

Absent F&F Members: Coleen Bruyette,

F&F Liaisons: Rick Arend (CCV faculty, 11:10), Marybeth Lennox-Levins (VTSU faculty), Ryan Dulude (CCV staff)

Absent F&F Liaisons: (VTSU staff, vacant)

Chancellor: Elizabeth Mauch

Presidents: David Bergh, VTSU  
Joyce Judy, CCV

Other Attendees: Nolan Atkins, VTSU Provost  
Kelley Beckwith, VTSU Vice President of Student Success (11:31)  
Mary Brodsky, Dean of People and Culture  
Kayla Dewey, Executive Assistant, Board of Trustees  
Jason Kaiser, IT Support  
David Kupferman, VTSU Dean  
Candace Lewis, CCV Dean  
Sebastian Lury, VTSU Student Success Advisor  
Nicole Mace, Dean of Administration  
Michael Marceau, VTSU Professor  
Jason Mann, Essential Strategies Group

David McGough, VTSU Dean  
Katie Mobley, CCV Dean of Enrollment  
Maurice Ouimet, VP for Admissions and Enrollment (11:26)  
Greg Petrics, VTSU Professor  
Hannah Reid, VTSU AVP of Communications (11:35)  
Kathryn Santiago, Associate General Counsel  
Sharron Scott, Chief Financial and Operating Officer  
Ashley Stackowitz, VTSU Counselor  
Toby Stewart, Controller  
Brandon Stroup, VTSU Professor  
Patty Turley, General Counsel  
Littleton Tyler, VTSU AVP Finance (11:29)  
Meg Walz, IT Support  
Wilson Garland, Chief Information Officer  
Yasmine Ziesler, Special Assistant to the Chancellor

1. Call to Order

EPSL Chair Cluver called the joint meeting to order at 10:34 a.m. and asked General Counsel Patty Turley to explain the joint meeting approach. Members from both committees are present and participating in the full meeting, however when it comes to committee action items, EPSL members will vote on EPSL items, and F&F will vote on F&F items.

2. Public Comment

Dr. Brandon Stroup, co-coordinator of the criminal justice program and restorative justice degree, expressed concerns that the university had not established the restorative justice degree as planned. Dr. Stroup was asked to send additional comments in writing.

3. Education, Personnel, & Student Life Committee Agenda Action and Review Items  
a. Approval of October 27, 2025 minutes

**Trustee Bloomer moved and Trustee Bombardier seconded the motion to approve the minutes of October 27, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.**

b. Policy 109 Timeline Update

Chair Cluver invited the liaisons to share their perspective on how the system could best support students moving across VTSU and CCV to complete their learning goals.

Professor Penberthy offered her perspective as a CCV faculty member and chair of the social sciences committee. She shared that certificates and associates degrees are designed and re-evaluated each year to make credentials easily stackable and folded into other degree programs at VSC's and other institutions. CCV's model is very flexible which allows it to adjust courses to meet students' needs and program requirements.

Professor Richmond-Hall proposed that the institutions work more closely together to develop a more intentional, holistic process of course development to ensure pathway options are clear and built with consideration for terminal degrees. She also asked that the committee consider how the

revenue model may need to be adjusted, and to consider how to maintain connection with students as more of their course work has moved online.

Chair Cluver invited Chancellor Mauch to review the proposed updates to the Policy 109 Timeline. Chancellor Mauch recommended an update to reflect an adjustment to the timeline for Policy 109 reports. That adjusted timeline would result in the institutions submitting their reports to the Chancellor by September of each year, with EPSL's review of the reports and Chancellor's recommendations taking place in October.

**Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Bloomer seconded the motion to recommend to the board for approval the revisions to Policy 109 to reflect the updated timeline. The motion was approved unanimously.**

c. Policy 109 Reports and Recommendations

Chair Cluver invited Chancellor Mauch to present her review and recommendations. Chancellor Mauch reported that Community College of Vermont and Vermont State University submitted program data and summary reports to her office. Those submissions included enrollment trends, program viability indicators, and identification of programs recommended for closure, replacement, archiving, or consolidation.

First, she recommended that the board affirm the actions CCV has described in its report, which included:

- The Digital Media Production program be replaced by Digital Filmmaking to streamline curriculum in anticipation of a Fall 2026 start; closely monitor this enrollment.
- Archive the Web Development program (will not appear in the 2026–2027 catalog); retain any courses necessary to support CCV's Information Technology degree.

Second, at Vermont State University, she recommended that the board affirm that the Environmental Science program be consolidated to the Castleton campus. While this is still working its way through the faculty governance process at VTSU, Environmental Science was previously identified on the list of Policy 109 recommendations submitted by Provost Atkins.

She noted a broader concern articulated in VTSU's report that the average class size at Vermont State University hovers below 14 students, which is not viable in the long term, and additional work is needed to address it. Accordingly, as part of the next cycle of Policy 109 review, Chancellor Mauch recommended that VTSU examine other potential program consolidations and recommendations, including programs that may fall outside a strict Policy 109 trigger including when enrollment does not meet thresholds when considered campus by campus.

Chair Cluver recommended that the Chancellor consider filling the vacant role of Chief Academic Officer at the Chancellor's office to support this work.

**Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Bombardier seconded the motion to recommend to the board for approval the draft resolution accepting the Policy 109 reports and Chancellor's recommendations. The motion was approved unanimously.**

d. VTSU Program Updates

Chair Cluver invited VTSU Provost Atkins to provide the committee with an update on Agriculture and Restorative Justice programs.

Provost Atkins shared that the Center for Agricultural and Food Entrepreneurship had developed three new certificate programs which are designed to be taken fully online and should be available by the fall. He reported that VTSU was actively recruiting students for the Restorative Justice program. Interest in the program had been below targets, that they were considering adjustments to modality and marketing strategies, and he responded to inquiries.

4. Other Business

There was no other business.

5. Executive Session

**At 11:27 a.m. Chair Cluver moved and Chair Jefferson seconded the motion for the VSC EPSL and F&F Committees enter executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2) to discuss real estate options, and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss employment of a public employee and 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(6) to discuss records which are exempt from the public records act. Along with the members of the Board present at the meeting, in its discretion, the Board invited the following to attend the executive session: the VSC Chancellor, the CCV and VTSU Presidents, the VSC Chief Financial and Operating Officer, the VSC General Counsel, and Jason Mann. The Motion was approved unanimously.**

The committees exited executive session at 12:39 p.m. and took no action.

6. Finance & Facilities Committee Agenda Action & Review Items

a. Approval of November 3, 2025 minutes

**Trustee Dickinson moved and Trustee Flint seconded the motion to approve the minutes of November 3, 2025. The motion was approved unanimously.**

b. Review & Recommend Endowments

Chair Silverman invited the presidents to give a brief overview of the endowment proposals for their institutions.

President Judy shared that CCV had a surplus in audited funds from the FY25 budget and would like to preserve the surplus as an endowment as opposed to spending it as one time money. She proposes to establish a Presidential Endowment for Student Success.

President Bergh shared two requests to establish new endowments at VTSU. The David Muther Lacy Fund is funded by his family to benefit undergraduate archaeology students at VTSU, and the Tom Rutkowski Spartan Way Scholarship is funded by Professor Rutkowski and his family to support business students who contribute to the Castleton community. President Bergh also described proposed amendments to three existing endowments with approval from the donors' families to expand and clarify eligibility requirements, given the changes in campus and program structures at VTSU. These include the Churchill Family Fund Endowment, the Susan Cornelius Gallagher Scholarship in Psychology endowment, and the Cola H. Hudson Scholarship Fund.

**Trustee Dickinson moved and Trustee Zeller seconded the motion to recommend to the board for approval the three new endowments (CCV Presidential Endowment for Student Success, David Muther Lacy Fund, and Tom Rutkowski Spartan Way Scholarship) and three amended endowments (Churchill Family Fund, Susan Cornelius Gallagher Scholarship in Psychology, and Cola H. Hudgson Scholarship Fund). The motion was approved unanimously.**

c. Review & Recommend Procurement Policy 429

Chair Silverman introduced the proposed replacement of Policy 429. In June, the Vermont State Colleges will implement the first modules of Workday, including Finance and Human Capital Management, bringing significant changes to our business policies, procedures, and practices, most notably in how purchasing is handled. The proposed new purchasing policy reflects these changes and will also replace Policies 424, 425, and 427. He invited Chief Financial and Operating Officer Sharron Scott to provide a brief overview of the changes

Ms. Scott presented proposed changes to the systemwide procurement policy which will utilize purchase orders to add more central oversight to the purchasing process, and she responded to questions from the trustees.

**Trustee Silverman moved and Trustee Zeller seconded the motion to recommend to the board for approval the revised procurement policy. The motion was approved unanimously.**

d. Review Second Quarter System-wide Operating Performance

Chair Silverman introduced the topic by sharing that the System picture is overall positive, projecting a \$1.1 million favorable net variance relative to the fiscal year budget. He invited CFO Scott to walk the committee through the details.

Ms. Scott reviewed the details, which include VTSU mitigating revenue shortfalls through expense reductions and CCV exceeding tuition projections. VTSU revenues were reported down \$7.1 million, primarily from enrollment and residential participation though that shortfall was fully offset through bridge funding, expense reductions across personnel, scholarships, and operations. She also reported that CCV was exceeding tuition and fee revenue and projecting a surplus despite some cost pressures.

e. FY2027 First Pass Budget

Chair Silverman turned to the initial pass of the FY27 budget. He thanked the presidents and leadership teams at Vermont State University and the Community College of Vermont for the significant work on their budgets under challenging conditions. Chair Silverman invited CFO Scott to walk the committee through the assumptions, drivers, and projected range of outcomes in more detail. Ms. Scott described the early budget as reflecting continued progress in the system transformation, while also acknowledging the persistent structural pressures and uncertainty facing public higher education nationally and in Vermont. Ms. Scott shared the overview of current budget forecast estimates using ranges and led a brief discussion on the budget process.

f. Review and Discuss VTSU winter safety protocols

Chair Silverman asked President Bergh to share information regarding VTSU winter safety protocols, following concerns voiced at a previous Board meeting.

President Bergh described that at most campuses, snow removal and winter maintenance is a responsibility coordinated between Public Safety, Campus Operations, and the Office of Environmental Safety. The Williston campus utilizes an external vendor which responds to requests from campus operations. President Bergh encouraged campus community members to report problems as they occur, while noting that it has been a particularly high maintenance winter season.

7. Adjourn

Chair Silverman adjourned the joint committee meeting at 1:25 p.m.

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