A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Board of Trustees was held on Friday, May 19, 2017, at 8:00 a.m., in the Silver Maple Ballroom, Room 401 at the Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair David Daigle, Vice Chair Ron Lumbra, Secretary Donna Sweaney, Briar Alpert, David Aronoff, Cynthia Barnhart, John Bartholomew, Robert Brennan, Frank Cioffi*, Johannah Donovan, Carolyn Dwyer, Richard Gamelli, Bernie Juskiewicz, Curt McCormack, Caitlin McHugh, Donald McCree, Anne O’Brien, Ed Pagano, Shap Smith, President Thomas Sullivan, Soraiya Thura, Tristan Toleno, Lisa Ventriss, and Jeff Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Governor Phil Scott

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Provost David Rosowsky, Staff Council President Karmen Swim, Graduate Student Senate President Devin Champagne, Faculty Senate President Cathy Paris, Alumni Association President Penrose Jackson, Student Government Association President Christopher Petrillo, UVM Foundation Executive in Charge Mark Dorgan, Vice President for Research Richard Galbraith, Vice President for University Relations and Administration Tom Gustafson, Director of Capital Planning and Management Robert Vaughan, Associate Professor and Director of the Rubenstein Laboratory Jason Stockwell, First-Year Undergraduate Student in Biochemistry Alex Taylor, Assistant Professor in Mechanical Engineering Rachael Oldinski, Third-Year Undergraduate Student in Mechanical Engineering Jesse Ware, Associate Professor of Medicine and Neurological Sciences and Director of the Stem Cell Core Jeff Spees, Third-Year PhD Candidate in the Neuroscience Graduate Program John McInnis, Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity & Multicultural Affairs Wanda Heading-Grant, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel Francine Bazluke, Vice President of University Relations & Administration Thomas Gustafson, and Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel to the President Sharon Reich Paulsen

*In attendance for the morning session. Arrived at 3:29 p.m. for the afternoon session.

Chair David Daigle called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Daigle presented the February 3, 2017 meeting minutes for approval. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes as presented.

Chair’s Report (see full report appended to minutes, beginning on page 12)

At the conclusion of his report, Chair Daigle presented a video, “What It’s Like Here”, which he found as an inspiring reflection of UVM. The video can be found at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kkf4zXqZi7Y.
President’s Report

President Sullivan began by noting that the President’s Annual Report for 2016/2017 was distributed to Trustees this morning.

He next provided an enrollment update, reporting that the University is on track to exceed its enrollment target. This year, 22,000 applications were received and deposits are up. He also stated that selectivity has increased and the University is expecting to meet and exceed its quality goals. As to summer enrollment, President Sullivan stated that the University is anticipating the highest enrollment it has seen in the past five years. He noted that over half of the enrollment includes online courses.

President Sullivan moved on to describe the physical transformation of campus, and reminded Trustees that they will tour central campus later in the day. He reported that the Central Campus Residence Hall (formerly referred to as the First-Year Residence Hall), along with the new Central Campus Dining Facility, will open in August. Discovery Hall, the first new building of the STEM complex, opens this summer. He added that the recently renovated Chiller Plant will support these new facilities.

President Sullivan stated that UVM is ending a year that has been especially rich in national news coverage, with over 50 stories this academic year.

He next reported that UVM is three years ahead of schedule with the Real Food Challenge, a nationwide student-led campaign to shift institutional purchasing to more sustainable and community-based food production. UVM’s original commitment was to meet the 20% Real Food milestone by 2020. As a result of being ahead of schedule, UVM increased its target to achieve 25% Real Food milestone by 2020.

President Sullivan informed the Board that the following honors were recently presented, recognizing the accomplishments of faculty and staff: Distinguished Senior Lecturer and Lecturer Award, Distinguished University Citizenship and Service Award, and Our Common Ground Staff Award.

Finally, President Sullivan said that he was pleased to announce that Shane Jacobson will officially start as the UVM Foundation’s President and CEO on June 1. Mr. Jacobson’s appointment represents a homecoming, as he was the Foundation’s first employee, hired eight months before the formal launch of the Foundation in January 2012. Mr. Jacobson was later appointed as the UVM Foundation’s Vice President for Development, a position he served in until he left for Grinnell College in 2014.

