

# UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### STATEMENT OF TRUSTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

Trusteeship is exciting, rewarding, and demanding; it requires commitment, time, intellectual energy, and effort. Major responsibilities include but are not limited to the following:

#### Standard of Care

A Trustee shall at all times discharge his or her duties as a Trustee in good faith, with the care an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances, and in a manner the Trustee reasonably believes to be in the best interests of the University.

#### Diligence

A Trustee shall carefully prepare for, and regularly attend, all scheduled Board meetings and the meetings of Committees to which he or she is assigned.

A Trustee should allocate the necessary commitment of time to be effective in meetings and participate actively in the group discussion.

A Trustee shall exercise his or her best judgment in making decisions which affect the course of the University.

A Trustee is expected to become knowledgeable in all aspects of the University including its governance, mission, strategic plans, and programs. In addition, in order to increase understanding of the University, its culture and community, a Trustee is encouraged to participate in the life of the University through attendance at its functions and social events.

A Trustee must be committed to the principles of equal opportunity and non-discrimination to all students, faculty and staff as well as to the University policy statement on diversity.

## **Loyalty**

A Trustee may challenge the judgment of others when he or she deems it necessary to do so, and shall vote his or her individual convictions after listening to others. A Trustee must, however, be willing to work with fellow Board members in the best interests of the University and should support Board decisions publicly.

A Trustee shall maintain the confidential nature of Executive Session.

A Trustee shall support the President's role as chief executive, to whom the Board has delegated responsibility for personnel, management and administrative matters. Furthermore, a Trustee shall communicate promptly and as appropriate any significant concern or complaint of which he or she becomes aware to the President or Board Chair.

A Trustee shall recognize that the President is the spokesperson for the University and the Chair is the spokesperson for the Board unless otherwise designated. When a Trustee engages in communications with University personnel, students, the citizenry, and the media on an individual basis, the Trustee shall be guided by the duty of loyalty as set forth in this section of the Statement of Trustee Responsibilities.

A Trustee should support the University's fundraising activities through participation in fund drives according to their personal circumstances, and/or related activities.

A Trustee should have an abiding interest in higher education and in furtherance of the mission of this University.

## **Conflicts Avoidance**

The constituency of each Trustee is the University, regardless of the source of appointment. A Trustee shall act independently for the benefit of the University of Vermont as a whole and not for the benefit of a particular program or interest.

A Trustee shall comply with the letter and spirit of the University Board of Trustees' Conflict of Interest Policy.

*Adopted by the Board of Trustees: May 20, 2006;  
Approved as Revised: September 5, 2008*