

## Proposed Goal Statements

(Adjusted in response to feedback)

The charge to the Select Committee states that the Committee should make recommendations regarding “the financial sustainability of the VSC system” as judged through the lens of having “impact on institutional capacity to innovate and meet State goals and learners’ needs.”

The committee interprets “meeting learner needs” to mean:

1. Providing access to relevant academic programs in all regions of the state—relevant means programs that prepare students for the world of work and for participating in a democratic society.
2. Ensuring that these programs are available to students regardless of income, race/ethnicity, parents’ education, age, prior academic experience, or place of residence.
3. Students are provided the necessary support to ensure that they can succeed in their academic endeavors—they successfully complete their programs of study. Necessary support includes access to broadband and the technology necessary for on-line learning.
4. Postsecondary education is affordable to all students regardless of their economic circumstances.

The committee interprets “meeting state needs” to mean:

1. Meeting the state’s workforce development needs—meeting the needs of employers.
2. Stimulating economic development—reducing employment opportunity gaps across the state.
3. Supporting the economic and cultural vitality of the state and its communities.
4. Attracting and retaining talent.
5. Being a good steward of public funds and of funds received from tuition payments through efficient academic and administrative operations/functions.

The committee interprets “innovate” to mean:

1. That postsecondary educational offerings are aligned with the needs of students and the state.
2. Adapting/enhancing the ways postsecondary education is delivered in order to overcome deficiencies in service to students and the state.
3. Changing the way VSC functions in order to ensure its financial viability.
4. Adjusting policies to ensure that all of public postsecondary education in Vermont is oriented toward serving the needs of students and the state.