A meeting of the Vermont Agricultural College Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College (the Board) was held on Thursday, April 17, 2008 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 41 of the Vermont Statehouse, Montpelier, Vermont.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Harry Chen, Secretary Edwin Amidon, Jr., Bill Botzow, Johanna Donovan, James Leddy, and Donna Sweaney

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Claire Ayer, Martha Heath, and Jeanette White.

ALSO PARTICIPATING: The House Committee on Agriculture: Representative Zuckerman of Burlington, Chair; Representative Perry of Richford, Vice-Chair; Representative Lawrence of Lyndon; Representative Ainsworth of Royalton; Representative Bray of New Haven, Clerk; Representative Godin of Milton; Representative Malcolm of Pawlet; Representative McNeil of Rutland Town; Representative Partridge of Windham; Representative Spengler of Colchester; Representative Stevens of Shoreham

Vice Chair Chen called the meeting to order at 12:17 p.m.

Exchange of Views with the House Committee on Agriculture on the Role of UVM Regarding Agriculture.

On behalf of the committee, Rep. Godin thanked the trustees for agreeing to meet with the committee. He then summarized the committee’s concerns with the agriculture programs at the University including the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Extension, and the state of the physical facilities at the Miller Research Complex. The committee is also concerned with the decline of agricultural education in the state’s tech centers and secondary schools, which the committee has tried to address in legislation (H.711).

After extensive discussion of the University’s agricultural education, research, and outreach programs, the committee and the trustees agreed that it will be important to keep communications open between the legislature and the University, especially through contacts with members of the Agricultural College Board of Trustees. The upcoming visit of the committee to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the Miller Farm was cited as a positive communication initiative. The trustees urged the committee to communicate to the provost its suggestions for qualifications and experience to be considered in the search for the new dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. The committee also suggested that a joint meeting of the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and legislative trustees should take place annually to discuss the state of agriculture in Vermont.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Edwin Amidon, Jr., Secretary