Governance Leaders Reports

Staff Council President Karmen Swim reported several highlights of the Council’s work this year. She stated that the Council improved communication with staff around fiscal year (FY) 2018 wage increases and has clarified the process for merit increases. This year, feedback received regarding the FY 2018 wage increases is that some staff feel the additional 0.5% for merit is too
low to reward exceptional performance. The Council continues to support merit raises and hopes that the amount will increase over time. President Swim stated that the merit process has improved with the roll-out of the online performance management tools, along with performance review trainings. The Council has scheduled four focus groups to discuss the experiences of staff and human resources representatives with the new performance review and merit process.

President Swim next reported that the Council submitted a recommendation to administrators regarding parking and commuting needs urging a reassessment and improvement of current parking policies. The Council hopes that a reasonable plan for parking expansion will be developed soon.

Next, President Swim advised that Staff Council Leadership sponsored a Staff Women’s Forum to provide a safe place for female-identified staff to hear inspirational speakers and have an open discussion regarding working at the University. The forum was well attended, with over 100 staff joining. As a result of the Forum’s success, the Council has decided to make it an annual event.

Finally, President Swim reported on the Our Common Ground Staff Award, stating that she had the honor to chair the process. This year, 21 nomination packets were received. The award recognizes six staff members who exemplify the qualities of UVM’s Our Common Ground, the statement of aspirations and shared values for the UVM Community and have made extraordinary contributions and had a significant impact on the University.

Chair Daigle observed that parking is a comprehensive issue affecting staff, faculty and students. President Swim acknowledged that it is a University-wide issue. She also commented that the wait for a Green Pass is at least five years, with more than 1,200 staff on the waiting list.

Graduate Student Senate (GSS) President Devin Champagne presented his last report. He first thanked the Board for its support for enriching graduate education. He next introduced incoming GSS President Michelle DiPinto. President Champagne acknowledged that GSS is more diverse than ever, with students representing programs across campus. He stated that the voice of graduate students has become more prominent as these student recently joined Faculty Senate Committees.

President Champagne next reported that GSS has greatly enhanced its Professional Development Series, which is aimed at helping students gain skills in areas not traditionally covered by graduate education. These workshops and seminars are well-attended and well-received.

President Champagne concluded his report by observing that the mental health and wellbeing of graduate students is a continuing concern. Recent studies indicate that up to 50% of graduate students evidence clinical symptoms of mental health issues, but many students do not realize how severely their health is being impacted. However, President Champagne acknowledged that UVM has been successful in creating and supporting wellness programs, especially in the area of providing supportive mentors.

Chair Daigle congratulated President Champagne on his leadership and welcomed incoming President DiPinto.
Trustee Tristan Toleno asked what topics were included in Professional Development Series. President Champagne replied that this semester focused on topics relating to securing a job.

Faculty Senate President Cathy Paris summarized several notable accomplishments the Senate achieved this year. She stated that it supported the creation of the Gund Institute for Environment, organized a panel discussion to engage faculty on the topic of the Incentive-Based Budget Model, approved an array of innovative academic programs, and expanded the General Education (GE) curriculum with the approval of a new Quantitative Reasoning (QR) requirement. The Senate also collaborated with the Provost’s Office and Student Affairs in the planning of the first ever campus-wide faculty conference, and a second conference is scheduled for August 21.

Regarding the new QR general education requirement President Paris stated that, if approved by the Board, it will go into effect by Fall 2017. The QR requirement is intended to ensure that UVM graduates possess the ability to think critically, evaluate information insightfully, and reason quantitatively in order to excel in their chosen fields and to perform as successful citizens in the world.

President Paris also reported that the Senate is organizing a General Education Coordinating Committee to direct the activities of the four separate general education curriculum committees and to better articulate goals. She added that the Senate is also looking to re-brand general education to better capture the role of it in the academic life of the University, and to devise a more inspiring name for the program.

