

Minutes

VSAC Programs & Services Committee Meeting

April 21, 2016

9:00 a.m.

Conference Call

Boardroom, VSAC Offices

10 East Allen Street

Winooski, VT

Committee Members Present: Martha Heath (Chair), Pam Chisholm, Dave Larsen, Sarah Buxton, Dennis O'Brien

Committee Member Absent: Katharine Hutchinson

Staff Present: Marilyn Cargill, Scott Giles, Marcia Corey, Tom Little

Martha Heath called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m., and a quorum was declared present. The committee reviewed and proceeded with the agenda.

Grant Levels for 2016-2017

Marilyn Cargill walked the Committee members through the meeting materials and management's recommendation for the 2016-2017 grant levels. (Copies of management's two options are attached to these Minutes.) We are assuming level funding from the General Assembly for FY 2017, and that grant applications will decrease as in recent years. VSAC is down 500 applications this year over last year, so the assumed decrease is 500 applications.

Management is proposing that the Committee approve Option 1. Under this option, the BIG increase from \$700 to \$850. Dave Larsen asked about increasing the BOG to \$1,000; Marilyn explained that management is recommending increasing the non-degree level as well, and thus believes the BIG should not rise all the way to \$1,000 in a single year. Sarah Buxton asked why the proposal is for a 2% reserve instead of the current 3% reserve. Marilyn explained that after review, management believes a 2% reserve will be prudent and leave a safe reserve level based upon recent experience (we have used a 2% reserve in prior years). Marilyn also noted that the predictive model developed by the Wellspring consultant team has never used an increase in the BIG, so there is at least some risk that the model may need adjusting in that respect after we experience the FY 2017 grant award cycle.

Upon a motion made by Dennis O'Brien and seconded by Pam Chisholm, the Committee, having been duly delegated this authority by the VSAC Board of Directors on April 18, 2016, voted unanimously to approve the following Resolutions on FY17 grant levels:

1. Resolved, that VSAC shall

- Increase level of aid for full-time enrollment by \$200;
 - Accept 13,800 applications with an anticipated cut-off date of December 31, 2016, for full-time grants;
 - Maintain a 2% reserve;
 - Increase the Basic Incentive Grant level to \$850;
 - Decrease Non-degree funding from the current funding level in '16 of \$2.1 Million to \$1.7 Million with an anticipated cutoff of January 31, 2017; and
 - Maintain Part-time funding at \$1.2 Million with an anticipated cutoff of January 31, 2017.
2. Further Resolved that, in addition, the Committee is aware that there are unknowns at this time which could result in different choices for grant levels and cut-off dates being made when the staff runs the final projections. Staff will analyze projections in the live environment and the levels may be further adjusted up or down by \$100 if necessary.
3. Further Resolved that the Committee will report the final decision back to the Board at the June 15, 2016 meeting.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn A. Cargill, Assistant Secretary