

**BUDGET, FINANCE AND INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**

A meeting of the Budget, Finance and Investment Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont State and Agricultural College was held on Friday, October 17, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., in the Livak Ballroom, 417-419 Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair John Dineen, Vice Chair Kristina Pisanelli¹, Scott Beck, Susan Brengle, Frank Cioffi, Don McCree, Ed Pagano, Shap Smith, Catherine Toll, and President Marlene Tromp

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Faculty Representatives Guillermo Rodriguez and Andrey Ukhov, Foundation Representative Bob Plante¹, Alumni Representative Sophie Meyer¹, Staff Representatives Kunie Renaud and Aimee Gale, Student Representative Madeline Rice, and Graduate Student Representative Frederick Pesek¹

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Vice President for Finance & Administration Alicia Estey, University Budget Director Shari Bergquist, University Controller Lindsey Donovan, and Vice President for Enrollment Management Jay Jacobs

OTHER TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE²: Board of Trustees Chair Cynthia Barnhart, John Bartholomew, Matt Devost, Jodi Goldstein, Jenn Ha, Stephanie Jerome, McKenzie Hart, Lucy Rogers, and Tristan Toleno^{1,2}

ABSENT: Trustees D. Stanton Dodge, Ron Lumbra, and Carol Ode

¹ Joined the meeting via remote conferencing.

² Departed the meeting at 1:29 p.m.

Chair Dineen called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. He began by welcoming new graduate student representative Frederick “Teddy” Pesek and acknowledging that members of the Educational Policy & Institutional Resources Committee were in attendance to allow their participation in the tuition-setting discussion. He also offered congratulations to newly appointed University Controller Lindsey Donovan.

Approval of minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and voted to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2025, meeting.

Fiscal year 2027 tuition and fees

Chair Dineen invited Vice President for Finance & Administration Alicia Estey, Vice President for Enrollment Management Jay Jacobs, and University Budget Director Shari Bergquist to present on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 tuition-setting and fees proposals.

Vice President Jacobs explained that with inflation adjustments, the university's in-state tuition has declined over the last five years, and out-of-state tuition has stayed relatively flat. UVM has kept tuition increases at or below the rate of inflation, ensuring affordability while sustaining academic quality. Other statistics on the current enrollment that emphasize value and affordability include:

- UVM committed \$178.7 million of institutional aid to students in FY 2026
- 92% of undergraduates received scholarships or aid; 46% of in-state attend tuition-free
- 214 first-time, first-year Vermonters attend via UVM Promise, a 71% increase year-over-year
- UVM's room and board are the lowest among peers and aspirants; in-state tuition is below 7 of 11 peers

Student outcome highlights include:

- Fall 2024 cohort retained at 89.1%, a UVM record
- One-year retention rates have increased 4.5% in the past five years
- 80.9% of the Fall 2019 cohort graduated in six years or less, another UVM record
- 92% of recent graduates engaged in research, internships, study abroad, or other experience-based learning/high impact practices
- 94% of graduates were employed or continuing their education within six months of graduation

Vice President Estey addressed some substantial budgetary pressures including significant increases in healthcare costs, and inflationary increases in the cost of hardware and software, utilities, service contracts, and construction. In addition, urgent deferred maintenance needs (\$450 – 750 million), including Given Medical and Marsh Life Science, until addressed, will limit program and research growth.

She explained that university leadership is taking a disciplined, multi-pronged approach that combines revenue growth with long-term cost containment strategies. Cost-cutting measures include:

- Actively managing payroll and operation expenses by extending an essential hiring process to ensure that requested recruitments are critical to the operation of the university, and by implementing strategic budget reductions in non-academic units, generating \$6 million in savings.

- Managing healthcare costs by redesigning active employee healthcare plans, transitioning retirees to marketplace, and expanding case management services.
- Launching Catamount Leap, a university-wide initiative to identify opportunities for process and system efficiencies. As part of this initiative, a roadmap of changes that need to be made will be developed in anticipation of UVM's eventual transition to a cloud-based enterprise resource planning (ERP) system.

Strategic revenue-generating opportunities include:

- Targeting select undergraduate, graduate, and professional and continuing education (PACE) programs for strategic enrollment growth, generating new revenue while meeting workforce and market demand.
- Increasing scholarship support through philanthropy.
- Expanding non-academic revenue generation from corporate partnerships and leveraging real estate assets.

Vice President Jacobs noted that the university's strategic plan (under development) will inform a strategic enrollment plan for undergraduate and graduate growth in programs aligned with UVM's strategic plan. This plan will help guide future requests for tuition and fee increases. Changes to discounting for Fall 2026 will include investments in need-based aid across the board to offset a portion of the tuition increases for new incoming students. There will also be a small investment in merit scholarships to incentivize enrollment by priority students defined either by academic quality or other desired characteristics.

Vice President Estey announced that in the coming year, the administration will establish a Tuition and Fee Committee to engage elected student, faculty, and staff leadership in the tuition and fee setting process. This committee, working in concert with the Vice Presidents for Finance and Administration and Enrollment Management, will develop tuition and fee recommendations for President Tromp's consideration. As part of that process, the university will recommend consolidating select fees into categories (for example, a facilities fee in lieu of project-specific fees), giving UVM the flexibility to direct fee revenue to priority needs.

