

Minutes

VSAC Programs & Services Committee Meeting

November 20, 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), Pam Chisholm, Dave Larsen, and Dennis O'Brien
Committee Members Absent: Matt Trieber
Other Members Present: Dodie Mitchell, Chair
VSAC Staff Present: Scott Giles, Tom Little, Marilyn Cargill, Patrick Leduc, Mike Stuart, and Kristi Rocheleau
Others: NA

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m., and a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion made by Dave Larsen and seconded by Pam Chisholm, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the Programs & Services Committee record of September 25, 2017, as presented.

Grant Policy – ongoing annual review

Marilyn Cargill reviewed the background for three existing VSAC grant program policies. There were no proposed changes.

Other Aid – This policy defines that the grant applicant is responsible for reporting educational resources that they receive which are not from their school, PELL, or VSAC. In addition, the school is required to report all sources of aid that it is aware of when verifying the applicant's enrollment.

Part-time Students – This policy defines part-time status for Vermont Part-Time grant purposes.

Satisfactory Academic Progress – This policy outlines satisfactory completion as indicated in Vermont Statute Statutes, Section 2842. Marilyn noted that VSAC accepts the student's institution standard when calculating academic progress. These standards comply with the federal regulations for Title IV fund eligibility.

Upon a motion made by Dave Larsen and seconded by Pam Chisholm, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the full Board approve the grant policies, as presented.

Operations Update

Martha Heath then transitioned the Committee to the Operations Update. Scott, Marilyn, and Patrick reported on the VSAC Annual Meeting for staff, VT FAFSA Completion Initiative efforts, private loan originations project, and VSAC College Application week held at aspiration schools. The Committee was then invited to the April Scholarships Selection Day, for which additional information will be circulated to Board Members.

In response to Standing Reports, Marilyn called attention to the grant reports, noting these reports represents a full cycle of grants since the shift to the earlier October application availability date. After running ahead all year, FY 18 applications are now slightly lower than FY 17 at this same time. This is the anticipated correction to the early filing numbers we saw as the result of the Early FAFSA launched last year. Scott also noted the Advantage Parent and Student Loan numbers.

Federal Update

Scott Giles briefed the Committee on federal discussions regarding appropriations and budget topics potentially affecting GEAR UP programming and federal tax proposals affecting Private Activity Bonds.

Vermont Update

Marilyn and Scott then provided an update on state initiatives, including 70x2025, the Vermont budget ask, ongoing meetings with state officials, and college fairs held by Senator Sanders.

Overview of Career & Education Wellness

Patrick Leduc provided an overview and update of the Career & Education Wellness business partnership program that provides workplace workshops and counseling to Vermont businesses. Employee topics include saving for college, navigating the public school system, college and career planning, and other pertinent topics identified by the employer and VSAC. The Committee then discussed the program and suggested future updates.

Other Business

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

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Cargill, Assistant Secretary