

Minutes

VSAC Programs & Services Committee Meeting

April 19, 2021

11:30 a.m.

Via Zoom Video and Telephone Conference Platform

Committee Members Present: Pam Chisholm, Dave Larsen, Chuck Soule, Matthew Derr

Committee Member Absent: Martha Heath (Chair), Caleb Elder

Other Members Present: Dodie Mitchell

Staff Present: Scott Giles, Marilyn Cargill, Mike Stuart, Jodie Ducharme

Chair *Pro Tempore* Pam Chisholm called the meeting to order at 11:33 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 2021-2022

Marilyn Cargill walked the Committee through the staff recommendation for setting 2021-2022 grant levels. The proposal assumes the State Base Appropriation funding will be level with fiscal year 2021. It also assumes that the Aspiration Project will receive standalone funding from the Legislature and not a carve out from the Grant appropriation and that the Advancement Grant will receive \$500,000 in one-time funding.

The staff proposed that the Committee approve an increase in aid for full-time enrollment by \$250 from the level previously set in FY21. The proposed increase was \$50 less than the \$300 level suggested by the Wellspring model in anticipation of increased grant appeals due to the pandemic.

After a review of the assumptions and a brief discussion, the Committee decided to recommend the Board increase the level of aid for full-time enrollment by \$300, recognizing that the anticipated cutoff may need to occur before the projected March 15, 2022 date.

Upon a motion made by Pam Chisholm and seconded by Dave Larsen, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the following Resolutions on FY22 grant levels:

1. Resolved, that VSAC shall
 - Keep Basic Incentive Grants at the \$1,000 level;
 - Increase the level of aid for full-time enrollment by \$300.00 from the level set for academic year 2020-2021;

- Accept 13,500 full-time applications with an anticipated cutoff of March 15, 2022;
- Increase funding for part-time grants to \$2.0 million with an anticipated cutoff of March 15, 2022;
- Keep nondegree (Advancement Grant) funding at \$2.0 million plus \$500,000 of one-time funding plus up to \$300,000 carryforward for a total of \$2.8 million, with an anticipated cutoff of May 15, 2022;
- Intend that the level of assistance will cover full tuition and fees at the Community College of Vermont to assure an access point for low-income Vermonters; and
- Maintain a 2% reserve.

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 President/CEO is thereafter authorized to further adjust the levels up or down by \$100 if necessary.

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn A. Cargill, Assistant Secretary