Trustee Caitlin McHugh asked if there was concern that students may struggle to meet another GE requirement. President Paris replied that the Senate remained mindful of the potential issue when developing the requirement. She added that, with the exception of three individual small programs, a QR general education requirement already exists; the intent of the current proposal is to create a QR requirement that is central to the experience of all undergraduates.

Chair Daigle inquired about the mechanism for assessing the GE curriculum. President Paris explained that there is a University-wide program to develop a culture of assessment at UVM, and there are several work groups focused specifically on assessing GE curriculum.

Alumni Association President Penrose Jackson reflected on the Association’s accomplishments this year. She first described leadership volunteer satisfaction and engagement. This winter, the Association conducted a survey to evaluate the engagement and satisfaction of all members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors and the five regional boards. President Jackson was pleased to report that 95% of the responses cited their experience as favorable, with 100% of the responses being pleased with board communications. Additionally, 95% feel that the board was an effective use of their time and that it enhanced their feelings toward the University.

President Jackson next reported on campus partnership growth. She stated that the Association has collaborated with many groups on campus. She also reported that the Student Alumni Association is seeing record growth in engagement metrics with their programs. The creative
“#Luvmyclub” campaign helped engage students as partners in philanthropy and, for the first time in nine years, the senior week program sold out in three days.

President Jackson concluded her report by commenting on the UVM Alumni House. She stated that the House has over 150 events scheduled and has hosted a vast array of campus and community events. The Association remains focused on marketing and branding the House. President Jackson was pleased to report that three weddings are scheduled, with many more inquiries in progress. She added that public rental is a critical component of the House’s financial model.

Student Government Association (SGA) President Christopher Petrillo provided his first report. He introduced himself as a third-year student studying chemical engineering and a native Vermonter. He stated that SGA is focusing on two themes, improving academic experience and improving health and wellbeing.

Reporting on specific initiatives, President Petrillo noted that SGA is looking into having textbooks available to students earlier and making them more affordable. SGA is also re-evaluating the scheduling of exam periods to allow students to have enough “down time” to prepare for exams. Another area of focus is improving the acclimation of international students, as well as evaluating how the diversity requirement can be enhanced.

President Petrillo offered congratulations to Trustee Caitlin McHugh for her appointment to the Board of Trustees. He concluded by stating that SGA had an increased rate of turnover this year, which has allowed for the growth of new ideas.

Chair Daigle asked how the Innovation Fund, referenced in President Petrillo’s written report, is allocated. President Petrillo explained that the funding is awarded to SGA groups for their inaugural year only. After the group’s first year, they must seek additional funding. Chair Daigle recommended that SGA reach out to the UVM Foundation to coordinate ways to generate more money for the Fund.

Next, Chair Daigle also stated that it is critically important that SGA thoroughly vet the peer-advising program so that it is continues to be successful.

Also referencing peer advising, Trustee Cynthia Barnhart recommended that SGA review best practices. President Petrillo acknowledged the importance of incorporating best practices and explained that his predecessors travelled to other universities in an effort to do so.

**Move Mountains: The Campaign for the University of Vermont Update**

Chair Daigle invited UVM Foundation Executive in Charge and Vice President for Development Mark Dorgan to offer a brief campaign update on progress made since the last Board meeting. Chair Daigle thanked Vice President Dorgan for his work in serving as the primary leader of the UVM Foundation as they searched for a new President and CEO.
Vice President Dorgan stated that recently hired UVM Foundation President and CEO, Shane Jacobson, will officially begin on June 1st. He thanked all who served on the search committee and took part in the interview process.

Vice President Dorgan moved on to report that, as of April 30, the campaign has raised $418 million and is 16 months ahead of schedule. He added that the campaign has reached 84% of its goal. Additionally, FY 2017 has been a record year and there are still six weeks remaining.

Vice President Dorgan next reviewed campaign commitment by type. He stated that student scholarships remain a high priority and that, on April 27, the annual scholarship dinner was held with record attendance numbers. Vice President Dorgan said that several attendees were so inspired by the event that they decided to create their own scholarships.

