The Committee of the Whole of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Board of Trustees was held on Friday, February 10, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. in Memorial Lounge, room 338 Waterman Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Carl Lisman, Vice Chair Martha Heath, Secretary Thomas Little, Edwin Amidon, Jr., Claire Ayer, James Betts, Bill Botzow, Ian Boyce, Frank Cioffi, Robert Cioffi, Daniel Fogel, Christine Hertz, Kathleen Hoyt, James Leddy, Dean Maglaris, Deborah McAneny, Kami Patrizio, Ray Pecor, Jr., John Snow, Mark Young and Robert Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Johannah Donovan, Governor James Douglas, Richard Hube, Jr., and Helen Spaulding

ALSO PARTICIPATING: none

Chair Lisman called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

Chair Lisman acknowledged a gathering of students, staff and faculty who were in attendance to engage in a protest action.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made and seconded, and it was voted, to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2005 meeting as presented.

President’s Report

President Fogel acknowledged the presence of the group of students, faculty and staff and expressed his belief that the administration and those gathered share in the belief that teacher preparation programs at UVM must be maintained.

From the administration’s point of view, he stated, the process underway in the Department of Education has its locus in the College of Education and Social Services, and lies squarely within the purview of the Dean of the College and the chair and faculty of the Department. At present, the Dean has made a decision to give notice of non-reappointment to six colleagues in the Department of Education who have non-tenure track, limited-term appointments.

President Fogel reported that the Department of Education has consistently exceeded its budgeted expenditures for many years. The overspending arose from inaction by the Department going back at least a dozen years, including a failure to adjust spending after the expiration of external grants that had funded a number of activities and positions.
President Fogel clarified that the budget of the Department of Education is not being cut: it has increased significantly each year under his administration, and will go up again next year. Nevertheless, he stated, measures are clearly in order to correct the persistent deficit spending in the College of Education and Social Services and to adjust the faculty demographics within the department so that there is a better balance between tenure-track and non-tenure track faculty. President Fogel expressed his support of Dean Fayneese Miller as she develops these measures in consultation with the faculty and chair of the Department. Dean Miller has requested submission to her, by the Department, a satisfactory long-term plan to achieve the necessary adjustment of budget and faculty composition.

Chair Lisman recognized Patricia Preston, an education major, who presented President Fogel with a letter signed by 1,500 students. She addressed the Board with an impassioned plea for the University to consider what cutting the positions would mean to the students they teach.

David Shiman, an education professor and president of United Academics, expressed his views regarding the University’s approach to the non-reappointments.

Both speakers were thanked for their remarks.

President Fogel resumed his report, turning to Governor Douglas’s proposal for Vermont Promise Scholarships. The Governor’s plan is for the State to fund 1,000 undergraduate scholarships a year for between 25% and 50% of tuition for Vermont residents to attend college in the State of Vermont. The proposals suggests a third of the funding go to UVM, that a third go to the Vermont State Colleges, and that a third be available as scholarships for students attending any institution in Vermont. If students do not stay in the State for three years after graduation, half of the scholarship becomes a loan that must be repaid. If they do stay in the State, the entire scholarship remains a scholarship, with no repayment required.

The Vermont Promise Scholarship has been proposed to combat Vermont’s negative demographic trends, which have been building for a long time and are seen as a potentially decisive response to this threat to Vermont’s well-being. The scholarships would allow this University to attract more of the most talented and deserving students in the State during a period in which the University is aiming to increase Vermont enrollments in response to downward trends. For institutions that comprise the Vermont State College system and for Vermont’s independent colleges, Vermont Promise gives hope of continuing viability in the face of a very difficult challenge.

President Fogel noted that the proposed source of funds for the Vermont Scholarship Program has become contested this political season. The Governor’s proposal to draw on new dollars flowing into the State through the Tobacco Settlement has much to commend it, in providing the predictable source of funds that students and families must have to plan financing for college educations. President Fogel and his administration have appealed to their colleagues in the public arena to work together to finance this proposal.
for investment in Vermont’s future; in the end, this program will belong to the people of the State of Vermont and will be an essential ingredient in securing the future prosperity and well-being of the State.

The University continues to promote a vision for the future of Vermont’s economy based on job creation and around a robust economic cluster that would establish Vermont as a global leader in environmental technologies, businesses, and services. This vision, developed in large part through conversations among members of this Board, would leverage the expertise of the University in environmental science, engineering, and policy to define and promote niche areas in which Vermont can lead the world in environmental enterprises.

The President next reported on some important milestones the University has achieved since the last Board meeting.

