

Minutes

VSAC Programs & Services Committee Meeting

November 21, 2022
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Boardroom, VSAC Offices
10 East Allen Street
Winooski, Vermont 05404

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, Patrick Leduc, Mike Stuart, Tom Little, Jodie Ducharme, and Miranda Roth
Others: N/A

Chair Martha Heath called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. With a quorum established, the Committee took up the first order of business.

Approval of September 19, 2022, Minutes

Upon a motion made by Ryan Dulude and seconded by Dave Larsen, the Committee Members voted unanimously to approve the Programs & Services Committee Minutes of September 19, 2022, as presented.

Public Comment

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

Grant Policy – Ongoing Review

Marilyn Cargill reviewed each of the following policies, which were last reviewed in 2019:

- **VAST/Early College** – Marilyn reviewed the policy and pointed out revisions to update the list of schools offering Early College programs.
- **Cancellations** – Marilyn reviewed the policy and noted there were no proposed changes.
- **Application Cutoff** - Marilyn reviewed the policy and noted there were no proposed changes.

The Committee discussed the policies and Marilyn responded to questions.

Upon a motion made by Clarence Davis and seconded by Ryan Dulude, the Committee Members voted unanimously to recommend that the full Board approve the VAST/Early

College policy, as amended, and the Cancellations and Application Cutoff policies, as presented.

Federal FAFSA Simplification

Marilyn Cargill introduced Miranda Roth, Supervisor, Financial Aid Services Team, noting that Miranda was instrumental in analyzing the data that resulted from the import of our FY21 data into a tool developed by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) to model how FAFSA simplification changes may impact our students.

Marilyn reviewed FAFSA Simplification with the Committee, including the history, overview, methodology changes, and the results of VSAC's initial review, using FY21 data, of the impacts to our students. During Marilyn's presentation, the Committee asked questions and Marilyn Cargill and Miranda Roth responded. They made it clear that the impacts of the implementation of the simplification changes remain to be seen and assessed.

Operations Updates

Marilyn Cargill and Scott Giles briefed the Committee on the following efforts:

- State Funding Challenges – Nurse Faculty, Mental Health, Early Childcare Education, and Chafee programs
- Grant Update
- Changes to VSAC's hybrid work model
- VHEIP – announcing changes to the glide path
- Expanded Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF) and the ongoing impact to the FFEL portfolio
- Standing Reports

Scott Giles provided an update on the upcoming VSAC Annual Meeting, noting that it will be in person and stating that additional details would be forthcoming. He also announced that we would be celebrating a significant number of staff with 30 or more years of service with VSAC.

Federal Update

Scott Giles provided updates on the outcome of the mid-term elections, the federal loan repayment suspension that is slated to end on Direct Loans and Defaulted FFEL Loans, and the pending loan cancellation program.

Vermont Update

Marilyn Cargill provided an update on Vermont State Colleges plans to drop tuition. Scott Giles provided updates on VSAC's budget meeting and notable changes in the legislature.

Other Business

There being no other business, the Committee adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Cargill, Assistant Secretary