Vice President Dorgan next reported that the campaign has surpassed its goal of doubling chairs and professorships, and efforts continue in this area. For facilities support, the campaign continues to do well and, on May 5th, a groundbreaking occurred for Ifshin Hall. The new hall will provide critical capacity and much-needed resources for UVM’s Grossman School of Business. The Foundation also celebrated a $5 million gift from Michele Resnick Cohen, UVM ’72, and her husband Martin Cohen, to renovate and transform the Taft School into UVM’s first integrated center for the creative arts. Vice President Dorgan then stated that, in the area of academic support, the campaign continues to do well and he referenced the recent $6 million gift from the Gund family that will create the Gund Institute for Environment.

Finally, Vice President Dorgan advised that there is 16%, or $81,713,449, of the total campaign goal to be raised. He is confident that the Foundation will hit the goal, after which efforts will continue.

Trustee Curt McCormack inquired as to the percentage of commitments that are unrestricted. Vice President Dorgan explained that the majority of gifts are restricted and that he could provide an exact percentage after the meeting.

Chair Daigle asked about the amount of commitments made versus receipts. Vice President Dorgan replied that 56% of all commitments have been received. He added that there are 10% of pledges to be paid, and receipts are about 35%.

Trustee Robert Brennan requested an update on the Grossman Challenge. The Challenge, sponsored by the Grossman Family Foundation, offers to donate $5 million if the University is able to raise $10 million for UVM’s Grossman School of Business by June 30, 2017. Vice President Dorgan reported that the UVM Foundation has raised $6.4 million to date and have $3.6 million remaining to raise, with six weeks left. He added that there is a strong pipeline of donors to help raise the remaining funds.

**Acknowledgement of Grants and Contracts Awards Report**

Before acknowledging the grants and contracts awards report, Chair Daigle asked Vice President for Research Richard Galbraith to comment on budget changes at the federal level, which could
affect grants. Vice President Galbraith began by explaining that the United States President’s budget proposal included cuts of up to 20% to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), a major source of UVM grants. However, after further evaluation, the House passed a proposal to increase NIH funding by 20%. Vice President Galbraith stated that, although the increased funding is positive, it is limited to the remainder of 2017. He hopes that for next year, the government will at least level-fund NIH.

Vice President Galbraith next stated that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be hit hard by budget cuts. He explained that the University receives limited EPA funds, but Vermont will be affected significantly. He added that there are anticipated budget cuts in other areas; however, the cuts will not be nearly as dire as originally predicted.

Trustee Barnhart asked if Vice President Galbraith is optimistic about funding in 2018. Vice President Galbraith replied that he is optimistic about NIH funding, but feels unsure about other areas. However, he added that the world views science and technology as important areas and hopes that sentiment influences future budget decisions.

Trustee Barnhart asked if Vice President Galbraith spends much time in Washington D.C., to which he responded in the affirmative.


**Capital Projects Update**

Vice President for University Relations and Administration Tom Gustafson began the capital projects update by commenting on the parking concerns raised by Staff Council President Karmen Swim. He indicated that the administration is currently working on a comprehensive review of Parking & Transportation Services, including examining external best practices. He stated that he is responsive to expressed concerns, and that the review should conclude this summer. He noted that the review will include an evaluation of UVM’s longstanding relationship with public transportation.

Vice President Gustafson next reported that a request for proposals (RFP) was completed to secure the architects for the next phase of the Multipurpose Center Project. A number of proposals were received, with five firms interviewed. As a result, the current project architect, Cannon Designs, was chosen to continue through the next phases and will partner with a local architectural firm, TruexCullins.

Director of Capital Planning and Management Robert Vaughan reported on the status of current central campus projects. He stated that construction continues on Discovery Hall and that approximately half of Cook building has been moved to Discovery. Summer school will begin in Discovery soon. Once Cook is empty, it will go through abatement and deconstruction until the middle of November, at which point Innovation Hall construction will begin.

