

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Monday, January 25, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. The meeting was held via remote conferencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Ron Lumbra, Vice Chair Cynthia Barnhart, Briar Alpert, David Aronoff<sup>1</sup>, John Bartholomew<sup>2</sup>, Otto Berkes, John Dineen, Johannah Donovan, Carolyn Dwyer, President Suresh Garimella, Jodi Goldstein, Don McCree, Carol Ode<sup>3</sup>, Ed Pagano, Shap Smith, Berke Tinaz, and Samuel Young

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Robert Brennan, Kevin “Coach” Christie, Frank Cioffi, David Gringeri, Secretary Curt McCormack, Governor Phil Scott and Tristan Toleno

**ALSO PARTICIPATING:** Provost and Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock, Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel and Chief of Staff to the President Sharon Reich Paulsen, Vice President for Research Kirk Dombrowski, Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Leslie Parise, Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Noma Anderson, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Jay Jacobs and Interim Vice Provost for Student Affairs Erica Caloiero.

<sup>1</sup> Departed the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

<sup>2</sup> Departed the meeting at 11:21 a.m.

<sup>3</sup> Joined the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Chair Ron Lumbra called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m.

**Introduction of new senior administrators**

President Suresh Garimella stated that with the social distancing mandates imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, trustees have been unable to meet a number of new senior administrators. The intention of today’s special meeting is to introduce the board to the following new members of the leadership team: Vice President for Research Kirk Dombrowski, who joined UVM in April 2020; Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences Leslie Parise, who joined UVM in May 2020; Dean of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences Noma Anderson, who will officially join UVM on February 1, 2021; Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Jay Jacobs, who joined UVM earlier this month; and Erica Caloiero, whose appointment as Interim Vice Provost for Student Affairs is effective February 1, 2021.

President Garimella and Provost Patricia Prelock offered brief introductions of each new administrator, highlighting educational and professional background information detailed in the attachments included in the meeting materials. Each new administrator shared personal information about themselves, after which an opportunity for dialogue with trustees was offered.

In response to questions about areas of focus in the research realm, Vice President Dombrowski highlighted the goal of reaching R1 status, which he explained will open many doors for the university and offer a broad range of associated benefits. He identified areas of great potential at UVM, which he will help faculty and the university energetically pursue.

Responding to questions about opportunities that exist in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Dean Parise recognized the state of Vermont as a living laboratory for farmland research. Research on water quality issues presents a special opportunity for growth.

In response to a discussion about the how the past year could affect enrollment in the health sciences, Dean Anderson shared that, despite the challenges brought on by the pandemic, she anticipates an increase in student interest in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, noting that enrollment in the Larner College of Medicine already has increased.

In follow up to a conversation regarding enrollment management, Vice Provost Jacobs shared that the demographic shift in the northeast remains a challenge and that he is working on articulation agreements with community colleges to broaden the pipeline of in-state and first generation students.

The discussion concluded with a question about lessons learned over the last six months and feedback received from students attending classes in-person and remotely. Interim Vice Provost Caloiero shared that the main takeaways are that all students need balance between their academic and social lives and that traditional communication strategies with parents and students are no longer sufficient. That is why we use a variety of communications tools.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Lumbra, Chair