A meeting of the Vermont Agricultural College Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College (the Board) was held on Saturday, November 11, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 427A Waterman Building.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Thomas Little, Secretary Edwin Amidon, Jr., Claire Ayer, Bill Botzow, Martha Heath, Johanna Donovan, and Mark Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Richard Hube and James Leddy

ALSO PARTICIPATING: John Hughes, Senior Vice President and Provost and Gretchen Babcock, Director of Government Relations.

Chair Little called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and voted to approve the minutes of the meeting of September 8, 2006.

Legislative Update

Director of Government Relations Gretchen Babcock reported on the activities of the Commission on Higher Education Funding (CHEF) in preparation for its annual recommendation to the Legislature on the amount of state funding for higher education. This year, the CHEF recommendation is expected to be finalized in December, following discussion of the findings of the Next Generation Initiative Commission. The Next Generation Initiative Commission was created by the Legislature to develop a plan to encourage Vermonters to live and work in Vermont and to identify funding sources for the plan’s implementation. That plan and its funding recommendations will most likely involve additional appropriations and will be a factor in the CHEF deliberations.

Because these funding issues are still so fluid, it was deemed inadvisable to try to formulate a resolution regarding the University’s state appropriation request for action at this meeting of the full Board of Trustees. Instead, the results of the CHEF and Next Generation Initiative Commission deliberations and recommendations will be brought to the Executive Committee for future action.

The University’s FY 2008 capital appropriation request of $4 million for “construction, renovation, and major maintenance in furtherance of the University’s mission,” will be submitted formally to the state if it is approved by the full Board at this meeting.

A discussion followed on the projected use of the University’s FY 2007 appropriation of $1 million for investment in the research and development of innovative and sustainable technologies to expand the University’s role in statewide economic development. As currently projected: $450,000 will be used for advanced engineering and technology projects; $380,000 will be used for agricultural innovation projects; and $170,000 will be used for education and
public knowledge projects. There was also a report on the proposed use of the FY 2007 appropriation of $1.67 million in one-time scholarship assistance for Vermont students.

The Board was briefed on the activities of the Next Generation Initiative Commission since its organization in August. President Fogel and other state higher education leaders have appeared before the Commission, along with representatives of business, technical education, workforce training, and other economic and education sectors. The Commission is due to present its report to the Legislature in December.

Other Business

The Board discussed ways to assist the Legislature in recruiting new trustees to replace the three Agricultural College Board trustees whose terms expire in February. Suggestions included providing a “job description” outlining trustee functions and responsibilities and convening an information forum in January for Legislators to learn more about service as a University trustee. The Board would like to meet, in person or by conference call, in advance of the trustee elections to discuss the status of these recruitment efforts. The Legislature elects University trustees on the third Thursday in February, and nominations must be submitted to the Secretary of State by February 10. By unanimous vote, the Board then convened in executive session at 8:25 a.m. to discuss the appointment of public officers. The executive session ended at 8:30 a.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Edwin Amidon, Jr., Secretary