

**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, October 29, 2021, at 9:15 a.m. in the Silver Maple Ballroom, Room 401 at the Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Ron Lumbra, Vice Chair Cynthia Barnhart, Secretary John Bartholomew, Briar Alpert, David Aronoff, Otto Berkes, Robert Brennan¹, Frank Cioffi, Kevin “Coach” Christie², John Dineen, Johannah Donovan, Carolyn Dwyer, President Suresh Garimella, Jodi Goldstein, Stephanie Jerome, Kisha Kalra, Don McCree, Carol Ode, Ed Pagano, Lucy Rogers, Shap Smith, Berke Tinaz, Catherine Toll² and Samuel Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Governor Phil Scott

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Provost and 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 Finance and Administration Richard Cate, Dean of the Honors College David Jenemann, Graduate Student Senate President Rosie Chapina, Student Government Association President Sam Pasqualoni, UVM Senior Skylar Bagdon, UVM Senior Dorcas Lohese, UVM Senior Risa Repetto, UVM Foundation Interim CEO and President Jim Keller, Deputy General Counsel John Collins, and Art & Science Group, LLC participants: David Strauss², Principal and Nanci Tessier², Senior Vice President

¹ joined by phone at 9:35 a.m.

² joined by phone

Chair Ron Lumbra called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.

Approval of minutes

Chair Lumbra presented the June 4, 2021 meeting minutes for approval. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes as presented.

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

President’s report

President Suresh Garimella reported that the campus is energized because the UVM community is vaccinated, allowing faculty, staff and students to be together. Currently, the only requirement on campus is to wear a mask when indoors. He also reported that the athletic teams are doing well and the student government groups are actively engaged. The University is focused on the expansion of internships, increasing the number and quality available to students. External research support has also reached a record \$227 million in funding received. The President pointed out that much of what has been accomplished is the work of a creative and dedicated

leadership team, which he reported is one of the leanest administrative teams at a university. Finally, President Garimella expressed his appreciation to the staff for their return to campus and steadiness in seeing the university through a challenging time.

Governance leaders' discussion

Chair Lumbrá called to attention the informational reports submitted by governance leaders included in the meeting materials and invited Graduate Student Senate (GSS) President Rosie Chapina and Student Government Association (SGA) President Sam Pasqualoni to offer remarks. GSS President Chapina reported on "a day in the life" of a graduate student, shared concerns of graduate students regarding the increased cost and accessibility of housing and suggested that dedicated housing for graduate students would be beneficial. She also noted that food insecurity remains a concern. After speaking with different students to get their perspective, she reported that students appreciate the diversity at UVM, enjoy the fellowship and ability to collaborate with campus constituents.

SGA President Pasqualoni updated the trustees on current activities and initiatives as students adapt to changes on campus. He reported that students are encouraged to hear that the UVM Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity will be implementing all recommendations detailed in the recently released independent external reviewers report in response to the handling of sexual misconduct concerns raised by students' last spring. President Pasqualoni also reported that the SGA is looking at new strategies to better communicate with faculty, staff and administrators and that the SGA has partnered with the Office of Student and Community Relations in support of their efforts to provide resources and support to UVM students as they transition to living off campus in the greater Burlington community.

Academic presentation – student internships

Provost Patty Prelock provided brief remarks on internship opportunities at the University. In November the Office of Engagement, the Career Center, and the Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Student Success will be sponsoring an experiential learning summit to develop greater access for career education opportunities.

The Provost introduced three seniors who shared their internship experiences. Skylar Bagdon, from Durham, NH and a self-design-sustainability technology commercialization major in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, shared his experience as a technology commercialization intern @ [Academic Research Commercialization \(ARC\) Program](#)/UVM Innovations which he began this summer. The ARC Program is a brand new technology commercialization program managed by the Entrepreneurship Club and UVM Innovations. The program is based on the belief that the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of students is the key to getting promising technology out of the lab and into the world where it can make a difference. This semester, a small team of 3-5 students are tasked with creating a viable plan to turn a promising piece of innovation into a thriving and impactful business venture. The team will choose between working on a piece of essential medical equipment developed in response to COVID-19 or an app that aids in the management of panic attacks.

Risa Repetto, from Garrison, NY and a business administration major with a concentration in marketing and theme in global business in the Grossman School of Business, shared her experience this past summer as a Business Analytics Intern with Global Foundries, one of 6 competitive internships in a partnership between Global Foundries and UVM.

Dorcas Lohese, originally from the Congo (DCR) and a Biochemistry major in the College of Arts & Sciences and an AMP student in the Pharmacology MS program, described her experience as an intern with the Communications Community of Practice, the focus of which has been on telling stories of her fellow science students.

Trustees engaged in further discussion with the students regarding their internship experiences. President Garimella suggested making internships available to students in their first year and advocated for growing a culture of internships in the state, which would allow for more opportunities and experiences for students.

Academic reorganization and Art & Science Group, LLC feedback

Provost Patty Prelock introduced David Strauss, Principal and Nanci Tessier, Senior Vice President at Art & Science Group, LLC, a firm engaged with UVM to conduct an undergraduate institutional strategy study. The consultants explained the purpose and intent of their study, reviewed the study scope and objectives, and provided a summary of findings to date. Challenges noted include non-applicants' and non-matriculants perception around career development/professional advancement, academic quality, and how serious students are. Additionally, matriculants are differentiating more on active social life, affinity for the outdoors, and causes. Next steps include identifying ways for UVM to pivot and expand its appeal. Areas of strategic direction to be explored include institutional character, experiential learning, global engagement, scholarship and teaching, post-college planning, and diversity and inclusion. The consultants plan to discuss the results of their research with the Academic Reorganization Working Group (ARWG) in November.

