

**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, February 5, 2021 at 12:15 p.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, Johannah Donovan<sup>1</sup>, Carol Ode, and Samuel Young

MEMBERS ABSENT: Curt McCormack and Kevin “Coach” Christie

ALSO PARTICIPATING: Director of Federal and State Relations Wendy Koenig

<sup>1</sup> Joined at 12:33 p.m.

Chair Tristan Toleno called the meeting to order at 12:18 p.m.

**Approval of minutes**

A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the minutes from the September 25, 2020 meeting.

**Emerging issue in the 2021 legislative session**

Chair Tristan Toleno and Director of State and Federal Relations Wendy Koenig discussed the most pressing issues for UVM that are emerging in the 2021 legislative session, which included the upcoming trustee election occurring in the legislature on February 18, 2021, the University’s ask for a \$1M addition to our base budget to support the ongoing efforts of the Office of Engagement, the plan to reorganize and fund the Vermont State College System (VSCS) and Vermont’s role in distributing funds from the next federal stimulus package. Trustees noted the importance of asking the legislature to invest in UVM, while simultaneously assisting the VSCS. Trustee Shap Smith also reminded the group that “Let’s Grow Kids” is working on an effort to train early childhood educators and that UVM’s College of Education and Social Services (CESS) would be a natural fit to assist them in these efforts. Provost Prelock reminded trustees that CESS has a working group on child-care that will share their reports with state constituents and will help wherever they can.

**2021 Legislative summit**

The board discussed the status of this event during the COVID-19 pandemic and concluded that the summit should be put on hold until in-person events can be continued. The group agreed that The Office of Engagement (OEE) and its efforts should be the topic and suggested that holding a variety of events around the state would be greatly appreciated to convey the OOE’s commitment to a statewide presence. Trustee Carol Ode suggested that moving forward a virtual component be offered to achieve maximum impact and attendance at legislative summits.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Bartholomew, Secretary