Minutes of the VSC Board of Trustees' Meeting held Monday, March 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at vsc.edu/botzoom APPROVED

The VSC Board of Trustees met on Monday, March 9, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at CCV Winooski, 1 Abenaki Way, Winooski, VT, Room 108 and at vsc.edu/botzoom.

Trustees present:	Lynn Dickinson (Chair,) Megan Cluver (Vice Chair,) Marc Mihaly (Secretary), David Silverman (Treasurer,) Gwen Bailey-Rowe, Betsy Ide Bloomer, David Durfee, Bob Flint (online, 10:07 a.m.,) Shirley Jefferson (online,) John Kascenska, Amelia Vlahogiannis, Sue Zeller
Absent:	Janette Bombardier, Coleen Bruyette, Phil Scott
Chancellor:	Elizabeth Mauch
Presidents:	David Bergh, VTSU Joyce Judy, CCV
Other Attendees:	Nolan Atkins, VTSU Provost Kelley Beckwith, VTSU VP of Student Success Jamia Danzy, Dean of Students Kayla Dewey, Executive Assistant Barb Flathers, Manager of President's Office Operations Kate Henggeler, VTSU student Jason Kaiser, IT Support (online) Sherry Kollman, VTSU president candidate finalist Candace Lewis, CCV Academic Dean Sebastion Lury, Student Success Advisor Jason Mann, marketing & education strategy consultant Katie Mobley, Dean of Enrollment and Community Relations Maurice Ouimet, VTSU Dean of Enrollment Hannah Reid, VTSU AVP of Communications, etc. Kathryn Santiago, Associate General Counsel Sharron Scott, Chief Operating and Financial Officer Toby Stewart, Controller Patty Turley, General Counsel Littleton Tyler, Dean of Administration (10:04 a.m.) Beth Walsh, VTSU Director Heather Weinstein, Dean of Strategic Initiatives & Student Affairs Paul Yoon, Chief Culture and Compliance Officer

1. Call to Order

Chair Dickinson called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. She welcomed the newly appointed legislative trustees, John Kascenska and David Durfee, as well as the VTSU president candidate finalist, Dr. Sherry Kollman, and education consultant, Jason Mann.

2. Comments from the Public

Jason Kaiser provided recommendations regarding Policy 429, which relates to contracting for goods and services. He requested that the board consider adding clarification on the technology procurement process.

3. Approval of the minutes

Trustee Zeller moved and Trustee Cluver seconded the motion to approve the minutes of January 12, 2026; February 10, 2026; and February 17, 2026. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Executive session to discuss the appointment of a public employee

At 10:09 a.m. Chair Dickinson moved and Trustee Bloomer seconded the motion for the VSC Board of Trustees to enter executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss the appointment of a public employee. Along with the members of the Board present, in its discretion, the Board invited Chancellor and the General Counsel to attend. The motion was approved unanimously.

The board exited executive session at 10:22 a.m.

Trustee Mihaly moved and Trustee Vlahogiannis seconded the motion to appoint Sherry Kollmann as President of Vermont State University effective July 1, 2026. The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Executive Session

At 10:25 a.m. Chair Dickinson moved and Trustee Zeller seconded the motion for the VSC Board of Trustees to enter executive session, pursuant to 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 and evaluation 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 this meeting, in its discretion, the Board invited the following to attend the executive session: the VSC Chancellor, the CCV and VTSU Presidents, the VTSU president-elect, the VSC Chief Financial and Operating Officer, the VSC General Counsel, and Jason Mann. The motion was approved unanimously.

The board exited executive session at 11:57 a.m.

Chair Dickinson moved and Trustee Vlahogiannis seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2026-003 Authorization of the Online Acceleration Project. The motion was approved unanimously.

The board went into recess at 12:01 p.m. The board exited recess at 1:04 p.m.

At 1:04 p.m. Trustee Cluver moved and Trustee Bloomer seconded the motion for the VSC Board of Trustees to enter executive session, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to discuss the evaluation of a public employee. The motion was passed unanimously.

The board exited executive session at 1:49 p.m.

6. Report: Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

Chair Dickinson invited Committee Chair Jefferson to provide the report from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee which met on March 2, 2026. She reported that they heard updates on the institutions including that CCV continues to engage with DEI and are leaning into their values of respect for their community and all individuals with their varying backgrounds, cultures and opinions. CCV looks forward to hosting their 23rd International Food Festival on April 30th to celebrate the cultures represented at the college. VTSU provided a recent federal legal decision stating that the federal government cannot withhold funds from institutions that refuse to sign a pledge related to DEI, alleviating pressure on higher education regarding the pledge. New digital accessibility regulations will go into effect in April of this year. In anticipation of these regulations, VTSU is updating websites to meet new standards and supporting academic compliance. VTSU also provided a summary of projects in their Culture and Compliance Office.

7. Report: Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee

Chair Dickinson invited Committee Chair Cluver to provide the report from the Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee which met on February 16, 2026.

Chair Cluver reported that the focus of the last meeting was on the annual review of all academic programs governed by Policy 109. They heard from our EPSL liaisons about the experiences of students and the faculty supporting them as they move across programs at CCV and VTSU and shared additional written feedback from VTSU faculty.

They heard from the chancellor about a desired update to the timeline for the Policy 109 annual program review process to align it with the curriculum revision processes at CCV and VTSU. That updated 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.

