

**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, May 19, 2023, at 8:30 a.m., in the Silver Maple Ballroom (401) at the Dudley H. Davis Center.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Ron Lumbra, Vice Chair Cynthia Barnhart, Secretary Catherine Toll, Otto Berkes, Susan Brengle, Robert Brennan, Katelynn Briere, Kevin “Coach” Christie¹, Frank Cioffi¹, Carolyn Dwyer, President Suresh Garimella, Jodi Goldstein, Stephanie Jerome, Kenny Nguyen, Donald McCree, Carol Ode, Ed Pagano, Kristina Pisanelli, Monique Priestley, Shap Smith, Tristan Toleno, and Samuel Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Dineen, Lucy Rogers, and Governor Phil Scott

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Provost and Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock, Environmental Program Interim Director Brendan Fisher, Geography and Geosciences Professor Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, Rising Seniors Kara Campbell and Avery Gilgallon, Gund Institute for Environment Acting Director Meredith Niles, Spatial Analysis Lab Director Jarlath O’Neil-Dunne, Office of Sustainability Director Elizabeth Palchak, Student Anna Meli ’23, Institute for Agroecology Director Ernesto Mendez, Vice Provost for Student Affairs Erica Caloiero, Director of Residential Life Charles Holmes-Hope, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer Joel Seligman, and Executive Director of Government Relations Wendy Koenig.

¹Joined the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

Chair Ron Lumbra called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Approval of minutes

Chair Lumbra presented the February 10, 2023, 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 8)

President’s report

President Suresh Garimella began his report by expressing his appreciation for the many people who make the board meetings a success and for the hundreds of people involved in making the Commencement weekend celebrations special. He added that it takes the cooperation of the entire university to accomplish a fitting send-off of the UVM graduates. President Garimella recognized Senior Coordinator of Presidential Events and Protocol Kelly O’Malley and Assistant Director of Campus Event Services Jen Mitiguy for their hard work. He extended his congratulations to the recently elected President and Vice President of the Staff Council, Monika Donlevy and Jennifer Main and acknowledged the officers of all the governance groups.

President Garimella also acknowledged the retirement of Graduate College Dean Cindy Forehand and thanked her for all her accomplishments and for putting the Graduate College on outstanding footing for the future.

In previewing the upcoming presentations, President Garimella noted that Senator Patrick Leahy will be in attendance at the next meeting for the naming of the Honors College. In addition, this afternoon Vice President for Research Kirk Dombrowski will present on the status of research at UVM and how this research helps addressing the important issues the world faces, how it intersects with the university's land-grant mission and how it positions UVM as a world-class institution that's capable of making an impact much greater than the university's size.

Finally, the President noted that the presentation for the 50th Anniversary of the Environmental Program will include a number of presenters and will showcase the university's accomplishments, demonstrating the impact the UVM community has through sustainable practices. President Garimella closed his remarks by expressing his excitement about the many events taking place during Commencement weekend.

50 Years of UVM and the Environment

Provost Patricia Prelock provided a brief introduction to the presentation "50 Years of UVM and the Environment." She thanked all the faculty and students who put together the presentation, with a special word of thanks to Environmental Program Interim Director Brendan Fisher.

Director Fisher began the presentation by providing a history of the study of the environment at UVM and described the growth in student interest, research, scholarship, and engagement in this area. Fifty years ago, UVM leaned into creating space for the study of the environment and was one of the first universities in the country to do so. Its Environmental Program started with four students and a vision. Today, over a quarter of UVM undergraduates are engaged in environmentally-related majors and a large percentage of UVM's research funding is for research related to sustainability and the environment.

Geography Professor Lesley-Ann Dupigny-Giroux, who also serves as climatologist for the state of Vermont, shared how students are helping town planners prepare for local climate change. Her upper-level service learning geography seminar recently developed a natural hazard mitigation plan for the town of Underhill, Vermont.

Rising seniors Kara Campbell and Avery Gilgallon, students from the Restoration Ecology and Community class, spoke on the immersive learning taking place in UVM's natural areas.

Meredith Niles, Acting Director of the Gund Institute for Environment, updated the board on recent environmental research highlights: \$100 million in external grant funding in a period of 5 years, over \$18 million in fundraising, a new research vessel named in honor of Marcelle Leahy, and the milestone of over one-third of UVM's external research grants—outside the Larner College of Medicine—now supporting environmental discovery and scholarship. Flagship UVM environmental research projects include:

- The Vermont Climate Assessment, which is guiding state climate action.
- The \$25 million Cooperative Institute for Research to Operations in Hydrology, a national water management and flood forecasting effort.
- Innovative Vermont Complex Systems Center research that explores how digital devices and exposure to nature affect mental and physical health and has attracted \$2 million from corporate partners.
- The UVM Spatial Analysis Lab's tree canopy project, which has helped over 50 U.S. cities (including New York City, Boston and Los Angeles) enhance greenspace and climate resilience.

