

**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, February 4, 2022, at 2:45 p.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 Brennan, Frank Cioffi, Kevin “Coach” Christie¹, John Dineen¹, Johannah Donovan, Carolyn Dwyer, President Suresh Garimella, Jodi Goldstein², Stephanie Jerome, Kisha Kalra, Don McCree, Carol Ode, Ed Pagano³, Lucy Rogers, Shap Smith, Berke Tinaz, Catherine Toll and Samuel Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Governor Phil Scott

OTHER TRUSTEES PRESENT: Incoming student trustee Kenny Nguyen

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Provost and Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock, Vice President for Legal Affairs & General Counsel and Senior Advisor to the President Sharon Reich Paulsen, Vice President for Finance and Administration Richard Cate, Dean of the Honors College David Jenemann, Paula Deming, Associate Professor Biomedical & Health Sciences and Associate Dean for Research, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Erik Monsen, Steven Grossman Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship and Associate Professor, Grossman School of Business, Donna Rizzo, Professor of Civil Engineering & Environmental Engineering, College of Engineering & Mathematical Sciences, Art & Science Group, LLC participants: David Strauss⁴, Principal, Nanci Tessier⁴, Senior Vice President and Eric Collum⁴, Senior Associate, Erica Caloiero, Vice Provost for Student Affairs and Nick Stanton, Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity and Title IX Coordinator

¹ joined by phone

² joined by phone at 4:30 p.m.; departed at 5:20 p.m., rejoined at 5:30 p.m.; departed at 5:50 p.m.

³ departed at 5:30 p.m.

⁴ joined by video conferencing at 4:30 p.m. and departed at 5:50 p.m.

Chair Ron Lumbra called the meeting to order at 2:48 p.m.

Approval of minutes

Chair Lumbra presented the October 29, 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 4)

President's report

President Suresh Garimella expressed his appreciation for being able to meet in person. He welcomed incoming student trustee Kenny Nguyen who will begin his term of service on March 1, 2022. He next offered updates on progress made since the last board meeting.

President Garimella reported that all three major areas of the strategic vision (ensuring student success, investing in our distinctive research strengths, and fulfilling our land grant mission) are on track thanks to the combined efforts and contributions of the faculty, staff and students.

He then shared that the most recent National Science Foundation ranking of research institutions in the nation places UVM among the top 100 public institutions (now ranked 85th). The ranking is based on volume of research activity at UVM which has grown steadily.

In response to ongoing conversations about sexual violence response and prevention and the University's commitment to a safe and healthy campus environment, Dr. Elliot Ruggles has been appointed as UVM's inaugural Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Coordinator.

President Garimella concluded his report by acknowledging Vice President for Operations and Public Safety Gary Derr and his team for their continued efforts to support the community in response to COVID-19. The positivity rate at UVM has stayed lower than the state, and as a result, the teaching, learning and work environment has had minimal interruption.

At 3:03 p.m., Chair Lumbrera entertained a motion to enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing contracts. He noted the session would last for approximately 25 minutes and that no 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 Senior Advisor to the President Sharon Reich Paulsen; Vice President for Finance and Administration Richard Cate; Deputy General Counsel John Collins; Special Assistant to the President Jonathan D'Amore and Chief Communications Officer Joel Seligman.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 3:46 p.m. and was recessed. The meeting reconvened at 4:35 p.m.

Art & Science Group, LLC report

Provost Patricia Prelock introduced the Art & Science Group, LLC, report by providing a brief history and the context of the presentation. The firm engaged with UVM to conduct an undergraduate institutional strategy study. She then introduced Honors College Dean and Chair of the Academic Reorganization Working Group, David Jenemann, and the faculty participating in the discussion who were members of the UVM Advisory Group to Art & Science, Associate Dean in the College of Nursing and Health Sciences and Associate Professor Paula Deming, Steven Grossman Endowed Chair in Entrepreneurship and Associate Professor in the Grossman School of Business Erik Monsen, and Professor in the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences Donna Rizzo. Professor Deming introduced the members of the Art & Science Group

who were presenting their report via video: Principal David Strauss, Senior Vice President Nanci Tessier and Senior Associate Eric Collum.

The consultants reviewed the study scope and objectives and provided a summary of findings to date. Areas of strategic direction that should be explored include innovation and entrepreneurship, global engagement, diversity and inclusion, experiential learning, an integrated four-year plan, post-college planning and majors with an applied theme.

