

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**

The Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College held a meeting on Monday, September 18, 2023, at 12:00 p.m., in Memorial Lounge, room 338 Waterman Building, via remote conferencing.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Ron Lumbra, Vice Chair Cynthia Barnhart, Secretary Catherine Toll, Frank Cioffi, Carolyn Dwyer, President Suresh Garimella, and Don McCree

MEMBERS ABSENT: Shap Smith

OTHER TRUSTEES PRESENT: Carol Ode¹

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Faculty Senate Representative Tom Borchert¹, Student Government Association Representative Olivia Eisenberg, and Graduate Student Senate President Ijaz Ul Haq

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Foundation Representative President & CEO Monica Delisa and Staff Council Representative Monika Donlevy

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Vice President & Provost Patricia Prelock¹, Vice President for Finance & Administration Richard Cate, Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel Trent Klingerman¹, Chief of Staff to the President Jonathan D'Amore, Director of Athletics Jeff Schulman and Trustee Coordinator Corinne Thompson¹

¹ attended in person.

Chair Ron Lumbra called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and offered a correction to the meeting agenda. The resolution regarding FY 2023 presidential evaluation and compensation will be addressed at the October 20-21, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting.

Approval of minutes

Chair Lumbra entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the August 14, 2023, meeting. The motion was made, seconded and it was voted to approve the minutes as presented.

Chair remarks

Chair Lumbra thanked trustees for their participation at the recent Board retreat and expressed how much he enjoys the strategic discussions and comradery at these annual gatherings. He reminded everyone that UVM is not alone in the challenges it faces, that many institutions across higher education face similar challenges such as a shrinking student population as referenced in recent news coming out of West Virginia University.

President's remarks

President Suresh Garimella shared that he attended a kick-off event yesterday at Bread & Butter Farm for the Institute for Agroecology (IFA), which is hosting a global forum on food systems and agroecology on campus today. He noted it was an amazing event with many of the IFA's supporters on hand. He commended Faculty Director Ernesto Mendez for his leadership of the institute and further noted that this is one among many wonderful institutes and centers at UVM, including the Gund Institute for the Environment, the Food Systems Research Center, the Institute for Rural Partnerships, and several others. He noted the value of the center/institute model for interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary research and noted the collaboration between the Faculty Senate and the administration to develop the process for creating such centers and institutes at the university.

Action items

Chair Lumbra noted that resolutions will be introduced individually with an opportunity for discussion following. Once resolutions have been introduced, the committee will vote on them as a consent agenda unless someone requests a separate vote on a particular resolution. He invited Director of Athletics Jeff Schulman to introduce the first resolution.

Director Schulman introduced a resolution seeking approval of a contract extension with UVM women's basketball head coach, Alisa Kresge. He noted the extension includes a four-year rolling term with discretionary annual extensions which are likely to exceed five years, the duration of which require board approval. He further noted the contract mirrors that of men's basketball head coach John Becker. Both contracts are funded through an endowment. Director Schulman expressed his confidence in Coach Kresge and pride in the women's basketball program noting it has achieved competitive success with two straight 20-win seasons and earned the program's first America East conference championship in over 20 years. He concluded by stating the contract extension will eventually bring Coach Kresge's salary to the top third of the conference and is critical for retention and equity purposes.

The following resolution was presented for approval:

Resolution approving contract extension with Head Women's Basketball Coach, Alisa Kresge

WHEREAS, Alisa Kresge was hired as UVM's Head Women's Basketball Coach on April 9, 2019; and

WHEREAS, UVM desires to extend its contract with Coach Kresge to include a rolling contract term with discretionary annual extensions that are likely to exceed five (5) years; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Director of Athletics is hereby authorized to enter into an extension of UVM's current contract with Alisa Kresge as the Head Coach of its Women's Basketball program, including a four-year rolling term with discretionary annual extensions, which are likely to exceed five (5) years. All other terms and

conditions will be subject to and within the delegated authority of the university administration.

President Garimella acknowledged that he is extremely supportive and proud of Coach Kresge and the women's basketball program. Chair Lumbra shared that he had the pleasure of attending last year's championship game and the opportunity to speak with the parents of several players, all of whom had nothing but good things to say about Coach Kresge and the program.

