

# UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

### Guidelines for Selection of University Trustees

With full deference to the discretion of the bodies and officials who appoint trustees to the University of Vermont and Agricultural College Board, the Board offers the guidelines set forth below for trustee selection. These criteria acknowledge desired competencies and the value of having trustees who reflect the diversity from which the University draws its students and faculty. A trustee's qualifications should encompass:

- Endorsement of the [\*vision and mission\*](#) of the institution
- Capacity to understand a large, complex organization
- High integrity and sensitivity to conflicts of interest
- Proven leadership and strong decision-making skills
- Commitment to the best interests of the University as a whole as well as the larger communities within which it operates
- Full acceptance of trustee responsibilities (as set forth in the [\*Statement of Trustee Responsibilities\*](#)), including preparation for and regular attendance at Committee and Board meetings and prompt completion of all work required of a trustee and participation in the life of the University through attendance at ceremonial and social events, as feasible
- Support of the principles articulated in [\*Our Common Ground\*](#)

In addition, the Board strives to include in its composition trustees who have the following skills and/or experience, recognizing that the University and the Board are best served by having a Board comprised of members with complementary skills and experience, and who reflect diversity in its many forms, including but not limited to gender, race, and ethnicity. The Board should include members who have:

- Financial acumen
- Knowledge of nonprofit organizations or other relevant sectors
- Experience in higher education or with issues facing educational institutions
- Appreciation of the diverse constituencies of which the University is comprised
- Familiarity with the regulatory and political processes
- Fundraising experience
- Familiarity with the needs of the community, the state, and the geographical areas and populations specially served by the University

Board and Committee Leadership, the University President and a student trustee selected by the Board Chair, will meet at least once annually as vacancies arise to discuss the Board's compositional needs.

*Approved by the Executive Committee: January 8, 2007*

*Amendments endorsed by the Committee on Board Governance: September 24, 2010*

*Approved as amended by the Board of Trustees: October 30, 2010*

*Amendments endorsed by the Committee on Board Governance: December 10, 2012*  
*Approved as amended by the Executive Committee: December 10, 2012*  
*Amendments endorsed by the Committee on Board Governance: January 30, 2020*  
*Approved as amended by the Board of Trustees: January 31, 2020*