

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

VERMONT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE BOARD

Chair Tristin Toleno, Vice Chair Shap Smith, Secretary John Bartholomew, Kevin Christie, Johannah Donovan, Curt McCormack, Carol Ode and Samuel Young

Friday, September 25, 2020

10:55 a.m. – 11:25 a.m.

*This meeting will be held remotely. If interested in listening in, please dial:
1-802-489-6040; Conference ID: 501 957 793#
For any technical issues or questions, please email edickinson@uvm.edu*

AGENDA

	Item	Enclosure/ Exemption	Discussion Leader(s)	Time
	Call to order			10:55 a.m.*
1.	Approval of May 15, 2020 meeting minutes	Attachment 1	Tristan Toleno	10:55-10:57
2.	Strategy for 2021 legislative session		Tristan Toleno Wendy Koenig	10:57-11:09
3.	2020 Legislative summit		Tristan Toleno Wendy Koenig	11:09-11:21
4.	Other business**		Tristan Toleno	11:21-11:25
	Motion to adjourn			11:25 a.m.

*Times are approximate.

**Executive session as needed.

Vermont Agricultural College Board
Executive Summary

Friday, September 25, 2020

Prepared By
Tristan Toleno, Chair

ACTION ITEMS

Approval of previous meeting minutes

The minutes for the May 15, 2020 meeting are included as **Attachment 1**.

Action: Motion to approve the minutes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Strategy for 2021 legislative session - Director of State and Federal Relations Wendy Koenig and I will discuss the major policy initiatives related to higher education during the 2021 legislative session.

2020 Legislative summit - We will discuss how to proceed with this event during the COVID-19 pandemic.

OTHER BUSINESS

Time will be reserved at the end of our meeting for other business as necessary.

**VERMONT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

A meeting of the Vermont Agricultural College Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College was held on Friday, May 15, 2020 at 10:55 a.m. The meeting was held via remote conferencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Tristan Toleno, Vice Chair Shap Smith, Secretary John Bartholomew, Kevin “Coach” Christie, Johannah Donovan, Curt McCormack, Carol Ode, and Samuel Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Board Chair Ron Lumbra, Provost and Senior Vice President Patricia Prelock, and Director of Federal and State Relations Wendy Koenig

Chair Tristan Toleno called the meeting to order at 10:55 a.m.

Approval of minutes

A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes from the January 31, 2020 meeting.

Election of officers

According to the board’s by-laws, officers are elected annually in May for one-year terms. The following were re-elected officers for the coming year: Tristan Toleno, Chair; Shap Smith, Vice Chair; and John Bartholomew, Secretary.

Legislative update

Chair Toleno and Director of State and Federal Relations Wendy Koenig discussed the major policy initiatives related to higher education in the current legislative session. Director Koenig noted that the university is set to receive over \$5 million in COVID Relief Funds from CARES Act dollars flowing to Vermont in the Budget Adjustment Act in the House. The Senate has discussed adding even more funds for reimbursement of technology costs. She added that she will monitor the “skinny budget” process, which will build a budget for one quarter of the state’s fiscal year.

2020 Legislative summit

Chair Toleno suggested that since in-person large events are still uncertain, that we request a caucus of the whole as a stand in for this year’s legislative summit. At that joint meeting of the legislature, President Garimella and others could describe how the Office of Engagement can assist in the economic recovery related to the pandemic. Trustee Shap Smith added that it would be worthwhile to include a few thought leader presentations, like innovations in telehealth, from

the Larner College of Medicine. Trustee Sam Young suggested including a piece on the creation of quality remote learning. Provost Patricia Prelock noted that up to 95% of telehealth covers primary care practices in Vermont at this time. She also mentioned that broadband is key to making telehealth work. Trustees and staff agreed that these topics are timely and will be worked on for whatever shape the Legislative Summit takes for the upcoming year.

Other Business

Chair Toleno and Director Koenig asked that we remember our friend and colleague, Bernie Juskiewicz. This was the first meeting of the Agricultural Board since his passing, and all acknowledged his great contributions to UVM and that he is missed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bartholomew, Secretary