

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE**

A meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Board of Trustees was held on Friday, January 31, 2020, at 8:00 a.m. in the Silver Maple Ballroom, Room 401 at the Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair David Daigle, Vice Chair Ron Lumbra, Secretary Curt McCormack, Briar Alpert, David Aronoff, Cynthia Barnhart, John Bartholomew, Otto Berkes, Robert Brennan, Kevin “Coach” Christie¹, Johannah Donovan, Carolyn Dwyer, Suresh Garimella, Jodi Goldstein, David Gringeri, Sidney Hilker, Bernard Juskiewicz, Don McCree, Ed Pagano, Shap Smith, Tristan Toleno, and Samuel Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Frank Cioffi, Carol Ode, and Governor Phil Scott

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Provost and Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock; Professor of Computer Science Josh Bongard; Evolutionary Robotics PhD candidate Sam Kriegman; Student Government Association (SGA) Jillian Scannell; SGA Vice President Owen Doherty; Graduate Student Senate (GSS) President Jessica Bocanegra; GSS Vice President Avery Rasmussen; Director of the Career Center Pamela Gardner; Vice President for Research Richard Galbraith; Chief Information Officer Simeon Ananou; Professor of Physics and Director of the Vermont Advanced Computing Core Adrian Del Maestro; Physics PhD student Emanuel Casiano-Diaz; Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel and Chief of Staff to the President Sharon Reich Paulsen; Vice President for Human Resources, Diversity & Multicultural Affairs Wanda Heading-Grant; Vice President for Finance and Treasurer Richard Cate; Vice President for Executive Operations & Public Safety Gary Derr; Chief Human Resource Officer Jes Kraus; Director for Labor Relations Employment Services Mary Brodsky; and Associate General Counsel Meghan Siket

¹Arrived at 8:58 a.m.

Chair David Daigle called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

Approval of minutes

Chair Daigle presented the October 25, 2019 meeting minutes for approval. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes as presented.

Chair Daigle noted that the reporting cycle for grant and contract awards has been revisited. Moving forward, an annual report will be provided to the board in October, with time reserved for the Vice President for Research to discuss highlights with trustees.

He also previewed that the format of the governance leader reports has been revised. Governance leaders will continue to be invited to submit written reports each meeting, but they will provide oral reports annually rather than at each meeting. This will enable them to engage in more meaningful discussions with the board.

Chair's report (see full report appended to minutes, beginning on page 5.)

President's report

President Suresh Garimella thanked retiring trustees Chair David Daigle and Sidney Hilker for their service on the board. He concluded his remarks by presenting a video of Professor of Computer Science Josh Bongard's CNN interview discussing living programable robots, also known as xenobots, that his team at UVM helped design in collaboration with a team at Tufts University. President Garimella invited Professor Bongard and evolutionary robotics PhD candidate Sam Kriegman to provide brief remarks regarding their path breaking research.

Governance leaders discussion

Trustees engaged in discussion with Student Government Association (SGA) President Jillian Scannell, SGA Vice President Owen Doherty, Graduate Student Senate (GSS) President Jessica Bocanegra and GSS Vice President Avery Rasmussen regarding the importance of research and student advising.

In terms of research, the student leaders said that UVM's research opportunities are attractive to prospective students. Suggestions include: encourage greater utilization of the Fellowships, Opportunities, and Undergraduate Research (FOUR) office; improve communication of potential research-related careers; further develop mentorship opportunities among graduate and undergraduate students; provide a dedicated graduate student presentation session at the student research conference; and better spotlight humanities-related research.

In discussing advising, the student leaders acknowledged the improvements being made and the attention advising has received. SGA President Scannell noted that hiring professional advisors across campus could be helpful, though it would be costly. GSS President Bocanegra added that graduate students could benefit from additional career advising. Several trustees asked about industry-mentorship opportunities. Director of the Career Center Pamela Gardner described existing mentorship opportunities through UVM Connect and the Career Center. Provost & Senior Vice President Patty Prelock noted that NAVIGATE (for undergraduates) and Adobe Connect (for graduates), are current software platforms used at UVM that connect students with advisors and have the ability to connect students to career groups.

Referencing the SGA and GSS presidents' written reports, trustee Ed Pagano commended their collaboration on Rally Cat's Cupboard, an on-campus food pantry for undergraduate and graduate students, which is set to open on February 24th.

Action Items

Audit Committee Chair Bernard Juskiewicz introduced a resolution accepting the fiscal year (FY) 2019 audited financial statements and acknowledgement of the FY 2019 financial report.