Finally, they heard from the chancellor and her review and recommendations related to the institutions' completed Policy 109 reports for this year. Those actions were summarized in Resolution 2026-001, which EPSL recommended that the board adopt.

Committee Chair Cluver moved and Trustee Silverman seconded the motion to approve revisions to Policy 109 to reflect the updated timeline and accept Resolution 2026-001. The motion was approved unanimously.

8. Report: Finance & Facilities Committee

Chair Dickinson invited Committee Chair Silverman to provide the report from the Finance & Facilities Committee portion of the joint meeting of EPSL and F&F which met on February 16, 2026.

Chair Silverman reported that the committee reviewed proposals for three new endowments, one at the Community College of Vermont and two at Vermont State University. They considered three endowment modification requests, all for Vermont State University. After thorough discussion, they voted to recommended all six requests to the board of trustees.

They reviewed the new procurement policy. The goal with this update was to strengthen our internal controls, enhance fiscal oversight, and ensure consistent and compliant purchasing practices across the system. The new policy consolidates several older policies into one, making it easier to understand. The committee unanimously recommended this new policy to the board for consideration.

They also examined the second quarter system-wide operating performance. Chair Silverman reported a $1.1 million favorable improvement to budget, resulting in an estimated net operating deficit of $3.8 million which compared positively to the budgeted $4.9m deficit.

They also discussed first pass budget for fiscal year 2027. As with previous years, this was an early and conservative look at the upcoming year, meant to help frame conversations moving forward. The first pass budget reflected continued progress in their system-wide transformation but also acknowledged the ongoing challenges in today's higher education marketplace. Currently, the projected deficit range was between $3 million and $8.7 million, with a central tendency around $5 million at this time. They anticipated that subsequent passes, scheduled for April and May, would refine these numbers significantly.

Finally, President Bergh provided an update on winter safety protocols, a topic raised during public comment at the board meeting prior. The committee spent time discussing this matter with President Bergh to gain a better understanding of the situation and ensure appropriate measures are in place.

Committee Chair Silverman moved and Trustee Zeller seconded the motion to approve the three new endowments (listed below) and three endowment modifications (listed below). The motion was passed unanimously.

1. **New Endowments:**
    a. **Presidential Endowment for Student Success at Community College of Vermont**
    b. **David Muther Lacy Fund at Vermont State University**
    c. **Tom Rutkowski Spartan Way Scholarship at Vermont State University**
2. **Endowment Modifications**
    a. **Susan Cornelius Gallagher Scholarship in Psychology**
    b. **Churchill Family Fund Endowment**
    c. **Cola H. Hudson Scholarship Fund**

Committee Chair Silverman moved and Trustee Mihaly seconded the motion to approve the revised procurement policy as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.

9. Report: Audit & Risk Management Committee

Chair Dickinson invited Committee Chair Zeller to provide the report from the Audit & Risk Management Committee which met on February 23, 2026. Committee Chair Zeller reported tat the committee reviewed the Draft Single Audit for FY2025 with Zach LaFlash, Audit Partner from Withum, their external auditors. Zach provided the overall results, noting that for the Federal Awards, which are the subject of the Single Audit, the auditor's report was "unmodified" meaning there were no material weaknesses identified. However, Zach noted a significant deficiency arising from a single audit finding regarding the Written Information Security Plan, or WISP. Although policies align with regulatory requirements, the absence of a formal written plan prompted this finding. The Cyber Security team was actively working to develop the plan and expected completion in the coming months. After thorough discussion and review, the committee voted to accept the Draft Single Audit and recommends adoption of Resolution 2026-002.

Additionally, management had recommended pausing the internal audit process for FY26 because of the substantial demands related to the Workday project. With nearly all procedures being rewritten and the old ones retired, the committee agreed that a temporary hiatus was prudent. They also encouraged management to consider outsourcing some or all of the internal audit function for future audits to lessen the burden on internal resources.

Committee Chair Zeller moved and Trustee Silverman seconded the motion to approve Resolution 2026-002, Acceptance of the FY2025 Single Audit. The motion was passed unanimously.

10. Updates from the CCV and VTSU Presidents

Chair Dickinson invited the CCV and VTSU presidents to provide updates on their institutions in turn. President Judy acknowledged her staff in the room and reported that enrollment was up from last Spring. They received a CDS from Senator Sanders to support expansion of rural healthcare, which will allow CCV to offer allied health certificates in more rural areas of the state. President Judy also invited the board to upcoming events including CCV graduation, an event celebrating CCV's receipt of the "Best for Vets" award on April 15th 1:00 p.m. at CCV Winooski., and their annual international foods festival, April 30th at 4:00 p.m.

President Bergh acknowledged his staff who were present and reported that early enrollment numbers were indicating positive growth, however it was too early to predict final numbers. He reported a number of projects related to VTSU facilities aimed at building campus vibrancy and making most efficient use of these assets. He listed key projects that VTSU is working on including an on-going NECHE self-study and digital accessibility.

11. Update from the Chancellor

Chair Dickinson invited Chancellor Mauch to provide an update. Chancellor Mauch shared details on priority projects for 2025-202, which included digital transformation, workforce innovation and industry alignment, and infrastructure modernization. She also discussed priorities for FY27, which included workforce, infrastructure modernization, and transfer with digital transformation woven throughout.

12. Other business

Chair Dickinson recognized Trustee Vlahogiannis, thanked her for her work and acknowledged that she would be graduating later this year.

13. Adjourn

The board adjourned at 2:44 p.m.