Provost Prelock invited David Jenemann, Dean of the Honors College and Chair of the ARWG, to offer an update on the group's progress since the last board meeting. He reported that since May 2020, different subgroups have joined the ARWG's efforts. Dean Jenemann reported that the ARWG has been thinking more about processes and aligning curricular research with student needs. He added that it's important to translate what was presented during the student internship academic presentation to the overall marketing message. By the end of the calendar year, the ARWG anticipates it will be ready to make recommendations following the recommendations from the Art & Science Group.

Provost Prelock expressed appreciation for the work Faculty Senate President Thomas Borchert and Dean Jenemann have done to organize the results of all the comments they have received.

UVM Foundation updates – SOAR and SOLVE initiatives

UVM Foundation Interim President and CEO Jim Keller provided a brief background on the inception of the Foundation and the recently completed strategic planning process. Currently, the

Foundation is seeing the value of campaigns that are shorter in duration and specific in scope. The Foundation is managing two campaigns, the first is SOAR, the campaign for student success ensuring that UVM is affordable and accessible. The fundraising goal for SOAR is \$150 million with commitments to date of \$48.6 million. The second campaign is SOLVE, a campaign focused on research. The goal for SOLVE is \$200 million with a commitment to date of \$56.6 million along with \$22 million contributed from Sponsored Projects. The two campaigns support the Amplifying Our Impact Strategic Vision for UVM.

Executive session

At 10:55 a.m., Chair Lumbra entertained a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing South Burlington real estate. He noted the session would last for approximately 15 minutes and that there is potential for action 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 Finance and Administration Richard Cate; Deputy General Counsel John Collins and Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff Erin Dickinson.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 11:29 a.m.

Other business

The following resolution was presented for approval:

Resolution approving action to protect the university's property interests in South Burlington

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Vice President for Finance and Administration, or his successor or designee, is hereby authorized to take such steps as are necessary to protect the University's interests in its property holdings in South Burlington, Vermont, subject to material terms and conditions reported on this date.

A motion was made, seconded and it was unanimously voted to refer the resolution to the board for approval.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Lumbra, Chair

Ron E. Lumbra
UVM Board of Trustees Chair's Report
October 29, 2021

Good morning everyone and welcome to this first Board of Trustee meeting for the 2021-2022 academic year. I would like to open by acknowledging our staff for their hard work and sound decision making in helping us to return safely and efficiently to our first in-person meeting since February 2020. It's great to see everyone face to face, to be able to connect personally, and to facilitate both formal and informal conversation. I would also like to thank the administration and all on campus for the successful reopening this fall, and to welcoming an exceptionally strong incoming freshman class. This is a result of everyone pulling together to keep the campus open and operating safely, and to be a compelling university and attractive destination for students and their families.

Similarly, we've been able to reinstate some important traditions. One of the more recent was acknowledging the special contributions of our staff via Our Common Ground Staff awards. I'd like to congratulate all the recipients of that award, many of whom are known personally and admired by members of this Board of Trustees. In addition to recognizing all the award winners, I'd like to call out a specific recipient for recognition, Gary Derr, our Vice President for Operations and Public Safety. Gary has done an exceptional job throughout the pandemic to help keep us safe. His judgment, resilience, and fortitude has helped us all navigate this challenging journey. I'd like to take a moment to thank Gary personally and on behalf of the board for his outstanding effort and impact. Thank you, Gary.

With the slow return to normalcy, we now have the ability to look forward to the future in a less encumbered manner with a renewed focus on what we might become, and what we must become. We've spoken at length about the importance of reducing the cost of higher education for our students and their families. We have the responsibility to be vigilant in that regard. I'm delighted that the initiative to again freeze tuition will help make a UVM education more affordable, an action that speaks far louder than words.

It's important that we remain vigilant regarding our challenges. We are all aware of the well-documented demographic changes we will face in the northeast with a forecast decline in the number of graduating high school seniors. We will find ourselves further competing on a national basis for top students. Consequently, we must assure that our reputation, our standing in academia, the attractiveness of our offerings, and our platform as a world class research institution are all kept at the forefront to compete and be distinctive in years to come. I'm delighted at the progress we've made in research and want to thank Vice President for Research Kirk Dombrowski for the noteworthy impact his leadership has already made in helping us along that journey. We look forward to continued progress and supporting the efforts to achieve R1 status to help further enhance the reputation and profile of the university on a national basis.

We heard robust discussions this morning in both of our Budget, Finance & Investment and Educational Policy & Institutional Resources committees that directly address key opportunities going forward, including proactive efforts to address sexual assault and harassment, an important

challenge in academia nationwide. We will continue to focus on keeping our fiscal house in order, and in parallel work to appropriately optimize our valuable, yet finite resources as we have seen with the work by the administration and faculty to collectively make difficult decisions about programs, offerings, and associated structure. I thank you all for your hard work and dedication.

As many of you know, I like to think of a word that captures the theme of a particular board meeting. The word that comes to mind today is “strategic”. It is refreshing to be able to look forward and think strategically about the opportunities before us and I look forward to helping position our university for long term success as that is our responsibility to our students, faculty, staff, alumni, the community, and to the state of Vermont.

That concludes my remarks.