Vice President Jacobs provided data on how UVM's net tuition and fees compare with peer institutions. With the increase in FY 2026 tuition and room and board fees, the university is well within range of its competitors and will likely maintain that relative position with comparator and peer institutions.

There are 7 institutions (including private) that have higher in-state tuition rates than UVM. Four institutions have higher out-of-state tuition rates than UVM.

Based on data from FY 2024 and FY 2025, our relative position has not changed even with tuition increases.

In terms of relative position to its peers and aspirants, UVM has the lowest room and board fees. Data from FY 2024 and FY 2025 indicate that UVM's cost has dropped relative to peer and aspirants.

The university's annualized undergraduate tuition and fees percentage increase for in-state students between FY 2022 and FY 2026 was one-half percent, while comparator institutions' average was close to 3%.

University Budget Director Bergquist presented two proposed scenarios for FY 2027 tuition increases. The first scenario raised in-state tuition by 1% and the second scenario raised in-state tuition by 2%. Both scenarios raised out-of-state tuition by 4.5%. Additionally, a \$150 comprehensive fee increase, and a 3% room and board increase were proposed.

UVM continues to provide substantial support to in-state students. A proposed 2% increase in in-state tuition, alongside a 4.5% increase for out-of-state students, is recommended to help sustain the university's academic quality and infrastructure amid rising costs.

Vice President Estey recommended that the committee endorse scenario two, noting that while it does not fully close the budget gap, it addresses immediate financial needs and reflects UVM's commitment to affordability for Vermont students. After several years of flat in-state tuition, modest increases are necessary to distribute cost pressures more equitably.

Even with the proposed adjustments, UVM's tuition and fees remain competitive among peer institutions, particularly in the Northeast. Rising expenses in healthcare, compensation, facilities, and program support continue to outpace general inflation. Tuition and fee increases are essential to maintaining financial stability.

The following resolutions were presented:

Resolution approving tuition rates for fiscal year 2027

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the following tuition rates effective with the 2026-2027 academic year:

In-state tuition \$16,938 per year, or \$706 per credit hour.

Out-of-state tuition \$46,655 per year, or \$1,944 per credit hour.

Medical student in-state tuition \$39,513 per year.

Medical student out-of-state tuition \$72,527 per year.

Resolution setting the undergraduate comprehensive fee, student government association and inter residence association fees for fiscal year 2027

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby sets the following fee rates for undergraduate students:

Undergraduate comprehensive fee	\$2,806
Student Government Association (SGA) fee	\$252
Inter Residence Association (IRA) fee	\$30

Resolution setting the acceptance fee for fiscal year 2027

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby sets the following fee rates for undergraduate students:

Acceptance fee	\$500
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Resolution setting program fees in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Grossman School of Business, and College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences fees for fiscal year 2027

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby sets the following fee rates for undergraduate students:

Program fee	\$1,000
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Resolution setting the graduate comprehensive fee for fiscal year 2027

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby sets the following fee rates for full-time graduate students:

Graduate comprehensive fee	\$2,422
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Resolution approving graduate student senate fee for fiscal year 2027

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees sets the following rates for the graduate student senate fee:

Less than 5 credits, \$15 per semester
5 or more credits, \$25 per semester

Resolution approving the continuous registration fee for graduate students for fiscal year 2027

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby sets the following rates for the varying graduate continuous registration fee:

Less than half-time, \$100 per semester
Half to full-time, but not including full-time, \$200 per semester
Full-time, \$300 per semester

Resolution approving room and meal plan rates for fiscal year 2027

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the room and meal plan rates for the 2026-2027 academic year as follows:

Room Rates Per Year

Layout	Standard	Enhanced	Premium
Traditional Single	11,082	11,298	11,622
Traditional Double	9,614	9,802	10,080
Traditional Triple	7,670	7,816	-
Traditional Quad	6,492	6,620	-
Suite Single	11,528	11,752	12,090
Suite Double	10,066	10,262	10,554
Suite Triple	8,416	8,578	8,822
Private Single			12,596
Private Double			11,192
Private Triple			9,276

Meal Plan Rates

Retail Points Plan	5,040
Unlimited Access Plan	5,040
Flex Plan	5,630
All Access Plus Plan	5,300

Resolution approving 2026 summer session tuition

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby approves the tuition rate for summer session 2026 of \$484 per credit hour for in-state students and \$1,302 per credit hour for out-of-state students except that, with prior approval from the Provost, graduate programs may maintain summer tuition rates for 2026 in-state and out-of-state students equal to the prior fall and spring tuition rates for their program.

An opportunity for discussion was offered. There being none, a motion was made, seconded, and it was unanimously voted to refer all resolutions to the Board for approval.