Vice President for Finance & Administration Richard Cate introduced the remaining action items for approval. He first introduced a resolution approving a contract with Thermo Fisher Scientific for general laboratory supplies and equipment.

Thermo Fisher Scientific has been a contracted supplier with UVM for over 10 years and their partnership has provided great customer services, competitive pricing, free shipping, start-up lab incentives and other discount offers.

The administration is seeking approval to negotiate and execute a five-year contract with Thermo Fisher Scientific via Omnia Partners, a cooperative purchasing program. Omnia Partners provides competitively solicited purchasing contracts to deliver efficiency, compliance, and value to higher education institutions. This contract would be a 1-2% overall savings from the current contracted pricing, while maintaining equal levels of incentives and discounts.

The five-year contract with Thermo Fisher Scientific would begin November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$16,000,000.

The following resolution was presented for approval:

Resolution approving contract with Thermo Fisher Scientific

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vice President for Finance and Administration, or his successor or designee, is hereby authorized to negotiate and execute a five-year contract with Thermo Fisher Scientific for general laboratory supplies and equipment beginning November 1, 2023, through October 31, 2028, in an amount not to exceed \$16,000,000.

Vice President Cate next introduced a contract amendment with Safety Systems of Vermont, LLC for fire alarm testing, inspection and maintenance. In March 2022, the Board approved a contract for an amount not to exceed \$1,400,000 through April 30, 2022 with two one-year renewal options.

UVM Physical Plant is requesting approval to exercise the renewal options, and an amendment of \$300,000 to cover additional project costs, for an amount not to exceed \$1,700,000 through April 30, 2024.

The following resolution was presented for approval:

Resolution approving contract amendment with Safety Systems of Vermont, LLC

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vice President for Finance and Administration, or his successor or designee, is hereby authorized to renew a previously approved contract with Safety Systems of Vermont, LLC for fire alarm testing, inspection and maintenance for a total contract term from May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2024, for an amount not to exceed \$1,700,000.

This resolution replaces and supersedes the resolution approved by the Board of Trustees on March 1, 2022.

Vice President Cate then introduced a contract extension with Nelnet Business Solutions, Incorporated for student load financing services. Student Financial Services contracted with this vendor in July 2020 for a three-year contract. Nelnet is a federal student loan servicer working on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education, the government agency that lends student loans. Student Financial Services is requesting a three-year contract extension from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, with two one-year renewal options, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000. Operational fees will remain fixed through June 2026, with renewal options not to increase more than 5%.

The extension term of this contract will exceed five years which requires board approval.

The following resolution was presented for approval:

Resolution approving contract extension with Nelnet Business Solutions, Incorporated

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vice President for Finance and Administration, or his successor or designee, is hereby authorized to enter into a three-year contract extension with Nelnet Business Solutions, Incorporated for student loan financing services from July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2026, with two one-year renewal options, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000.

Vice President Cate introduced a final resolution approving a contract renewal for UVM's employee vision benefit plan. Human Resource Services released a request for proposal from qualified firms to provide employees with a vision benefit plan for a four-year contract.

VSP Vision Care, Incorporated was selected to be the university's vision benefit plan provider based on their guaranteed four-year locked rates for all plans, their benefit coverage, lower deductibles, and easy website accessibility. All premium fees associated with this vision plan are paid directly by the employees through payroll deduction and are at no cost to the university.

VSP Vision Care has provided a four-year contract renewal starting January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027, with no rate increase and an additional enhanced benefit for non-Rx sunglasses and blue light glasses.

The following resolution was presented for approval:

Resolution approving contract renewal for employee vision benefit plan

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vice President for Finance and Treasurer, or his successor or designee, is hereby authorized to execute a contract renewal with VSP Vision Care, Incorporated for employee vision benefit plan services from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2027.

Chair Lumbra opened the floor to discussion of any of the contract resolutions. A question was asked regarding the anticipated savings in the Thermo Fisher Scientific purchasing program. Vice President Cate credited his staff's efforts in negotiating the terms of the contract for the savings, including bulk purchasing prices on numerous items in the program.

A motion was made and seconded, and the resolutions were unanimously approved as presented.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Lumbra, Chair