

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**VERMONT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE BOARD**

Chair Carol Ode, Vice Chair Shap Smith, Secretary Stephanie Jerome, John Bartholomew, Scott Beck, Monique Priestley, Lucy Rogers, Tristan Toleno, and Catherine Toll

**Friday, February 6, 2026**

4:15 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Chittenden Bank Room, (413) Dudley H. Davis Center

**AGENDA**

	Item	Enclosure/ Exemption	Discussion Leader(s)	Time
	<b>Call to order</b>			*4:15 p.m.
1.	Approval of October 18, 2025 meeting minutes	Attachment 1	Carol Ode	4:15-4:17
2.	Emerging issues in the 2026 legislative session		Carol Ode Wendy Koenig	4:17-4:55
3.	Other business		Carol Ode	4:55-5:00
	<b>Motion to adjourn</b>			<b>5:00 p.m.</b>

\*Times are approximate.

**VERMONT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

A meeting of the Vermont Agricultural College Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Saturday, October 18, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. in the Chittenden Bank Room (413), at the Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vice Chair Shap Smith, Secretary Stephanie Jerome, John Bartholomew, Scott Beck, Lucy Rogers, Tristan Toleno<sup>1</sup>, and Catherine Toll

MEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Carol Ode and Monique Priestley

PERSONS ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Interim Provost Linda Schadler, Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel Sharon Reich Paulsen, Chief of Staff to the President Johnathan D'Amore, Dean of College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Linda Prokopy, Government Relations Specialist Billy Rison, and Executive Director of Government Relations Wendy Koenig<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Joined the meeting via remote conferencing.

Vice Chair Shap Smith called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes**

Vice Chair Smith presented the May 16, 2025, meeting minutes for approval. A motion was made, seconded, and voted to approve the minutes as presented.

**Strategy for 2026 Legislative Session**

Vice Chair Smith invited Executive Director of Government Relations Wendy Koenig to update the Board on the upcoming 2026 legislative session.

Executive Director Koenig spoke about the university's appropriations request for FY 2027, noting that UVM has requested a 3% increase to the general fund budget, a \$5 million one-time request over a 5-year period for the UVM Cancer Center, and a \$20 million contribution for the Multipurpose Events Center project. Trustee Catherine Toll inquired about the source of funding from the state for these requests. Executive Director Koenig responded it likely will be partially capital funds, amongst a variety of other sources. President Marlene Tromp noted the importance of the Multipurpose Center project to the rest of the state.

Trustee John Bartholomew inquired about the delay in funding for the UVM Cancer Center. Executive Director Koenig spoke to the limited funds and vast number of requests by others throughout the state. Trustee Stephanie Jerome noted many legislators have either been treated for cancer or had loved ones treated for cancer at the UVM Cancer Center. Vice Chair Shap Smith suggested legislators receive a briefing about the University's budgeting process, followed by a discussion on messaging for budgeting within the legislature.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Jerome, Secretary