A meeting of the Vermont Agricultural College Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Friday, May 19, 2017, at 4:30 p.m., in the Chittenden Bank Room of the Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Tristan Toleno, Vice Chair Anne O’Brien, Secretary Curt McCormack, John Bartholomew, Johannah Donovan, Bernard Juskiewicz, Shap Smith, Donna Sweaney, and Jeff Wilson

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

Chair Tristan Toleno called the meeting to order at 4:47 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes from the February 4, 2017 meeting.

Election of Officers

In accordance with the Vermont Agricultural College Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont by-laws, the following officers were elected to serve one-year terms: Tristan Toleno, Chair; Anne O’Brien, Vice Chair; and Curt McCormack, Secretary.

Legislative Update

Chair Toleno asked Director of State and Federal Relations Wendy Koenig to summarize the budget outcome for UVM. The University and Vermont Student Assistance Corporation (VSAC) were level funded, and the Vermont State Colleges had $3 million added to their base. Chair Toleno noted this was an unusual move based on the stability of the State Colleges at this time.

The Board had a robust discussion of revising the legislative strategy, including grassroots efforts using alumni and sitting public trustees to deliver UVM’s message from the bottom up to elevate the understanding of what the University contributes to the State. Director Koenig agreed to convene a group to develop materials to be used in this effort.

Finally, the Board heard from Extension Director, Chuck Ross, who added that in communications with Vermonter, the University should be aware of the notion that large institutions are not always highly valued in Vermont, especially with relation to the tension between Chittenden County and the rest of the state. He stated that for UVM to be considered or perceived to have value for Vermonter, the University needs to work hard to emphasize its impact on the entire state.
Chair Toleno also invited trustees to think about the Board’s governance structure and how it relates to the strategic needs of the University moving forward, in advance of discussions to occur at the fall retreat.

**Update on 2017 Legislative Summit**

Director Koenig advised the group that the Summit will be held on November 14, 2017 and that the topic will be on Water Quality. Vice Chair Anne O’Brien invited all legislative trustees to participate in the planning of this event.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Curt McCormack, Secretary