

Minutes

VSAC Programs & Services Committee Meeting

May 23, 2022
10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Via Zoom Video and Telephone Conference Platform

Committee Members Present: Martha Heath (Chair), Dave Larsen, Caleb Elder, Ryan Dulude, Tim Chamberlin, Clarence Davis
Committee Members Absent: N/A
Other Members Present: Dodie Mitchell, Chair
VSAC Staff Present: Scott Giles, Marilyn Cargill, Mike Stuart, Patrick Leduc, Tom Little, Jodie Ducharme
Others: N/A

Chair Martha Heath called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m. on the Zoom virtual meeting platform with all present able to hear one another throughout the meeting. With a quorum established, the Committee proceeded with the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

Upon a motion made by Caleb Elder and seconded by Ryan Dulude, the Committee Members voted unanimously to approve the Programs & Services Committee Minutes of March 21, 2022 and April 18, 2022, as presented.

Public Comment

There were no public comments given during the public comment period.

Grant Policy – Ongoing Annual Review

Marilyn Cargill reviewed each of the following policies, which were last reviewed in 2019. Marilyn noted there were no proposed changes to any of these policies:

- Appeals
- Residency Appeals
- Application Requirements

The Committee discussed the policies and Marilyn responded to questions.

Upon a motion made by Dave Larsen and seconded by Clarence Davis, the Committee Members voted unanimously to recommend that the full Board approve the Appeals, Residency Appeals, and Application Requirements policies, as written.

Operations Updates

Marilyn Cargill briefed the Committee on the following:

- First Awarding Outcomes

- Scholarship Outcomes to-date
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness Expansion Volume to-date
- Standing Reports

Marilyn Cargill and Mike Stuart provided updates on the 2022-2023 academic year bond deal and loan rates, including interest rates, volume targets, and early results. Marilyn and Mike also provided an update on the in-school refinance loan project.

Patrick Leduc updated the Committee on the plan to return to the building, providing an overview of the hybrid work plan and noting the Voluntary Hybrid Work Arrangement Policy has been rolled out to staff. The Committee expressed their appreciation for the thought put into the hybrid work plan.

Federal Update

Scott Giles directed the Committee to previously distributed materials and provided updates on Operation Fresh Start and debt cancellation.

Vermont Update

Scott Giles provided a legislative update, noting that this past year was very active with substantial federal funds available to support a broad range of initiatives.

Marilyn Cargill provided updates on the following programs which were VSAC priorities during this legislative session: 802 Opportunity, Advancement Grants, and Dual Enrollment Stipend. Marilyn also briefed the Committee on workforce development programs which include revisions to the Nursing and VT National Guard Scholarship Loan Programs and new forgivable loan programs for trades, nurse faculty, and mental health workers.

Tom Little provided updates on VHEIP and loan interest deductions.

Marilyn Cargill briefed the Committee on the Residency Policy adjustment for refugees, explaining that the adjustment will remove the one-year residency requirement for a very specifically defined group of people coming to Vermont under refugee status for attendance at the Community College of Vermont (CCV).

Scott Giles noted the upcoming legislative turnover and pointed out that after the fall election, the Executive Committee will be reaching out to new members so they know who we are and how VSAC can support their residents.

Other Business

There being no other business, the Committee adjourned at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Cargill, Assistant Secretary