

**EDUCATIONAL POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**

A meeting of the Educational Policy and Institutional Resources (EPIR) Committee of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Friday, May 15, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. in the Silver Maple Ballroom, (401) Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Stephanie Jerome, Vice Chair Tristan Toleno, Theresa Alberghini DiPalma, John Bartholomew, Matt Devost, Jodi Goldstein¹, McKenzie Hart, Lucy Rogers², and Shahriar Tafti

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Jason Maulucci, Monique Priestley and President Marlene Tromp

REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT: Faculty Representatives Amy Trubek and Colby Kervick, Staff Representative Sarah Heath, Alumni Representative Susan Wertheimer, Foundation Representative Skip Beitzel², Graduate Student Representatives Frances Starn³ and Kush Sharma

REPRESENTATIVES ABSENT: Faculty Representative Bikki Smith, Staff Representative Jay LaShombe, Student Representatives Joseph Rob and Catherine Jones

PERSONS ALSO PARTICIPATING: Interim Provost & Senior Vice President, Linda Schadler and Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success, Jennifer Dickinson

¹ Stepped out of the meeting at 1:05 p.m. and returned at 1:42 p.m.

² Joined the meeting via remote conferencing.

³ Joined the meeting via remote conferencing at 1:13 p.m.

Chair Stephanie Jerome called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and welcomed new trustees Theresa Alberghini DiPalma and Shahriar Tafti and graduate student representatives Frances Starn and Kush Karma to the committee.

Approval of minutes

The minutes from the February 6, 2026, meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes as presented.

Interim Provost's report

Interim Provost Schadler began her report by welcoming attendees and sharing her enthusiasm about positive developments across campus.

She then offered the following highlights from her written report, included as attachment 2 in the meeting materials:

- Significant leadership transitions are taking place this year, including changes in four dean positions: Noma Anderson, College of Nursing and Health Sciences (CNHS), Sanjay Sharma, Grossman School of Business (GSB), Holger Hook, Graduate College and Bryn Geffert, Libraries.
- Dain LaRoche has been appointed as the new Dean of CNHS. A Vermont native coming from the University of New Hampshire, he helped grow research funding in his college to \$30 million. His research focuses on mobility limitations in older adults and includes work on assistive robotics, smart-home and wearable technologies, dementia care, exercise delivery, independent living assistance, and rural health initiatives.
- Vikas Anand has been appointed as the new Dean of GSB. Previously Associate Dean for Academic Programs at North Carolina State, he brings expertise in international business and institutional advancement. His vision emphasizes global engagement, societal impact, industry relevance, and student success.
- Mandar Dewoolkar has been appointed as the new Dean of CEMS after serving as Acting Dean for the past 18 months. Previously Chair of Civil Engineering, he built a strong department culture and is recognized for research involving environmental loadings, hazards, extreme events, and their impacts on materials and structures.
- The Graduate College Dean search is being conducted internally, with interviews beginning next week. The search for an Interim Dean of Libraries is nearly complete. Provost Schadler expressed confidence in the quality of these hires and thanked outgoing deans for their service and leadership.
- Jane Okech, Vice President for Faculty Affairs and members of the search committees, were recognized for their hard work and dedication.
- New student success initiatives and the university's efforts to integrate AI into teaching and learning were shared, including the Faculty Senate's approval of an online AI literacy and ethics module for students, along with AI teaching guidelines for faculty. Departments are also sponsoring AI Fellows to develop discipline-specific AI content, including practical AI skills, critical analysis of AI, and discussions of AI's environmental impacts.
- Chief Information Officer Kellie Campbell and Vice President for Research & Economic Development Kirk Dombrowski are leading seven AI-related task forces addressing topics such as workforce upskilling, AI governance, and AI technology planning across the university.
- The university is expanding online education and rapidly building the infrastructure, technology, and staff training needed to support a growing population of online students. Colleges are actively planning undergraduate online degrees, and one new online PhD program will launch this year, with additional programs planned for next year.

- Student accomplishments in athletics were celebrated, including Olympians and strong performances from the men's and women's basketball teams, track and field athletes, and men's and women's lacrosse teams. The Provost expressed hope that the university will once again win the America East Conference Academic Cup.
- Students' outstanding academic achievements were recognized, including a record-setting 14 Fulbright Scholars and 23 finalists. Two students received Udall Scholarships, which support future leaders in environmental policy, Tribal public policy, and health care.
- The Provost concluded by reflecting on the quality of student accomplishments she witnessed at recent campus events, including Senior Design Night in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences, where engineering students partnered with industry to solve real-world challenges. She also attended Research Week events, including the Three Minute Thesis competition, undergraduate poster sessions, postdoctoral presentations, and musical recitals.

Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee chair's report

Chair Jerome reminded the committee that they are asked to review and approve the creation, elimination, or substantial revision of an academic unit, curriculum, research, or service endeavor. This is consistent with the committee's responsibility and authority as a board and reflects the careful stewardship of the university's educational resources to ensure that students are provided with a comprehensive, vital, and transformative educational experience. Faculty members and academic leaders across the institution contribute to this extensive stewardship process, which culminates in the report the committee receives from the Chair of the Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Senate Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) Co-Chair Colby Kervick highlighted her written report, included as attachment 3 in the meeting materials. She emphasized the number of micro-certifications being presented for approval and noted the high level of collaboration across campus. In closing, she stated that this would be her final meeting, as her term as co-chair is ending.

Curricular action items

Chair Jerome presented the following resolutions:

Resolution approving the creation of a minor in Exercise Science in the College of Nursing & Health Sciences

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a minor in Exercise Science in the College of Nursing & Health Sciences, as approved and

advanced by the Interim Provost on March 2, 2026 and the President on March 3, 2026.

Resolution approving the creation of a minor in Emergency Management in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a minor in Emergency Management in the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences, as approved and advanced by the Interim Provost on March 2, 2026 and the President on March 3, 2026.

Resolution approving the creation of a minor in One Health in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the creation of a minor in One Health in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, as approved and advanced by the Interim Provost on March 24, 2026 and the President on March 26, 2026.

Resolution approving a Certificate of Graduate Study in Specialized Literary Studies in the Graduate College

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves a Certificate of Graduate Study in Specialized Literary Studies in the Graduate College in conjunction with the College of Education & Social Services, as approved and advanced by the Interim Provost on March 2, 2026 and the President on March 3, 2026.

Resolution approving a Micro-Certificate of Graduate Study in Biomedical Innovation in the Graduate College

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves a Micro-Certificate of Graduate Study in Biomedical Innovation in the Graduate College in conjunction with the College of Engineering & Mathematical Sciences, as approved and advanced by the Interim Provost on March 2, 2026 and the President on March 3, 2026.

Resolution approving a Micro-Certificate of Graduate Study in Sustainability Reporting in the Graduate College

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves a Micro-Certificate of Graduate Study in Sustainability Reporting in the Graduate College in conjunction with the Grossman School of Business, as approved and advanced by the Interim Provost on March 2, 2026 and the President on March 3, 2026.

Resolution approving a new Micro-Certificate of Graduate Study in Biomedical Entrepreneurship in the Graduate College

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves a new Micro-Certificate of Graduate Study in Biomedical Entrepreneurship in the Graduate College in conjunction with the Larner College of Medicine, as approved and advanced by the Interim Provost on April 28, 2026 and the President on April 29, 2026.

Resolution approving the termination of the Physical Education B.S. Ed. Program in the College of Education & Social Services

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves the termination of the Physical Education B.S. Ed. Program in the College of Education & Social Services, as approved and advanced by the Interim Provost on April 28, 2026 and the President on April 29, 2026.

Resolution approving a new Micro-Certificate of Graduate Study in Whole-Person Health for Healthcare Practitioners in the Graduate College

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees approves a new Micro-Certificate of Graduate Study in Whole-Person Health for Healthcare Practitioners in the Graduate College in conjunction with the College of Nursing and Health Sciences, as approved and advanced by the Interim Provost and the President on May 14, 2026.

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

Division of Academic Affairs and Student Success: Foundations and Innovations

Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success, Jennifer Dickinson, provided an overview of student success efforts within the Division of Academic Affairs and Student Success, including both established academic support services and newer initiatives aligned with the Forging Bold Futures framework. Core resources discussed included accessibility services, academic success and tutoring programs, writing and career support, and TRIO programs. New initiatives highlighted were STEM Scholars, StudyCATS, and Ask UVM, which focus on research and career readiness, academic skills coaching for students on academic warning, and centralized access to student support services, respectively.

Other business

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Jerome, Chair

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