Following the presentation, trustees engaged in discussion with the consultants and the faculty panel. The importance of innovation and entrepreneurship was stressed as well addressing academic rigor and diversity and inclusion in relation to innovation and entrepreneurship.

Chair Lumbra thanked the faculty members and the Arts and Sciences Group presenters for an insightful report.

Sexual Misconduct and Response Action Plan update

Vice Provost for Student Affairs Erica Caloiero and Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity and Title IX Coordinator Nick Stanton provided an update on the current status of efforts to address community concerns on sexual misconduct. They reported significant progress in case response and community education and prevention. Vice Provost Caloiero announced the hiring of Dr. Elliot Ruggles as UVM's first Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Coordinator. Dr. Ruggles has deep awareness of contemporary research and practice in violence prevention, as well as extensive experience developing new and innovative programs. Director Stanton concluded the report by directing trustees to the website www.uvm.edu/wehearyou for a complete report.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Lumbra, Chair

Ron E. Lumbra
UVM Board of Trustees Chair's Report
February 4, 2022

Welcome everyone to our winter board meeting. I would like to begin by welcoming our new student trustee, Kenny Nguyen. We are delighted to have you here Kenny and look forward to working with you. Congratulations on your election. This is also the time of year that we say goodbye to retiring trustees. We have 3 outstanding trustees who are completing their terms of service on the board, Briar Alpert, David Aronoff, and Berke Tinaz. They will all be honored in a separate celebration tomorrow afternoon. However, as part of my remarks, I would like to go on record thanking each of them for their positive impact and noteworthy contributions to the board of trustees. You have all impacted us in such profound ways with your judgment, wisdom, and consistent commitment to the University of Vermont. Thank you for all you have done. We look forward to ensuring that you stay well connected to the university going forward.

We have a lot to celebrate and be proud of. I would like to start by acknowledging a point that President Garimella will expand on shortly, a significant rise in our ranking in terms of research. Improving our research ranking and striving for R1 status is a key strategic initiative. It is critical to our brand, our reputation, and our future. I'm delighted with the progress that has been made and look forward to hearing more details from President Garimella shortly. I would also like to recognize and thank our colleagues at the UVM Foundation who are doing a terrific job in support of the university. In addition to managing the important Larner gift to our College of Medicine, the Foundation has recently secured a marvelous new additional gift from Steven Grossman in support of the Grossman School of Business, which will help expand and further their mission. Finally, they have met the challenge to further raise matching funds in support of the Gund Institute for the Environment. Each of these accomplishments helps drive the institution forward and I want to thank the Foundation for their hard work and success on behalf of the university.

Our student athletes have been nothing short of exceptional and represent a lot of what makes UVM great. From the men's basketball team that is on an eleven game winning streak and again leading the conference to our women's hockey team who beat the number one team in the country recently, to 13 Catamounts who are presently Olympians. Our student athletes include Ben Ogden, recipient of the Daigle family ski scholarship, a world class cross country skier from tiny Langrove, Vermont. Our student athletes have done an exceptional job both in the classroom and on their respective playing fields and have represented the university so effectively. I have had a chance to meet several of our student athletes and have come away uniformly impressed with how they carry themselves and represent the university. Thank you to everyone in our athletic programs, and to Athletic Director Jeff Schulman for your leadership.

Driven by a great academic environment, student success across the university tells its own story. Enrollment is higher than ever and applications are stronger. The momentum of the past couple of years shows UVM distinguishing itself. With an important residential character, students choosing UVM appreciate being on campus, and their comprehensive living/learning experience is a big part of what makes them successful students and loyal alumni.

We are looking forward to hearing from the Art & Science consulting group about the strengths in student academic experience and ways to sharpen it to make it even more appealing and create more of the experiential opportunities built into the character of being Vermont's flagship university, which will lead to more of the incredible outcomes the board and all UVM supporters have loved hearing about.

When I think about our progress in research, our student-athletes and athletic program, our foundation and alumni association, our residential and academic environment the word that jumps to mind is differentiation. We live in a highly competitive and crowded field in higher education. Top students have choices, and plenty of them. It is incumbent upon us to truly differentiate and provide unique, distinctive value to help ensure our future impact as we confront various strategic challenges. In the months and years ahead we will face some important decisions about investments and areas of emphasis from physical plant to programs. I encourage that we all be mindful of the critical need to differentiate in order for us to compete and succeed over the long term. Thank you.

That concludes my remarks.