Additionally, the Gund Institute for Environment has provided \$4.4 million in fellowships and other financial support to create cutting-edge, hands-on research opportunities for 55 outstanding students from over 11 nations.

UVM Spatial Analysis Lab (SAL) Director Jarlath O'Neil-Dunne described how SAL uses geospatial technology to engage students, fulfilling the university's land grant mission. SAL operates as a non-profit in partnership with industry, government and non-profit organizations to apply techniques in geographic information systems, remote sensing, and spatial statistics aimed at solving unique problems. Most recently, the Lab has focused on high-resolution land cover mapping. Along with the tree canopy project, this technology has helped communities provide information to disaster first responders.

Director of the Office of Sustainability Elizabeth Palchak provided an overview of the university's engagement with environmental and sustainability projects and initiatives. The project "Driving Sustainable Change at the Grossman School of Business" is one example. Students were asked to propose solutions to address the overflow of packing material that results from sources such as Amazon and Fed Ex shipments. Another example is university and state level energy research that has strong internal partnerships and high-impact external partnerships with nationally recognized innovative companies. Graduating senior Anna Meli shared examples of her class experiences with trustees.

Institute for Agroecology Director Ernesto Mendez provided an overview of the UVM Institute for Agroecology (IFA). Through research, learning, and action, the IFA mobilizes knowledge to nurture agroecology research, practice, and movements. Director Mendez spoke about how the new Institute will expand the teaching and learning options and impact at UVM and engage with local, national, and international communities for more sustainable farming.

Director Palchak reviewed UVM's first Comprehensive Sustainability Plan which was unveiled last month. She said the plan has been enthusiastically received and reaction has been overwhelmingly positive. Students, faculty, and alumni are excited about the plan and are especially proud that the university is declaring a commitment to carbon neutrality. The plan sets the ambitious goal of reaching carbon neutrality by 2030 and features important goals and strategies in the areas of operations, governance, research, and learning. Director Palchak concluded the presentation by speaking about environmental and sustainability projects and initiatives on campus, in Vermont, and beyond.

An opportunity for comments and questions was offered. Discussion focused on how UVM can achieve more recognition as one of the top institutions of higher education for environmental and sustainability studies.

President Garimella acknowledged and thanked all of the presenters.

Executive Session

At 10:35 a.m., Chair Lumbra 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. He noted the session would last for approximately 30 minutes and that action is anticipated following. Everyone was excused from the meeting with the exception of Trustees, Provost Patty Prelock, Vice Presidents Trent Klingerman and Richard Cate, Special Assistant to the President Jonathan D'Amore, Vice Provost for Student Affairs Erica Caloiero, Director of Residential Life Charles Holmes-Hope, Chief Communications and Marketing Officer Joel Seligman and Executive Director of Government Relations Wendy Koenig.

Vice Provost Caloiero, Director Holmes-Hope and Executive Director Koenig were excused following the first topic.

The meeting re-opened to the public at 11:26 a.m.

Chair Lumbra introduced the following resolution:

Resolution approving appointments to the University of Vermont Investment Management Company ("UVIMCO")

WHEREAS, on February 11, 2023, the Board of Trustees authorized the creation of an investment subsidiary company, the University of Vermont Investment Management Company ("UVIMCO") to oversee and manage the combined endowment assets of the University and the University of Vermont Foundation; and

WHEREAS, on April 17, 2023, the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Foundation, Inc. authorized the creation of UVIMCO and approved the appointments of Robert Brennan, Robert Cioffi, Meg Guzewicz, and H. Whitney Wagner as members of the Board of Managers; and

WHEREAS, the Operating Agreement for UVIMCO requires a nine-member Board of Managers, four classified members who shall be appointed by the Foundation's Board of Directors, three classified members who shall be appointed by the University of Vermont Board of Trustees, and the University's President and the Foundation's President and CEO as *ex officio* members;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees appoints the following individuals to the UVIMCO Board of Managers:

Sue Brengle, with an initial term expiring on June 30, 2026
Don McCree, with an initial term expiring on June 30, 2027
David Daigle, with an initial term expiring on June 30, 2028

An opportunity for discussion was offered. There being none, a motion was made, seconded and it was unanimously voted to approve the resolution as presented. Trustees Don McCree and Susan Brengle recused from the vote.

