A meeting of the Vermont Agricultural College Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Saturday, February 6, 2016, at 7:30 a.m., in the Chittenden Bank Room of the Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kesha Ram, Vice Chair Joan Lenes, Secretary Anne O’Brien, Bill Botzow, Bernie Juskiewicz, Curt McCormack, Donna Sweaney, Tristan Toleno, and Jeff Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Director of Federal and State Relations Wendy Koenig and President Tom Sullivan

Chair Kesha Ram called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes from the October 19, 2015 meeting.

Review of 2015 Legislative Summit and Planning for 2016

Secretary Anne O’Brien gave a brief summary of the successful 2015 UVM Legislative Summit, which addressed the issue of economic development in Vermont. After thanking staff for their contributions to the event, a discussion ensued about the 2016 summit. Members agreed that the 2016 summit would address the topic of health-policy and research. Proposed dates for the event are November 16th or 17th, 2016. In response to survey feedback from the 2015 summit, the event will likely be reduced from a full-day to a half-day event with fewer concurrent sessions. Secretary O’Brien noted that she will be working with Vice President for Research Richard Galbraith to develop a working committee to plan the 2016 event.

Legislative Session Priorities

President Sullivan provided an outline of the University of Vermont’s legislative priorities. He stated that there are several items to accomplish before adjournment of the legislature in May. These items include: an increase to the University’s state appropriation as outlined in the 2014 Act 148 study committee which recommends an annual increase to UVM of the percentage increase of the state general fund plus one percent; a one-time capital appropriation of $1.5M to support the creation of the STEM Complex; and a repeal of the 40% rule for undergraduate students. President Sullivan also distributed a copy of his annual legislative presentation and a one page “Value to Vermont” fact sheet to each member for their reference.
Work Plan

Chair Ram asked that members put forward requests of items appropriate for discussion during future meetings. She also thanked Coordinator of Student Veteran Services David Carlson for his presentation at the October meeting. Several members suggested that the Wellness Environment presentation, provided at the February 5, 2016 Committee of the Whole meeting, be further discussed at a future meeting to determine how the UVM model could be used statewide. Members also requested that they consider how they can work on increasing support for UVM Extension.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne O’Brien, Secretary