The following resolution was presented for approval:

Acceptance of fiscal year 2019 audited financial statements

WHEREAS, the financial statements of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019, have been audited by KPMG LLP, Certified Public Accountants, in accordance with 16 V.S.A. Section 2281(a);

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby accepts the FY 2019 audited financial statements as recommended by the Audit Committee and presented today, and acknowledges receipt of the FY 2019 financial report

A motion was made, seconded and it was unanimously voted to approve the resolution as presented.

Moving on, Chair Daigle referred to the 2021 board meeting and retreat dates as proposed in attachment 5 of the meeting materials.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted to approve the 2021 meeting and retreat dates as presented.

Academic presentation

Vice President for Research Richard Galbraith introduced the academic presentation, which focused on the essential and impactful role information technology plays at a comprehensive research university.

Chief Information Officer (CIO) Simeon Ananou explained that as technology advances in complexity and scope, research and educational opportunities become endless. He described Enterprise Technology Service's (ETS) complex portfolio that, through partnerships with the campus community, supports and protects a wide array of information systems and technologies that promote research and innovation.

CIO Ananou next discussed the Vermont Advanced Computing Core (VACC), UVM's primary institutional high-performance computing facility. In recent years, VACC has expanded storage capacity in response to research needs. For example, the original supercomputer's (Bluemoon) capacity was increased by 500 terabytes (TB), approximately 50%, and traditional storage was increased by another 400TB, a 33% growth. Additionally, in August 2019, a second supercomputer was unveiled (DeepGreen), which was funded in part by a National Science Foundation grant. DeepGreen is dedicated to supporting interdisciplinary research, including artificial intelligence and machine learning. CIO Ananou presented a video of the unveiling of DeepGreen.

Professor of Physics and Director of VACC Adrian Del Maestro stated that UVM's computer facilities are an immense recruitment draw for those in the research field. He further elaborated that DeepGreen has the power of roughly 20,000 laptops and its users require specific expertise. Director Del Maestro also noted that DeepGreen is environmentally friendly, utilizing approximately 95% less energy than previous supercomputers.

Physics PhD student Emanuel Casiano-Diaz discussed how DeepGreen has affected his studies and provided opportunities he would not otherwise have been afforded. He also described that when he applies for future jobs, his experience working with DeepGreen will make him more attractive to employers.

Chair Daigle called for a break at 9:39 a.m.

The meeting resumed at 9:49 a.m.

Executive Session

At 9:50 a.m., Chair Daigle entertained a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing contracts, premature public knowledge of which would clearly place the university at a substantial disadvantage, labor relations agreements and confidential attorney-client communications. He noted the session would last for approximately 15 minutes and action is anticipated following. Everyone was excused from the meeting with the exception of Trustees; Provost & 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 Human Resources, Diversity & Multicultural Affairs Wanda Heading-Grant; Vice President for Finance and Treasurer Richard Cate; Vice President for Executive Operations & Public Safety Gary Derr; Chief Human Resource Officer Jes Kraus; Director for Labor Relations Employment Services Mary Brodsky; and Associate General Counsel Meghan Siket.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 10:30 a.m.

The following resolution was presented for approval:

Resolution authorizing negotiation of collective bargaining agreements with United Academics and United Electrical

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees authorizes the administration to negotiate collective bargaining agreements with United Academics and United Electrical on the material terms reported on this date.

A motion to approve the resolution was made, seconded, and unanimously adopted.

Other Business

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David A. Daigle, Chair

David A. Daigle
UVM Board of Trustees Chair's Report
January 31, 2020

Good morning everyone, and welcome to our January board meeting.

As you know, this will be my last full board meeting, marking the end of a decade of service on our board. Although not without occasional challenges, the last decade was one of remarkable progress for UVM.

We have welcomed some of the most talented, diverse academic classes in UVM's history over the last several years. Our enormously successful capital campaign marked an important milestone with respect to private underwriting of our University, establishing permanent resources to sustain ongoing faculty and student support. We completed the second successful presidential transition during my term, and we continue to build talented leadership throughout the University. Our campus looks spectacular after a sustained reinvestment campaign to address long-standing facility needs, and we have completed this investment without materially weakening our financial condition.

I wish to extend my gratitude to all our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and donors whose contributions, in so many ways during my term, made these advances possible.

I am confident in and optimistic about the future of our University. At the same time, we should acknowledge the very real challenges that confront higher education. We know that demographics are unfavorable, that affordability is challenging, and that confidence in traditional higher education is to some degree waning. Our success in responding to challenges will define UVM's future success and demand creative, thoughtful leadership.