The meeting recessed at 11:26 a.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1:06 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Ron Lumbra, Secretary Catherine Toll¹, Otto Berkes, Susan Brengle, Robert Brennan, Katelynn Briere, Kevin “Coach” Christie, Frank Cioffi, Carolyn Dwyer, President Suresh Garimella, Jodi Goldstein, Stephanie Jerome, Kenny Nguyen, Donald McCree, Carol Ode, Ed Pagano, Kristina Pisanelli, Monique Priestley, Shap Smith, Tristan Toleno, and Samuel Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Vice Chair Cynthia Barnhart, John Dineen, Lucy Rogers, and Governor Phil Scott

¹ Joined the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

At 1:06 p.m., Chair Lumbra 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. He noted the session is expected to last approximately 1 hour and that no action is anticipated following. Everyone was excused from the meeting with the exception of Trustees, Provost Patty Prelock, Vice Presidents Trent Klingerman and Richard Cate, Special Assistant to the President Jonathan D’Amore, President and CEO of the UVM Foundation Monica Delisa, Director of Athletics Jeff Schulman, and Chief Communications and Marketing Officer Joel Seligman

The meeting re-opened to the public at 2:11 p.m. and was recessed.

The meeting reconvened at 3:26 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Ron Lumbra, Vice Chair Cynthia Barnhart, Secretary Catherine Toll, Otto Berkes, Susan Brengle, Robert Brennan, Katelynn Briere, Kevin “Coach” Christie, Frank Cioffi, Carolyn Dwyer, President Suresh Garimella, Jodi Goldstein, Stephanie Jerome, Kenny Nguyen, Donald McCree, Carol Ode, Ed Pagano, Kristina Pisanelli, Monique Priestley, Shap Smith, Tristan Toleno, and Samuel Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: John Dineen, Lucy Rogers, and Governor Phil Scott

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Provost and Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock and Vice President for Research Kirk Dombrowski

Research Vision: Growth, Partnership, Impact

President Garimella introduced Vice President of Research Kirk Dombrowski. The President acknowledged the excellent work that Vice President Dombrowski has done for the university, including doubling the university's research in a very short time.

Vice President Dombrowski began his presentation by reminding the trustees that a robust research environment allows the university to attract and retain the best faculty, which allows UVM to recruit the best students, elevating university now and in the future. He announced that at the end of 2023, for the first time ever, the university will bring in more funding from research than from tuition. When 2022 Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) expenditures are released, depending on whether the University of Massachusetts gains in HERD expenditures, it is possible that UVM will be the fourth largest public flagship in the Northeast, after the University of Buffalo, the University of Connecticut, and Stonybrook. Looking at FY2023 HERD expectations, there was a jump in sponsored projects funding of 23% in FY2022. This is likely to translate to an increase of 10 to 15% in HERD spending in FY2023. In dollar terms, UVM can expect 2023 HERD expenditures of \$237 million to \$249 million.

This growth has allowed UVM to add a number of new, well-supported research institutes that cut across the university's schools and colleges, including the WATER Institute, the Institute for Agroecology, the Osher Center for Integrative Health, and the new Institute for Rural Partnerships. These new institutes complement existing institutes, including the Gund Institute for Environment, EPSCoR, the Vermont Biomedical Research Network, the Vermont Advanced Computer Center, and more than twenty college-based centers such as the four Centers for Biomedical Research Excellence in the Larner College of Medicine (LCOM). Of note, in 2019 LCOM was roughly 70% of UVM research. At present, the split is fifty-fifty between LCOM and the other colleges in terms of both the number of grants and total research support funding.

Vice President Dombrowski concluded his presentation by pointing out that the university has spent the last four years working to become a nationally recognized research university, and, based upon the many accomplishments noted, this is now a reality. In order to support this work, Vice President Dombrowski suggested that UVM needs to expand the graduate program and the size of the graduate student enterprise, compete for top-tier, next-generation researchers with competitive startup packages and high quality facilities, expand collaborative and partnership work with regional universities, and support the university's areas of national research prominence.

Chair Lumbra thanked and commended Vice President Dombrowski for his leadership and many successes.

Other business

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Lumbra, Chair

Ron E. Lumbra
UVM Board of Trustees Chair's Report
May 19, 2023

Good morning and welcome to everyone, and congratulations to the class of 2023. It is because of all of you — faculty, staff, and our administration that this class has crossed the finish line in a most successful year at The University of Vermont. Thank you all for helping to guide a class that endured one of the biggest challenges in recent memory.

