

**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 Friday, July 16, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was held via remote conferencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Ron Lumbra, Vice Chair Cynthia Barnhart, Secretary John Bartholomew<sup>1</sup>, President Suresh Garimella, Carolyn Dwyer, Don McCree<sup>2</sup> and Shap Smith

MEMBERS ABSENT: Frank Cioffi

OTHER TRUSTEES PRESENT: Carol Ode and Berke Tinaz

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Faculty Senate Representative Tom Brochert and Interim Foundation Representative President & CEO Jim Keller<sup>3</sup>

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Staff Council Representative Jon Reisenweaver, Graduate Student Senate Representative Rosie Chapina and Student Government Association Representative Sam Pasqualoni

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Provost and Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock, Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel and Chief of Staff to the President Sharon Reich Paulsen, Vice President for Finance and Administration Richard Cate, Vice President for Operations and Public Safety Gary Derr and Chief Communications Officer Joel Seligman<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Joined the meeting at 9:33 a.m.

<sup>2</sup> Departed the meeting at 9:59 a.m.

<sup>3</sup> Joined the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

Chair Ron Lumbra called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and welcomed Faculty Representative Tom Borchert to the committee.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Lumbra entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2021 meeting. The motion was made, seconded and it was voted to approve the minutes as presented.

### **Executive session**

At 9:32 a.m., Chair Lumbra entertained a motion to enter into executive session to receive advice from legal counsel. He noted the session would last for approximately 25 minutes and that there is potential for action following. Everyone was excused from the meeting with the exception of Trustees; Provost & Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock; Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel and Chief of Staff to the President Sharon Reich Paulsen; Vice President for Finance and Administration Richard Cate, Vice President for Operations and Public Safety Gary

Derr, Chief Communications Officer Joel Seligman and Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff Erin Dickinson.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 10:10 a.m.

**Other business**

The following resolution was presented for approval:

**Resolution endorsing vaccination requirement for students**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services has declared that the spread of SARS-CoV-2 and the resulting disease COVID-19 constitutes a public health emergency;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 can cause severe respiratory illness, hospitalization, and death in a subset of individuals infected with the virus;

WHEREAS, the Delta variant is substantially more communicable than the original COVID-19 disease, is present in the state of Vermont, and is responsible for the vast majority of positive COVID-19 cases across the country;

WHEREAS, safe and effective vaccinations are readily available;

WHEREAS, over 80 percent of Vermont residents are vaccinated, while less than 50 percent of the U.S. population are vaccinated;

WHEREAS, over 70 percent of the university's students come from outside the state of Vermont, and most from locations that have a lower vaccination rate and a higher positivity rate than the state of Vermont;

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Health believes there is strong public health rationale in support of college policies that seek to maximize vaccination rates of students against COVID-19;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, for the health and safety of all members of our community, endorses the administration's recommendation that the COVID-19 vaccine be added to the list of vaccinations required of all students planning to attend the university in the Fall 2021 or thereafter.

An opportunity for further discussion was offered. There being none, a motion was made, seconded, and the resolution was unanimously approved as presented.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Lumbrá, Chair