Director Vaughan then provided the following construction updates: Votey Hall is closed for renovations this summer; the Central Campus Residence Hall will open in August; the Chiller
Plant renovation is complete and running; and the UVM Medical Center Miller Building is progressing. He added that these projects in total comprise approximately 14 acres.

Director Vaughan also reported that, this summer, the construction fencing lines will open up around Discovery Hall and enclose Kalkin and Votey Halls and Cook building. He added that the fence lines will open again in the Fall.

Director Vaughan next displayed photos that depicted the progress of Discovery Hall, the Chiller Plant, and the UVM Medical Center Miller Building. He also provided a preview of the central campus tour in which Trustees will participate later in the day.

Vice President Gustafson concluded the presentation by stating that the STEM Complex project was presented to the Board, as a concept, only four years ago. Since then, several other large-scale projects have been added. All of these projects will significantly enhance the University’s appeal. However, he stated that none of the projects could have been possible without the tremendous team effort that has taken place across campus. He took a moment to thank academic, administrative, and operational partners for their time and effort on making these projects a possibility. He also cited the leadership of Director Vaughan.

Trustee Curt McCormack asked if the Board will see renderings of the campus once it is completed, commenting that central campus had felt lacking to him. Director Vaughan replied that drone pictures will be taken to show the transformation of central campus once it is complete. He added that the bridge to the Central Campus Residence Hall will transform the area. Provost Rosowsky added that a significant amount of finishing details, such as landscaping, will also transform the space.

Trustee Caitlin McHugh asked how the construction area will be mitigated through the next construction phase so that it does not interfere with the student experience. Director Vaughan explained that protective screens will be used, as well as a carefully orchestrated construction schedule to decrease the impact of sound and other disruptive activity. However, he added that the construction might serve as a positive memory for students as they will be on campus during a unique time.

On behalf of Board, Chair Daigle expressed gratitude for all that Director Vaughan has done to coordinate many large campus construction projects.

At 9:37 a.m., the Chair called for a brief break.

At 9:50 a.m., the meeting resumed.

**Academic Presentation – Research: Faculty and Student Collaboration**

Provost David Rosowsky introduced the academic presentation by stating that it will highlight the unique way that UVM engages students in faculty research.
Vice President for Research Richard Galbraith introduced the first faculty/student pair, Dr. Jason Stockwell, Associate Professor and Director of the Rubenstein Laboratory in the Rubenstein School for the Environment and Natural Resources, and Alex Taylor, a first year undergraduate student studying Biochemistry. Dr. Stockwell and Mr. Taylor described conducting research at the Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory, and how their research on Lake Champlain, and its surrounding watershed, informs similar issues faced across the world. Dr. Stockwell indicated that the Rubenstein Lab is part of the Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON) network, and plays a critical role in global questions of human impact and climate change on water quality.

Mr. Taylor provided a student perspective on working in the lab. He stated that he became curious about the zebra mussel epidemic in Lake Champlain, inspiring him to reach out to the Rubenstein Lab. Initially, he shadowed students, which led to him discovering that he had a passion for chemistry and how it can affect aquatics. As a result, he switched his major to biochemistry. Mr. Taylor recently had an opportunity to attend the Northeast GLEON conference, in which ten institutions participated. Members of the conference broke out into working groups and came up with a research question, for which they would create an experimental design and then execute the research. He stated that this type of collaboration connects UVM to research efforts beyond UVM and opens up a new array of opportunities and questions.

Vice President Galbraith introduced the second faculty/student pair, Dr. Rachael Oldinski, Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, and Jesse Ware, a third year undergraduate student studying Mechanical Engineering. Dr. Oldinski and Mr. Ware are studying advanced healing through engineering. Dr. Oldinski began by describing the interdisciplinary nature of bioengineering, and that it includes biology, materials science, mechanical engineering and biomedical engineering. Bioengineering supports the development and growth of future engineers, scientists, leaders, and entrepreneurs, with the aim of healing our environment, ourselves, and the future of humanity.

