

Minutes

VSAC Programs & Services Committee Meeting

April 20, 2020
12:30 p.m.

Via Zoom Video and Telephone Conference Platform

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

Committee Member Absent: Chuck Soule

Other Members Present: Dodie Mitchell

Staff Present: Scott Giles, Marilyn Cargill, Mike Stuart, Patrick Leduc, Tom Little, Jodie Ducharme

Martha Heath called the meeting to order at 12:33 p.m. on the Zoom virtual meeting platform with all present able to hear one another throughout the meeting. With a quorum established, the Committee reviewed and proceeded with the agenda.

Grant Levels for 2020-2021

Marilyn Cargill walked the Committee through the staff recommendation for setting 2020-2021 grant levels. The proposal assumes that we will receive a 5% decrease in Grant Funding for FY21, which equates to roughly \$1 million.

The staff proposed a decrease in aid for full-time enrollment by \$200 from the level previously set in FY20, except for Community College of Vermont which would be increased by \$200 to ensure that we continue to fully cover tuition so that there is an access option available to low income Vermonters.

After a review of the assumptions and a brief discussion, the Committee agreed with the staff's assessment.

Upon a motion made by Dave Larsen and seconded by Pam Chisholm, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following Resolutions on FY21 grant levels:

1. Resolved, that VSAC shall
 - Keep Basic Incentive Grants at the \$1,000 level;
 - Decrease the level of aid for full-time enrollment by \$200.00 from the level set in '20 with the exception that the Community College of Vermont will be increased by \$200 to ensure an access option for low income Vermonters.

- Accept 11,900 full-time applications with an anticipated cutoff of January 15, 2021;
 - Increase part-time funding to \$1.8 million, with an anticipated cutoff of February 15, 2021;
 - Keep nondegree (Advancement Grant) funding at \$1.7 million plus a \$500,000 carryforward for a program of \$2.2 million, with an anticipated cutoff of January 15, 2021;
 - Continue to cover full tuition at Community College of Vermont to ensure that we have an access point for low-income Vermonters; and
 - Maintain a 2% reserve in the Grant Program.
2. Further Resolved that, the Board being 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, VSAC's staff are asked to analyze projections in the "live" environment and the Executive Committee is thereafter authorized to further adjust the levels up or down by \$100 if necessary. If changes greater than plus or minus \$100 are needed based upon VSAC staff analysis and Executive Committee recommendation, the Board authorizes the Program and Services Committee to approve new levels at a greater variance than \$100 up or down.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn A. Cargill, Assistant Secretary