Vice President's Report

- **External audit update**

University Controller Lindsey Donovan reported that KPMG is wrapping up its 8th week of the FY 2025 financial statement audit, with many of the audit areas substantially completed. The main areas that remain open are investments, debt, and financial reporting. He expects an unmodified opinion free of material weaknesses and significant deficiencies for the 15th year in a row and will present the final report to the Audit Committee on November 3, 2025.

- **Dual enrollment**

The administration is required to report annually on the number of high school students who were enrolled in UVM classes in the past year. In fiscal year 2025, the university provided support for 314 high school students who took classes at UVM through the Dual Enrollment Voucher Program and 157 additional high school students were enrolled outside the program. These numbers are slightly higher than last year's enrollment numbers.

- **Contract notification**

The administration is required to report on renewals of any previous Board-approved contracts or leases that call for an annual increase in costs

exceeding 5% per year. The Board approved a one-year renewal contract with Wolfram Research, Incorporated for Mathematica software at the June 10, 2024 meeting. The new three-year site license agreement for August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2028, has an annual increase of 8%.

Report of the University of Vermont Investment Management Company (UVIMCO)

Trustee Sue Brengle referred committee members to the supplemental performance update report (prepared by UVIMCO and sent under separate distribution). She provided a high-level overview of the portfolio and reported that as of June 30, 2025, the endowment balance was \$902 million. This fall the endowment briefly reached \$1 billion and is now closer to \$938 million.

As required, a list of UVM's consolidated funds was included for informational purposes as attachment 5.

Controller Donovan reminded the committee that per the Quasi Endowment Policy, the University may designate assets as quasi endowments to take advantage of the endowment's earning power. There is a required minimum balance of \$50,000, the funds must remain invested for at least 3 years, and principal may be expended only after approval from this committee.

He then introduced 2 quasi endowment resolutions for consideration.

The first is a resolution to establish the UVM Rescue Quasi-Endowment Fund. The UVM Rescue Club has accumulated net assets of \$1.8 million, and the Vice Provost of Student Affairs has requested that \$1.2 million of those funds be used to establish a quasi-endowment to benefit the Rescue Club.

The second resolution seeks to terminate the Pharmacology Cardiovascular Research Endowment Fund. This fund has been invested since 2003 and was established using the Miles Pharmacology Research Gift fund. It has a value of approximately \$140,000. The Department of Pharmacology Chair has requested the funds be withdrawn from the endowment and returned to the gift fund to support current research needs.

The following resolutions were presented:

Resolution to establish the UVM Rescue Quasi-Endowment Fund

WHEREAS, over time the University Rescue Club has accumulated net assets, which now has a balance exceeding \$1,800,000; and

WHEREAS, the University may decide to designate assets as quasi-endowment funds to gain the benefit of the earning power of the University's consolidated endowment pool while retaining the flexibility to be expended in whole or in part; and

WHEREAS, the Vice Provost for Student Affairs has requested that \$1,200,000 of the accumulated net assets be used to establish the UVM Rescue Quasi-Endowment Fund within the University's consolidated endowment pool;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Budget, Finance and Investment Committee approves the creation of the UVM Rescue Quasi-Endowment Fund within the University's consolidated endowment pool.

Resolution to terminate the Pharmacology Cardiovascular Research Endowment Fund

WHEREAS, the University may decide to partially or totally withdraw quasi-endowment funds after a three-year lock-up from the University's consolidated endowment pool; and

WHEREAS, the Pharmacology Cardiovascular Research Endowment fund has been invested in the University's consolidated endowment pool since October 2003; and

WHEREAS, the Chair of the Department of Pharmacology has requested that the principal and accumulated net earnings of approximately \$140,000 be withdrawn from the University's consolidated endowment pool and returned to the Miles Pharmacology Research Gift fund to support current research needs;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Budget, Finance and Investment Committee approves the withdrawal of the Pharmacology Cardiovascular Research Endowment Fund from the University's consolidated endowment pool.

A motion was made, seconded, and it was unanimously voted to refer both resolutions to the Board for approval.

Contracts for Approval

Vice President Estey brought forth three vendor contracts that meet the threshold for Board approval.

The following resolutions were presented:

Resolution approving contracts for online instructional design

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vice President for Finance and Administration, or their successor or designee, is hereby authorized to contract with The Babb Group, Incorporated and Symbiosis Educational Consultants for online instructional design services beginning September 15, 2025, through September 14, 2026, with four optional one-year renewals, with a total cumulative amount not to exceed \$2,000,000.

Resolution approving contract with Staples, Incorporated

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vice President for Finance and Administration, or their successor or designee, is hereby authorized to execute a two-year contract with Staples, Incorporated for general office supplies, beginning November 1, 2025, through October 31, 2027, with three optional one-year renewals, for a total cumulative amount not to exceed \$3,400,000.

Resolution approving contract with SymQuest, Group Incorporated

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vice President for Finance and Administration, or their successor or designee, is hereby authorized to contract with SymQuest Group, Incorporated for multifunctional copier services on campus beginning October 1, 2025, through September 30, 2030, for an amount not to exceed \$2,600,000 in aggregate.

A motion was made, seconded, and it was unanimously voted to refer all resolutions to the Board for approval.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Dineen, Chair