Dr. Oldinski described the human body functioning as a complex machine with single parts used for multiple functions. Some of these parts include materials for self-repair. She explained the use of natural, sustainable materials to create smart materials that can be used for medical products, biological research, and disease models. Dr. Oldinski is currently working on bioengineering seaweed to create a patch that can seal collapsed lungs. She is also researching how to create self-healing tissue patches, including those that can deliver drugs necessary to fight diseases such as cancer.

Mr. Ware continued the presentation by sharing how he became a part of Dr. Oldinski’s lab. He stated that during his sophomore year, he took a course that piqued his interest in bioengineering. He added that he knew nothing about chemistry or biology, so he took time to familiarize himself with those fields. In Dr. Oldinski’s lab, Mr. Ware’s first assignment was to work on the development of the microspheres that could help encapsulate living cells. For this project, he worked with several graduate students. Mr. Ware explained that his next project will be looking into the creation of smart nanospheres to be used in treating lung cancer as previously discussed by Dr. Oldinski. Mr. Ware will be working on this research this coming summer.
Vice President Galbraith introduced the final faculty/student presenters, Dr. Jeff Spees, Associate Professor of Medicine and Neurological Sciences, and Director of the Stem Cell Core, in the Larner College of Medicine, and John McInnis, a third year PhD candidate in the Neuroscience Graduate Program. Dr. Spees and Mr. McInnis are working on developing stroke treatments based on stem cell signaling. Dr. Spees began by describing astrocytes that are located in the brain. These cells support neuronal activity via endfeet that help form the blood/brain barrier. When a person suffers a stroke, the blood/brain barrier breaks down as reactive astrocytes secrete factors that protect neurons and reduce immune cell invasion. Dr. Spees stated that learning about the function of astrocytes can help researchers create treatments for strokes.

Mr. McInnis continued the presentation by stating that he chose UVM for his graduate education because of the neuroscience program and Dr. Spees’ approach to research. He explained that his role in helping to develop stroke treatments is to culture stroke-derived stem cells and then differentiate them into astrocytes. Next, he applies experimental treatment to induce gene knockout. He then co-cultures control astrocytes with neurons and knockout astrocytes with neurons. As a result, he is able to view signaling in astrocytes that determines neuronal response to excitatory neurotransmitter. This finding is important in continuing research for stroke recovery.

Vice President Galbraith acknowledged the outstanding research amongst these faculty/student pairs. He stated that today’s focus was on science and that he hopes to have presentations at future meetings that focus on the humanities, creative arts, social sciences, and other areas. Vice President Galbraith also highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of the research amongst the presenters, and that they reflect the teacher/scholar model that distinguishes UVM from other universities.

Trustee Briar Alpert asked if the University provides adequate access to resources. Dr. Stockwell replied that the Office of Undergraduate Research has been very helpful in meeting the needs of faculty and students; however, he thinks that there is an opportunity to meet more needs, such as expanding the ability to provide research experiences to more students.

Trustee Soraiya Thura asked the students what their biggest challenges were when they first started. Mr. Ware replied that it was difficult for him to transition from mechanical engineering to bioengineering, but that he overcame the challenge by familiarizing himself with existing research in the new fields. He added that learning new equipment was a challenge. Mr. Taylor mentioned that, although getting started was challenging, the regular lab meetings were extremely helpful in his development, and that he had benefitted in particular from training he received on how to effectively read research articles and journal papers. Mr. McInnis thanked the administrative personnel in his graduate program for their assistance in supporting his research efforts.

Dr. Stockwell added that embedding students in real labs and research aids in retention and results in higher enrollments in STEM fields.

Dr. Oldinisiki stated that coming to UVM was an exciting challenge, and that she feels that the sharing of tools and infrastructure across campus has supported her success. She noted that if
UVM does not have a piece of equipment it needs, she collaborates with colleagues across the University and they build it themselves.

Dr. Spees commented that UVM is an exceptionally collaborative community. He added that the University’s labs are special in that they welcome undergraduates to be “hands on”.

Trustee Ron Lumbra asked how the cross-collaboration affects the quality of undergraduate education. He wondered how many students were participating in activities like this. Vice President Galbraith replied that it clearly enhances the educational experience, but that it is difficult to say exactly how many students are participating because there are varying levels of undergraduate engagement, that the collaborations can take a variety of forms, and that some are more formal than others. He did note the record number of undergraduate student participants in the Spring 2017 annual Student Research Conference and said that the University is working on ways to gather more data to measure student participation in research.

