A meeting of the Vermont Agricultural College Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Saturday, February 4, 2017, at 7:30 a.m., in the Chittenden Bank Room of the Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Tristan Toleno*, Secretary Curt McCormack, Bill Botzow, Bernard Juskiewicz, Donna Sweaney, Kesha Ram, Joan Lenes and Jeff Wilson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chair Anne O’Brien

OTHER TRUSTEES PRESENT: Board Chair David Daigle

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

*participated via phone and departed the meeting at 8:23 a.m.

Chair Tristan Toleno called the meeting to order at 7:37 a.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes from the October 21, 2016 meeting.

Review of Legislative Strategies for 2017-2018

President Sullivan reviewed the following three areas of priority for the University during this first year of the biennium:

1) Maintain UVM’s present general fund appropriation.
2) Obtain an additional million dollars for low income Vermonters.
3) Generate support for an additional capital appropriation for the STEM Complex.

The Board expressed support for these priorities, and discussed the fact that UVM’s largest challenge within the legislature is being viewed as too successful. UVM has been able to effectively demonstrate its return on investment, and will continue to proactively showcase its progress. However, UVM should also be more aggressive in educating the legislative body on the consequences of legislative disinvestment over time. The University can support this education process by encouraging legislative visits to campus to highlight programs and also utilize students to underscore the success that UVM brings to the state of Vermont.

The Board also began a conversation in regards to H.41, a bill that would eliminate legislative trustees from the University of Vermont Board of Trustees. Board Chair David Daigle explained
that he envisions any changes to the composition of the Board will be rooted in the ability to raise more private funds over time. He is interested in the next century of success for UVM and does not think Vermont has the ability to significantly increase the state appropriation. Trustee Bill Botzow opined that this may be a dangerous time to consider such a change, given the tension between UVM and the Vermont State Colleges with regards to funding, and achievement of long-term goals. Chair Tristan Toleno explained that the Chair of House Education, and the Speaker of the House, do not envision this bill moving forward this year. The Board agreed to continue discussion surrounding this issue at their next meeting.

**Legislative Summit Planning**

Director of Federal and State Relations Wendy Koenig noted that the revised format for the 2016 Legislative Summit was very well received and resulted in increased attendance. The Board discussed topics for the 2017 Summit and decided to pursue an agenda focused on water quality. President Sullivan noted that Vice Chair Anne O’Brien has served as an exemplary Chair of the Legislative Summit Planning Group for several years, and suggested that Secretary Curt McCormack serve as Vice Chair to assist in the planning this year.

**Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Curt McCormack, Secretary