

Minutes

VSAC Programs & Services Committee Meeting

November 19, 2018
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Boardroom, VSAC Offices
10 East Allen Street
Winooski, VT

Committee Members Present: Martha Heath (Chair), Dave Larsen, Chuck Soule, Matt Trieber
Committee Members Absent: Pam Chisholm, Dennis O'Brien
Other Members Present: Dodie Mitchell, Chair
VSAC Staff Present: Scott Giles, Tom Little, Marilyn Cargill, Patrick Leduc, Mike Stuart, Kristi Rocheleau
Others: N/A

Chair Martha Heath called meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., and a quorum was established.

Approval of Minutes

One error was identified under page 2, last bullet under Operations Updates. Kristi Rocheleau will omit the second to last sentence, “is one year of data on the new system” that was not removed during the editing review.

Upon a motion made by Dave Larsen and seconded by Chuck Soule, the Committee Members voted unanimously to approve the Programs & Services Committee Minutes of September 24, 2018, as corrected.

Grant Policy – Ongoing Review

As a follow-up to two policies requiring additional research, Marilyn provided background information to support Committee review:

- **Participation Agreement** – Previously the Committee suggested combining the Non-Degree and Degree participation agreement language. However, due to the differences in program length between Title IV and non-Title IV schools, it is necessary to maintain separate policy language. VSAC recommends that the policy remain as originally drafted.

Upon a motion made by Matt Trieber and seconded by Chuck Soule, the Committee Members voted unanimously to recommend that the full Board approve the Participation agreement, as presented.

- **In-State Institution Definition** – Marilyn summarized the In-State Institution Definition and provided more background for scenarios where this policy may come into play. The Committee discussed potential scenarios and language options to improve the clarity of the policy. Tom

Little and Marilyn will draft revised language for review at the next Committee meeting in January.

Operations Updates

The management team briefed the Committee on program efforts since September 24, 2018.

Marilyn introduced the recommendation to implement a 2019 spring semester microgrant pilot for the purposes of supporting students who are at risk of exiting school because of unforeseen expenses. The Committee discussed the background data, costs, proposed guidelines, process, and Management's proposal for next steps.

Federal Update

Scott Giles reported on recent developments and opportunities that may arise out of the November election results. Scott will keep the Board and Committees apprised as information becomes available.

Vermont Update

Scott encouraged Board Members to attend the symposium that VSAC and Vermont State Colleges arranged for December 4, covering the Vermont Class of 2012 Study of Higher Education Enrollment and Completion research brief.

Marilyn and Scott shared information about VSAC's meeting with Adam Greshin, Director of Finance, and their request that the Governor increase funding for the non-degree grant program..

Grant Levels and Opportunities

In an effort to increase access to postsecondary education for low income Vermonters and improve retention and graduation rates at Vermont colleges, Marilyn led a discussion of potential changes to grant funding levels of aid for the 2018-2019 year. In addition to the microgrant pilot covered under the Operations Update, Management recommends: 1) raising the level of aid at the Community College of Vermont to cover 100% of full tuition and fees, and, 2) increasing the level of aid at the Vermont State Colleges, i.e., Northern Vermont University, Castleton University, and Vermont Technical College.

Upon a motion by Dave Larsen and seconded by Chuck Soule, the Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the full board adopt the recommendation to allocate 2018-2019 grant funding in the amount of \$100,000 for purposes of a microgrant pilot, \$800,000 to cover full tuition and fees at the Community College of Vermont, and \$300,000 to increase funding levels by \$250 at Vermont State Colleges.

Other Business

There being no other business, the Committee adjourned at 11:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Cargill, Assistant Secretary