

**VERMONT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

A meeting of the Vermont Agricultural College Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Friday, February 9, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in the Chittenden Bank Room (413) at the Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Carol Ode¹, Vice Chair Shap Smith, Stephanie Jerome¹, Monique Priestley¹, Lucy Rogers¹, Catherine Toll, Tristan Toleno¹, and Samuel Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kevin Christie

ALSO PARTICIPATING: President Suresh Garimella², Provost Patrica Prelock, Vice President for Finance & Administration Richard Cate, Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel Trent Klingerman, Chief of Staff to the President Jonathan D'Amore, Executive Director of Government Relations Wendy Koenig, and Government Relations Specialist Billy Rison¹

¹joined via remote conferencing.

²joined the meeting at 8:56 a.m.

Chair Carol Ode called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

Approval of minutes

A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2023, meeting.

Emerging Issues in the 2024 Legislative Session

Chair Carol Ode invited Executive Director of Government Relations, Wendy Koenig to update the Board on the current 2024 legislative session. Executive Director Koenig reported that the Governor's budget request incorporated UVM's ask for a 3% increase to the university's general fund appropriation, and that President Garimella's visit to both house and senate appropriation and education committees at the beginning of February added additional advocacy for this increase, as well as a 5-year \$25 million appropriation for the Vermont Cancer Initiative residing within Larner College of Medicine.

Executive Director Koenig also outlined and discussed with trustees the topics being monitored in the legislature and in Burlington, including possible relief from fees for college students experiencing homelessness; discussion of a bill regarding

the possible change to the Board of Trustees' composition at the Vermont State University System; possible new Vermont Student Assistance Corporation funding for undocumented university students in Vermont; privacy protections and regulating AI; and a proposed enrollment bill. Director Koenig summarized the housing memorandum of understanding negotiations with Burlington for proposed zoning changes for increasing residential housing on-campus and the long-term commitment UVM has to increasing housing in the area. Trustee Smith impressed the point that this is a long-term and multi-front commitment to change negative perceptions and messaging.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Toll, Secretary