At 10:47 a.m., the meeting was recessed.

At 3:18 p.m., the meeting reconvened.

Executive Session

At 3:19 p.m., Chair Daigle entertained a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing contracts, premature public knowledge of which would clearly place the University at a substantial disadvantage, and the evaluation of a public officer. He noted the session would last for approximately 60 minutes with action anticipated following. Everyone was excused from the meeting with the exception of Provost Rosowsky, Vice Presidents Richard Cate, Wanda Heading-Grant, Thomas Gustafson, and Francine Bazluke; and Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel to the President Sharon Reich Paulsen.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 4:10 p.m. The Chair entertained a motion to refer the contract matter discussed on this date to the Executive Committee for further review and recommendation to the full Board. The motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

At 4:11 p.m., a motion was made to re-enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the evaluation of a public officer. President Sullivan and Vice Presidents Rosowsky, Cate, Gustafson, Bazluke, Heading-Grant and Sharon Reich Paulsen were excused for the remainder of the session.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 4:43 p.m.

Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Daigle, Chair
Good morning everyone, and welcome to our annual commencement weekend board meeting. As another academic year draws to a close, we gather this weekend to celebrate the accomplishments of more than three thousand graduating catamounts, to shine a bright light on the accomplishments of the UVM class of 2017. We hope that you will join us to make this a memorable weekend for our students and guests.

On behalf of our board, I want to express a sincere thank you to all of the UVM faculty and staff who helped another class achieve their goals and aspirations. You were the architects of their UVM experience.

I would also like to thank everyone in the UVM community who has participated in President Sullivan’s fifth year comprehensive review. Our consultant, Carol Cartwright, has completed an impressive schedule of interviews, meeting with dozens of you. She reports that you have been engaged and open in the interviews, which is precisely what this exercise requires. Carol will be meeting with the review committee over the summer, and will report to the full board at our retreat in September.

Next, I would like to introduce our newest trustees, Caitlyn McHugh, who was with us in February but is now official, Joey Donovan, John Bartholomew, and Shap Smith. They joined our board in March, and we want to publicly welcome and thank them.

What has changed at UVM since the class of 2017 arrived on campus four years ago? There have been many advances, including these five:

- The number of endowed faculty positions has more than doubled; nearly one in ten of our faculty are now supported by this perpetual financial foundation. If we expect to meet our aspirational goals of advancing academic quality for the benefit of our students, we must have the ability to attract and retain talented faculty; philanthropic support will be vital.

- The medical center rebranded, from Fletcher Allen Health Care to the University of Vermont Medical Center. One might say this was a twenty year effort, as the rebranding was considered when Fanny Allen and Fletcher Hospital merged in 1995 (it was rejected by UVM). After three years with the new brand, the benefits to both UVM and the medical center are clearly evident, and our partnership is as strong as ever.

- The UVM Foundation has secured financial commitments from donors of in excess of $330 million. In just four years. For perspective, the total endowment was approximately $350 million four years ago. From the Larner College of Medicine, to the Grossman School of Business, to the Gund Institute for Environment, we are using these funds to enhance academic programs across the entire University.
• We commenced major upgrades to our central campus facilities. These upgrades will profoundly reshape the student experience at UVM for decades to come. Unquestionably, they will improve UVM’s ability to compete for talented students.

• We have opened a spectacular new Alumni house that will serve as a magnet for our alumni for generations to come. More than ever, we need to nurture that bond with graduating catamounts, so that they may become the future volunteers, advocates, and donors that will enable UVM to sustain its efforts.

Notwithstanding our accomplishments, we find ourselves in a very dynamic higher education ecosystem. The world does not stand still as we make improvements at UVM. We will need to continue to work together to secure our funding sources, prioritize our investments, and make measurable progress on our academic goals. Working as one UVM, I remain confident in our future.

This concludes my chair’s report.