A meeting of the Vermont Agricultural College Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College (the Board) was held on Friday, May 19 at 11:15 a.m. in Room 427A Waterman Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Thomas Little, Secretary Edwin Amidon, Jr., Bill Botzow, Johanna Donovan, Martha Heath, Richard Hube, James Leddy, and Mark Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Claire Ayer

ALSO PARTICIPATING: John Bramley, Senior Vice President and Provost, Karen Meyer, Vice President for State and Federal Relations, Gretchen Babcock, Director of Government Relations, Doug Lantagne, Director of Extension, and Michael Vayda, Associate Dean, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Chair Little called the meeting to order at 11:20 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

A motion was made, seconded, and voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of February 7, 2006.

**Election of Officers**

As required by the *Bylaws of the Vermont Agricultural College as Adopted by the Board of Trustees on June 10, 1955*, the Board held its annual election of officers and re-elected Thomas Little to the office of Chair and Edwin Amidon, Jr. to the office of Secretary for the coming year.

**Legislative Update**

Director of Government Relations Gretchen Babcock reported on key legislation affecting the University in the recently-concluded legislative session. She reviewed the University’s FY 2007 general and capital appropriations, which, combined with new scholarship funds, produced a 10.79% increase in state funding for the next fiscal year. In addition, the state’s capital contribution was up almost 6% to $1,800,000.

Other legislation of importance to the University included the “Next Generation Initiative,” a legislative compromise that combined parts of the Governor’s original scholarship proposal with various legislative alternatives to create a new scholarship fund for Vermont students and a study commission charged with finding ways to encourage Vermonters to live and work in the state. The University is pleased with the outcome and the attention it brought to the serious demographic and affordability challenges facing the state. Vermont’s new health care reform legislation affects the University by creating financial and administrative costs as a result of assessments placed on certain temporary and part-time workers to whom the University does not offer health coverage.
Chair Little read the Vermont General Assembly’s House Concurrent Resolution 358 thanking Senior Vice President and Provost John Bramley for his extraordinary service as University of Vermont Provost. Provost Bramley told the Board that he had enjoyed working with them and facing challenges together, and he underscored the importance of the Board to the University’s land grant mission.

**University’s Land Grant Mission and Role of the Vermont Agricultural College Board**

The Board continued its discussion of the University’s land grant mission begun at the last meeting and growing out of the concept paper written by Provost Bramley. The Provost reiterated his challenge to the Board to modernize historic land grant concepts, including the nomenclature, and make them relevant to the internal decision making and program development at the University. He also urged the Board to help strengthen public communication about the land grant activities at the University. Provost Bramley indicated that some of these ideas are being incorporated into the new vision document being prepared by the president, new provost, and himself, which will be presented to the Full Board later this year.

The discussion moved to the issue of whether the University is serving Vermonters appropriately, particularly as reflected in the numbers of Vermont students being admitted. The Board was supportive of the increased standards, selectivity, and quality of admitted students and felt the challenge is one of maintaining optimum communications between the University and the public, especially parents, counselors, and students themselves.

Chair Little agreed to incorporate the Board’s ideas about a modernized land grant mission and the University’s service to Vermont as reflected in resident student admission levels into a new workplan that will be distributed to the Board in the near future. It was suggested that the Board receive a briefing on the admissions process and current admissions data before the next admissions cycle to better prepare members to communicate with their constituents and the public.

**Other Business**

The Board briefly discussed recruitment of new legislatively-elected trustees to replace those whose terms expire in February 2007 and expressed the need to develop materials that describe the job of a University trustee to be used as a recruitment tool.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edwin Amidon, Jr., Secretary