

Minutes

VSAC Programs & Services Committee Meeting

September 25, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Board Room, VSAC Offices
10 East Allen Street
Winooski, VT

Committee Members Present: Martha Heath (chair) Dennis O'Brien, Katharine Hutchinson, Pam Chisholm, Dave Larsen, and Matt Trieber
Committee Members Absent: NA
Other Members Present: Dodie Mitchell, Chair
VSAC Staff Present: Scott Giles, Tom Little, Marilyn Cargill, Patrick Leduc, and Kristi Rocheleau
Others: NA

The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m., and a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee flagged the following change for the minutes: Page two, Operations Update, the second sub-bullet should read "Responses to a staff survey indicated that the Scholarship ..." rather than "The survey ..."

Upon a motion made by Dave Larsen and seconded by Pam Chisholm, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Programs & Services Committee record of May 15, 2017, as corrected.

Grant Policy – ongoing annual review:

Marilyn Cargill walked members through the background and recommendations for three existing VSAC grant program policies:

Graduate Programs – This policy outlines the Vermont grant eligibility for graduate programs as defined by Vermont Statutes Annotated, Title 16, Section 2853(c). As a result of expansions to the University of Vermont's Larner College of Medicine degree offerings, language was added to the this policy to clarify the only eligible graduate program within the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont is the Doctor of Medicine (MD) program.

Full-time Students – This policy defines the eligibility for a Vermont Incentive Grant. There were no recommended changes; the policy was put forth to the Committee as part of the three year review period.

Citizenship/DACA/Dreamers Policy – This policy outlines that to qualify for a Vermont grant, a student must be an eligible United States Citizen or an eligible noncitizen as defined by the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) for that academic year. Language was added to the policy to

clarify that if a student qualifies as a DREAMER through DACA, the student is also eligible to apply for a Vermont grant.

Upon a motion made by Katharine Hutchinson and seconded by Matt Trieber, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the full Board approve the Graduate Program, Full-time Students, and Citizenship/DACA/Dreamers grant policies, as presented.

Risk Review –

As part of the two-year risk review cycle, Marilyn Cargill communicated that the Execution Failure risk topic included on the agenda requires further updates as a result of VSAC's departure from servicing Federal Direct Loans. The Executive Committee will review and revise the risk and provide an update to the Programs & Services Committee at the November meeting.

Operations Update

The Committee then transitioned to the Operations Update, which included VT FAFSA completion activities; grant submission updates, Vermont colleges and scholarship donor visits, natural disaster responses, and a private loan origination system update.

There being no questions about standing reports, Martha transitioned the Committee to the Federal and State Updates.

Federal & Vermont Update

Scott Giles briefed the Committee on federal discussions regarding appropriations and budget topics potentially affecting GEAR Up programming, and the ongoing work with Vermont delegation. Scott then provided an update on Treasury and tax reform.

On the State front, Marilyn Cargill and Tom Little updated the Committee and responded to questions regarding efforts to revise the bill first introduced in the 2017 session to create a free college program for Vermont National Guard members as a recruitment tool so it can be reintroduced in 2018, and the current status of the College Savings Account. The Committee and Board will be updated of progress.

Overview of VHEIP

Marilyn Cargill provided an overview of the VHEIP program, highlighting the program attributes and goals for the upcoming fiscal year. In response to questions, Marilyn reported that VSAC continues to monitor, evaluate and refine marketing efforts to determine which activities work best to promote saving for college.

Other Business

There being no other business, the Committee adjourned at 12:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Cargill, Assistant Secretary