EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Thursday, December 15, 2016, starting at 1:00 p.m., in the President’s Conference Room (351 Waterman).

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair David Daigle*, Vice Chair Ron Lumbra**, Secretary Joan Lenes, President Thomas Sullivan, Bill Botzow*, Frank Cioffi, and Bernard Juskiewicz***

MEMBERS ABSENT: Don McCree

OTHER TRUSTEES PRESENT: David Brandt and Donna Sweaney*

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Faculty Representative Cathy Paris

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Foundation Representative Chief Executive Officer (CEO) & President of the UVM Foundation Richard Bundy, Graduate Student Senate Representative Devin Champagne, Student Government Association Representative Jason Maulucci, and Staff Council Representative Karmen Swim

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Vice President for Executive Operations Gary Derr, Trustee Coordinator Corinne Thompson, and Director of State and Federal Relations Wendy Koenig

*via conference call.
**Joined the meeting at 1:17, via phone.
***Participated via conference call. Departed at 1:25 p.m.

Chair David Daigle called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

Trustee Recruitment

Chair Daigle explained that the meeting is being held to revisit the Board’s composition and various sources of appointments in light of the classes of trustees who will be completing their terms of service in the next couple of years. He indicated he would be sharing his ideas and thoughts regarding skill sets that would be helpful to add to the Board and inviting meeting participants to do the same.

Chair Daigle offered his observation that the current composition of the Board is in good shape, however, he feels that the Board would be enhanced by adding members with strong background in technology. He also noted the Board could benefit from members with more specific audit and accounting experience.
President Tom Sullivan reflected that the Board could further benefit from having another member who has a medical doctorate degree. He also observed that currently no members have experience in agriculture. He agreed that additional experience and background in technology would enhance the composition of the Board.

Trustee Bill Botzow expressed the importance for the Board to seek members who are skilled with proactive critical thinking. He added that other skill areas that are important to strengthen are: federal and government relations, audit, and familiarity with demographic change.

Trustee Frank Cioffi agreed that the Board could benefit from having another member with a medical doctorate degree. He also stated that there would be value in recruiting a member from southern Vermont. He recommended that Trustees who are legislators to encourage colleagues who serve on the Appropriations Committee to consider serving on the Board.

In terms of Trustees appointed by the Legislature, Chair Daigle observed that the Board does not currently have a Vermont State Senator and feels it would be important to have such representation. Trustee Joan Lenes explained that senators have a much harder time being elected to the Board because there are fewer senators than representatives. President Sullivan also added how important he feels it is for the Board to have a member of the senate.

Trustee Lenes added that she agrees there is a need for having broader geographic representation for Vermont-based Trustees and added that in addition to having representation from southern Vermont, it would be helpful to have representation from the Northeast Kingdom. She also feels that the Board should continue to strive for balanced gender representation.

Trustee Bernie Juskiewicz agreed with previous suggestions that the Board needs broader geographic representation, stronger skill sets related to audit, as well as having a Trustee appointed by the Legislature who is on the Appropriations Committee. He added that it would be helpful to have a Trustee appointed by the Legislature from the Ways & Means Committee.

Trustee Donna Sweaney agreed with previous suggestions regarding geographic representation and having a senator on the Board.

Executive Session

At 1:17 p.m., Chair Daigle entertained a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing the appointment of a public officer. He noted that the session would take approximately fifteen (15) minutes and that no action is expected following. Everyone was excused from the meeting with the exception of Trustees, Vice President for Executive Operations Gary Derr, Trustee Coordinator Corinne Thompson, and Director for Federal and State Relations Wendy Koenig.

At 1:33 p.m., the meeting was re-opened to the public.
Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

David Daigle, Chair