I would like to take a moment to specifically recognize Dean Cindy Forehand who is retiring after 10 years of service as Dean of the Graduate College and in service as a faculty member since 1987. Cindy has been so helpful to the board in a number of ways over the years, and a key member of the leadership team. We wish her all the very best in her retirement. Thank you, Cindy, for all that you have done for UVM.

We have accomplished so much together. I would like to thank and acknowledge the state legislature and our legislative trustees for the continued state financial support for the university. The support for UVM will allow us to press further into our mission and duty to serve Vermont even further. We are profoundly mindful of our responsibility to, and our impact on, the state. It is critical that we deliver on our educational mission to our students and, in parallel, serve as an economic engine and talent magnet for the state. I'm grateful for the support and the symbiotic relationship between the state and the University of Vermont.

We have made noteworthy progress helping to address the housing shortage in the region with the recent groundbreaking of the Catamount Run project in South Burlington. We are pleased that construction is well underway and that first units will be available next summer. We anticipate adding some 580 beds to the community when that project is complete. We have more work to do and are committed to doing our part to help address the housing challenge in the region. I would like to personally thank Richard Cate, our Chief Financial Officer, for his leadership and creativity that helped lead us to the Catamount Run project and who is pursuing several more creative and financially prudent ideas that the board will consider in the near future. Thank you, Richard.

I am so proud of the continued success and accomplishments of our student athletes, both in competition and in the classroom. It's truly been a remarkable year of athletic success. We have excelled in every season: fall, winter, and spring. It was a special thrill seeing our men's soccer team beat UCLA at home – a game seen by many on the ESPN network, and finish ranked 4th in the country. The simultaneous outstanding performances of both our women's and men's basketball teams is something that brought the entire community together and made us all proud, enthusiastic supporters. Our student athletes are wonderful representatives of this great university and serve to expand the reputation and visibility of UVM in untold ways. I would like to take a moment to recognize our talented Athletic Director, Jeff Schulman, for the outstanding job leading our athletic program. Thank you, Jeff, for all you do for the university, and congratulations to you and all our student athletes.

We are pleased with the continued progress in admissions and with the strength of our incoming class. We have made notable progress in increasing the number of Vermont valedictorians, first generation and international students, and have attracted the highest percentage of BIPOC students yet. It's important that we recognize the impressive and invaluable work of our admissions staff and all the others who make UVM so attractive to students choosing their higher education destination in this competitive marketplace.

As usual, we will have a number of important topics to consider at today's meeting. Among the highlights, we will approve appointments to the newly formed University of Vermont Investment Management Company (UVIMCO), a subsidiary approved by this board and the Foundation Board of Directors to oversee and manage the combined endowment assets of the University and Foundation. I'm excited about this development and the opportunity it creates to provide even greater talented oversight to the management of the endowment. Thank you to Rob Brennan for his leadership of our Investment Subcommittee and willingness to become the first chair of UVIMCO to help assure a smooth and seamless transition.

We will also be asked to approve the naming of the Honors College, receive an update on the Multipurpose Center Project in executive session, and hear from Vice President for Research Kirk Dombrowski regarding the university's exciting and promising research mission, among other important topics.

Last month, Board Governance Committee Chair Frank Cioffi and I had a preliminary conversation, followed by a discussion at the April 10th Executive Committee regarding the desire to get the right balance for what the board must approve and what is delegated to the administration. There was consensus to revisit the current thresholds for board approval and there will be further discussions over the summer. Any proposed changes to the [Resolution regarding Board Delegation and Retention of Board Authority](#) will be brought to the board for approval.

I would like to thank all our governance leaders for the written informational reports included in the meeting materials. Thank you for the time and insights you have provided us. I would also like to acknowledge a governance leadership transition that will occur this summer and thank Staff Council President, Jon Reisenweaver and Vice President Katherine McGinn Hall for their service and also welcome incoming Staff Council President, Monika Dunlevy, and Vice President, Jennifer Main to their new roles. We look forward to working with you.

This is one of my favorite meetings of the year as it ties in with commencement. It is a reminder of why we are here – our students. We will spend time this weekend celebrating the UVM class of 2023 and all the students who have earned advanced degrees. It goes without saying, we are so proud of them and so impressed with their accomplishments and their resiliency. We welcome them to the community of UVM alumni, and we wish them all the best.

In closing, I want to thank all the many people who help make these trustee meetings and all the events of this special weekend for the university happen. Staff, faculty, students, administrators, and all who contribute, I want to say thank you on behalf of my board colleagues at this the conclusion of another outstanding academic year. That concludes my remarks.