Addressing the demographic challenge will require UVM to broaden its appeal, locally and nationally, to continue attracting a healthy pool of talented students. Recent data show that college enrollment peaked in 2010 and has since slowly declined. The population of 17-year-olds in the U.S. has likewise been declining and is not projected to grow appreciably over the next two decades.

The composition of our population is changing, geographically and demographically, with the highest growth in the South and among Hispanic and Asian populations. The mean center of population in the U.S. continues to migrate South and West. Vermont itself, by some projections, may lose residents over the next two decades. To sustain recent gains in the academic quality of our applicants, we will need to capture the hearts and minds of a wider array of students.

The twin issues of access and affordability have received significant attention in recent years. Since I graduated from UVM thirty years ago, the real cost of attendance at colleges in the U.S. has doubled. Our historical pricing philosophy has positioned UVM in a precarious spot relative to peers, with out-of-state costs comparable to private universities and higher than all but the elite public flagships. Expanding financial aid has offset a portion of this cost escalation, but for families who do not receive financial aid the burden has increased dramatically.

The story for Vermonters attending UVM is far more positive, a reality we need to relentlessly highlight for our Vermont friends. Yet, with nearly 90% of our net tuition revenue from out-of-state students, UVM must focus on improving access and affordability for these families. Our efforts to strategically reduce growth in the cost of attendance, initiated under President Sullivan and now accelerated by President Garimella, are essential in positioning UVM as a more attractive option, and they have our Board's unanimous approval.

Although higher education has expanded its reach over time, signs of waning confidence should not be ignored. A recent Gallup survey had only 51% of Americans labelling higher education as "very important", down from 70% just six years ago. Declines were registered across every age cohort and for both women and men, but most surprisingly, the largest decline occurred in the age 18-29 cohort. Pew Research Center reached similar findings. The factors behind such trends are myriad and complex, but these patterns pose risks for enrollment and raise legitimate concerns about future political and private financial support.

With its rich history, incredible location, beautiful campus, talented leadership, and passionate faculty and students, I believe UVM is well positioned to meet these challenges. The paradox of UVM is that for us to maximize our contributions *for* the benefit of Vermont, consistent with our land grant history and mission, we may need to become a little less *of* Vermont as we move forward.

Let me share a few thoughts about the governance of UVM. Since 1865, when the private University of Vermont merged with the newly-created Vermont State Agricultural College, the core of our board has been a combination of private and public trustees. It is a unique structure in higher education, and one that I have grown to appreciate as a tremendous asset to UVM.

Reflecting on the trustees with whom I have served, and all the decisions we have collectively made, I can with confidence state that our trustees have acted with the University's best interests at heart. To my fellow trustees I extend my deepest gratitude for your service to UVM; we are fortunate to have you as selfless supporters of this institution. It has been my privilege to serve with you, and an honor to serve as our chair.

I want to take a moment to extend a very special thank you to Corinne Thompson and Erin Dickinson, who do a fabulous job with board coordination and management. Your thoughtful, and persistent, guidance allows this board to function smoothly and effectively. I know that your institutional wisdom will carry over to Ron Lumbra and Cindy Barnhart and enable their success. On behalf of our entire board, please join me in expressing our sincere thanks to Corinne and Erin!

Finally, a few Board announcements. I would like to welcome two new trustees, whose terms will begin March 1. Our new student trustee is Berke Tinaz, a 2016 Skidmore College graduate who is now a PhD student at UVM, studying plant biology in CALS. Berke is also a graduate student senator and a crew coach. He is a native of Karsiyaka Izmir, Turkey, and attended high school in Istanbul. Welcome, Berke!

We wish to also welcome John Dineen, whose nomination will be formally approved by our UVM board this afternoon. A 1986 UVM graduate with bachelor's degrees in biology and computer science, John went on to serve 28 years at GE in a variety of global leadership roles,

spending considerable time in Europe and Asia. Since retiring from GE in 2014, John has served as an advisor to an investment firm, working with several private companies. Please join me in welcoming John!

In December, our UVM board appointed Cindy Barnhart to another six-year term, and appointed Ron Lumbra to serve the final two years of my term. This afternoon our UVM board will appoint Don McCree to an additional six-year term. Trustee Sidney Hilker will be retiring from the board with me, and we will celebrate her contributions a bit later.

In closing, let me simply state that this has been an incredible and rewarding personal journey. I truly admire and respect you all for your dedication and contributions to our University.

With respect and gratitude, thank you.

This concludes my final report.