

**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 Friday, February 6, 2026, at 4:15 p.m. in the Chittenden Bank Room (413), at the Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Carol Ode, Vice Chair Shap Smith, Secretary Stephanie Jerome, John Bartholomew¹, Scott Beck, Monique Priestley, Lucy Rogers, Tristan Toleno, and Catherine Toll

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

PERSONS ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Trustee Jason Maulucci², Interim Provost Linda Schadler, Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel Sharon Reich Paulsen, Executive Director of Government Relations Wendy Koenig, Dean of the College of Agriculture Linda Prokopy, Government Relations Specialist Billy Rison, UVM Graduate Student Rinzin Sonam, and UVM Graduate Student Dillan Rhineman

¹ Arrived at 4:25 p.m.

² Arrived at 4:32 p.m.

Chair Carol Ode called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Chair Ode presented the October 18, 2025, meeting minutes for approval. A motion was made, seconded, and voted to approve the minutes as presented.

Emerging Issues in the 2026 Legislative Session

Chair Ode invited Executive Director of Government Relations Wendy Koenig to update the Board on developments related to the 2026 legislative session.

Executive Director Koenig reported on the university's appropriations request, which includes a 3% increase to the general fund budget, a \$5 million one-time request over five years for the UVM Cancer Center, and a \$15 million contribution for the Multipurpose Events Center project. She noted this as the third year the University has requested Cancer Center funding and highlighted the noticeable difference in state funding for cancer centers in neighboring states. She also clarified that funding for the Multipurpose Events Center would come from the Higher Education Trust Fund, rather than the General Fund, emphasizing the

project's benefits for student health and wellness, recruitment, retention, and statewide economic development.

Trustee Catherine Toll asked about eligibility for UVM Promise. Interim Provost Linda Schadler explained that the program supports Vermont undergraduates whose parents have an adjusted gross income below \$100,000. Executive Director Koenig also shared UVM is exploring a partnership with Vermont State University (VSU) to provide housing for UVM summer interns on VSU campuses statewide.

Trustee Tristan Toleno reflected on prior statewide trustees visits, emphasizing that stronger storytelling would help Vermonters better understand UVM's impact. Executive Director Koenig agreed and aims to resume these visits next year. Interim Provost Schadler added that admissions continues to provide strong support to Vermont high school students throughout the application process. Trustee Scott Beck noted that the Multipurpose Events Center will enhance opportunities and draw visitors from across the state to campus.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Jerome, Secretary