



**STATE OF VERMONT**  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE OF  
PUBLIC HIGHER EDUCATION IN VERMONT

**MINUTES**

Monday, August 31, 2020

[Meeting Available by Live Stream](#)

**Vermont Select Committee on the Future of Public Higher Education in Vermont  
Monday, August 31, 2020 -- 2:00pm  
Virtual Meeting via Zoom with YouTube link**

**Present:** Sen. Baruth, Joyce Judy - CCV, Rep. James, Scott Giles - VSAC, Sophie Zdatny - VSC, Heather Bouchey - AOE, Daniel Daly - NVU Lyndon, Briar Alpert - UVM Trustee, Devin Tingle - student at VTC, Jeff Weld - Casella Waste Systems, Suresh Garimella - UVM, Megan Cluver - VSC System Trustee, Sarah Buxton - DOL, Michael Thomas - NEBHE, Candace Williams - NEBHE, Wendy Koenig - UVM, Joyce Manchester - JFO, Chrissy Gilhuly - JFO, Tom Little. One on the phone and one called Haskell (?).

**Minutes:**

2:00 P.M. Welcome – Joyce Judy, Chair

This meeting is to provide an update to the Select Committee on the work of the Steering Committee, which includes hiring a consultant to support its work. The official launch meeting will occur when the consultant has been officially contracted.

2:05 P.M. Introductions

**Roles:**

- JFO is charged with helping to identify the consultant and negotiate the contract.
- NEBHE has provided background data and analysis to the legislature and will provide administrative and strategic support to the Select Committee and Steering Group.
- The consulting group is to do much of the heavy lifting to help the Select Committee accomplish its goals. It will help the Select Committee focus on key questions, help it chart a new vision and set of priorities for Vermont's public higher education system and analyze the current structure's ability to meet the vision and priorities.

2:20 P.M. Report from the Steering Group

The Steering Group has been tasked with selecting the consultant and identifying two members of the business community to serve on the Select Committee. The consulting firm selected will be announced shortly. Steve Gordon, CEO/President of Brattleboro Memorial Hospital has accepted the Steering Group's invitation. We're waiting on the response of another invitee.

2:30 P.M. Update on the Select Committee meeting schedule

The Select Committee is anticipated to meet monthly. During these meetings, it may hear reports from the consultant on its progress, discuss specific topics, hear from key stakeholders, etc. It could be that meetings are added or subtracted from this list but the purpose is to reserve times well in advance to assure full participation. As of now, we have proposed meetings on Wednesdays, mid-month, at 10am, beginning in September and ending in April. The first meeting may take 2-3 hours. If you could please make us aware of any considerable conflicts, it'd be appreciated. Link to draft dates here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1P3zJAe25az7ouzikBJPIInBSvCq6DP1fdAbAQQHCKwoo/edit?usp=sharing>

Rep. James notes that Wednesday will be a hard day for legislators. Daniel Daly adds that Mondays may be a better option, from 2:30pm on. Candace Williams and Chrissy Gilhuly will find a day and time that will work for regular monthly meetings.

2:40 P.M. Select Committee website information

<https://ljfo.vermont.gov/committees-and-studies/select-committee-on-the-future-of-public-higher-education-in-ve>

This page will serve as a repository for information and resources, such as the Committee's legislative charge, meeting agendas and minutes and other background information.

2:45 P.M. Review new timeline for deliverables/reports from the Consulting Group

The original legislation noted deliverables through December 2021. As the summer unfolded, the Steering Group was advised that factors could impact the success of the initiative: the timing of union contracts, as well as the legislative calendar and work on the state's budget. The new timeline moves the final report due date to April 16, 2021 and the interim reports are moved up accordingly (December 4, 2020 and February 12, 2020). The legislation says that the Select Committee will disband in January 2022, and there could be work to accomplish until then, after the final report is submitted. The consultant will be available to present the report for six weeks after it's submitted.

3:00 P.M. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,