COMMITTEE ON BOARD GOVERNANCE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

A meeting of the Committee on Board Governance of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Thursday, May 14, 2009 at 8:00 a.m., via conference call, in the Livak Ballroom, 417-419 Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair John Snow, Vice Chair Bill Botzow, Christopher Bray, Harry Chen*, Jason DePatie* and Donna Sweeney*

ABSENT: Daniel Fogel, Bill Ruprecht and Jeanette White

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel Francine Bazluke and Trustee Coordinator Corinne Thompson

*via conference call

Chair John Snow called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes from the December 18, 2008 meeting as presented.

Committee Orientation

Chair John Snow welcomed both new and returning members. He introduced the Committee’s charge and explained that the Committee’s role will continue to evolve as much of its workplan is comprised of matters referred by the Board Chair as issues and questions arise.

Chair Snow next reviewed the Committee’s current workplan and discussion ensued as to possible new topics. He observed that the workplan will undoubtedly be influenced by feedback that comes out of the annual retreat. By way of example, he mentioned Chair Boyce’s recent suggestion that the Committee research the potential for creation of a Board-driven strategic plan that would look forward 20-30 years.

Trustee Bill Botzow proposed that the Committee consider addressing the interval between when Board appointments are made and the dates that they become official. He noted that the gap between February, when new Trustees are elected to the Board, and their starting dates, causes confusion about Board and Committee leadership and Committee assignments.

Chair Snow moved on to discuss the Committee’s work style. He said that it usually has three to five projects at any given time, to which small work groups are assigned. Chair Snow plans to continue this practice as it has proved efficient. The work groups research their assigned projects and report their analysis and recommendations to the Committee.
Chair Snow encouraged utilization of electronic means of collaboration, such as implementing a Sharepoint site.

Chair Snow identified as a priority work plan item a formal proposal from the Graduate Student Senate requesting that it be formally recognized as a governance group by the Board. Chair Snow stated that he hoped that the Committee would have recommendation available for Board consideration in October. Trustees Harry Chen, Jason DePatie and Christopher Bray were appointed to a work group to research and develop a recommendation on this proposal. Trustee Chen will coordinate this group, which will meet over the summer. Graduate Student Senate leadership will be invited to meet with the work group.

Chair Snow also suggested that a work group assess the effectiveness of current Board Committee structure. Trustee education is another topic to be addressed, and on-line programs may be a good approach. A work group will be assigned to address this latter topic. Finally, he identified as a smaller task to be performed examination of the charge of the ad hoc Labor Advisory Group.

Trustee Coordinator Corinne Thompson will work on scheduling the next Committee meeting for late August or early September.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Snow, Chair