- The National University Transportation Center will receive over $16 million in directed federal appropriations to the University over the next 5 years.
- Grants and contracts through the Office of Sponsored Programs are running $3.2 million ahead of last year’s level.
- A record 17,616 applications for undergraduate admission have been received, up more than 4,600 from last year’s final total. This includes a 63.4% increase in ALANA applications, from 1,001 last year to 1,636. Applications for graduate study have also reached record levels with 1,424 received this year compared with 1,175 last year.
- The North Complex of the new University Heights residence hall has opened inaugurating the Honors College Living/Learning Community.
- The new Carrigan Wing of the Marsh Life Science building has opened and construction of the Dudley H. Davis Center progresses.
- Contract negotiations with full-time faculty successfully concluded.
- Two searches are currently under way including the position of Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations and Provost and Senior Vice President. Candidates for the position of VP for Development and Alumni Relations are completing campus visits this week and campus visits for the Provost candidates begin next week and will be completed by mid-March.

The President next reported on a senior leadership retreat held last month and attended by vice presidents, deans, and representatives of the Faculty Senate, the Staff Council, and the Graduate Student Association (noting that, unfortunately, Student Government Association representatives were unable to attend). The group met over two days to discuss next steps to advance UVM as the nation’s premier small research university. Topics addressed included enrollment management, assessment, and the improvement of administrative and customer service. The highlight of the retreat was Provost Bramley’s exposition of the legacy represented by James Marsh, Justin Morrill, and John Dewey, which concluded with an outline of measures that might be pursued to re-energize and renovate that legacy for the 21st Century. As a result of an intensive and highly participatory discussion at the retreat, President Fogel and Provost Bramley are now
drafting of a new academic vision statement for the University. The vision focuses on creating the University of the future, concentrating on the education of accountable leaders through rigorous interdisciplinary curricula and research grounded in problem-based learning communities, and the application of validated knowledge to the solution of real-world problems. The intent is to have the rough draft shaped further through review by the members of the retreat group; for a second draft to be circulated for review, input, refinement, and further revision by the campus community; and for a penultimate draft to be further shaped by the Provost-designate, so that a finished document can be brought before the Board.

President Fogel closed his remarks by acknowledging the loss of Valerie Ann Moore, a colleague and inspiring teacher. A moment of silence in memory of Professor Moore was observed.

Chair’s Report

Chair Lisman recognized Trustee Ian Boyce who was recently named an all-time ECAC hockey all-star.

Chair Lisman reported that the ad hoc Committee on Board Operations has been meeting regularly and discussing the current committee structure; the possible initiation of a Board Policy manual; issues relating to Trustees duties, Board performance and effectiveness; and how often the Board should meet and for how long. He noted that the Board’s agenda is bursting at the seams, citing the necessity for three committees to routinely meet on the Thursdays preceding the remainder of the Board meeting. Chair Lisman reinforced how important all of the committee functions are to the Board. He further noted that the content of the business before the Board is due to so much that is happening at UVM, including increased undergraduate and graduate enrollment; the recruitment of more faculty; and work to create new and renovated classrooms and residence halls, as well as the new Student Center.

Chair Lisman went on to state that all decisions of the Board are made in furtherance of the University’s mission. He observed that the administration and the Board have known that the implementation of the vision would not be easy, but that the Strategic Financial Plan has been developed to measure the plan’s success, and that tools are in place to perform sophisticated testing. The enrollment management plan continues to be developed and fine-tuned. The Campus Master Plan is being finalized for the Board’s consideration in May.

Chair Lisman recognized that the University is going through an extraordinary degree of change and that, while change is generally good, not all change is good for everyone, nor will all decisions be popular. He emphasized that it is important to remember that decisions are made to advance the interest of the University and that it is the Board’s commitment to do so on behalf of the faculty, staff, students, alumni and the State of Vermont.
Chair Lisman concluded his remarks by thanking all Board members for volunteering their time and effort. He also noted that this meeting was bittersweet, as the Board will be saying farewell to Trustees Christine Hertz, Dean Maglaris and Helen Spaulding, who are completing their terms. He noted that the Board will also be welcoming new Trustees John Hilton, Jr. and Sterling Winder.

**Review of Work Plan**

Chair Lisman advised that a retreat will be scheduled, at a time to be determined, to address the Board’s performance and self-evaluation.

**Other Business**

Trustee James Leddy offered his perspective on the Vermont Promise Program. He stated that, while he agrees with and supports the goals of the program, he does not support the funding source. As a member of the Tobacco Oversight Committee, he noted that funding from the tobacco settlement was agreed to have been dedicated to health-care.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas A. Little, Secretary