Minutes

VSAC Programs & Services Committee Meeting

May 18, 2026
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, Ryan Dulude, Tim Chamberlin, Clarence Davis
Committee Members Absent:	Mary-Katherine Stone
Other Members Present:	Dodie Mitchell
VSAC Staff Present:	Scott Giles, Patrick Leduc, Tom Little, Meghan Metzler, Brad Fallon, Kirstin Boehm
Others:	N/A

Martha Heath (Chair) called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. With a quorum established, the Committee proceeded with the agenda.

Approval of Minutes

> ***Upon a motion made by Clarence Davis and seconded by Ryan Dulude, the Committee Members voted unanimously to approve the Programs & Services Committee Minutes of April 13, 2026, as presented.***

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

Grant Policy Review
Patrick Leduc presented the last policy to be reviewed in the triennial review of policies:

- **Advancement Grant Schools Audit Policy** – Patrick reviewed the policy, and the changes include: actions that could be taken by the Executive Committee, updating audit responsibilities, and annual review of schools with significant growth. The Committee discussed the policy with Patrick and requested one typographical change.

> ***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 Advancement Grant Schools Audit Policy, as presented with the typographical change.***

Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) and Talent Search Applications
Patrick Leduc introduced Kirstin Boehm to the Committee. Kirstin began by providing updates on the new grant applications for EOC and Talent Search. She also expects a new status update from the Department of Education by May 19th on VSAC's prior EOC grant. Kirstin then provided an overview of the EOC and Talent Search programs including: participant eligibility, general approach, services, staffing and budgeting. The Committee asked questions that Kirstin and Patrick responded to.

Operations Updates
Patrick Leduc provided updates on operations:

Debrief of the first awarding – He reviewed the previously distributed material on awarding, highlighting that awards and student trends fit within the estimates for the year. There is also a 6% growth in applications compared to this same time last year.

Rural Health Transformation Grant – These new programs VSAC will be administering are nearly ready to be implemented. CMS approval of promotional materials is expected shortly; the final paperwork is nearly ready to be signed. It has also been determined that recipients working in 13 of VT counties are fully eligible and the 14th county (Chittenden) is not considered fully rural and has restrictions.

Scholarship Day - The day was held on April 15th with VSAC staff and board members, scholarship donors and other related volunteers. There were over 1,500 finalists for 46 scholarships, and collectively these awards totaled approximately $300,000 in direct support to 134 Vermont recipients pursuing post-secondary education.

Loan Rates & changes for AY26/27 – New loan changes, rates, and products were implemented on May 15th. Patrick reviewed the loan product changes and Meghan Metzler provided an update on the reasoning of the new rates which are lower than last years.

Timeline for loan servicing conversion – The conversion was expected to be done by June 30th but that timeline is expected to slip and VSAC is currently working with HESC to determine a new project end date. Patrick noted that this change is not expected to slow down other projects, for example; Grant and Scholarship conversions.

Items of interest from the standing reports – The Committee had no questions on the previously distributed materials.

Throughout the operational updates the Committee engaged in discussions and asked questions that Patrick Leduc, Meghan Metzler and Scott Giles responded to.

Federal Update
Scott Giles said he and Patrick Leduc have been meeting with our delegates in D.C. and they have been supportive of our TRIO grant applications that were recently submitted. In Congress, there are still the two outstanding bills on student loans regarding bond caps and preferred lender lists, and there is some talk of a third reconciliation bill. Scott concluded his update by sharing that the collection on defaulted student loans was transferred to the Department of Treasury, and that Treasury is expected to start involuntary collections, but a timeframe has not been announced.

Vermont Update
Scott Giles provided a legislative update. The House and Senate have passed two separate appropriations bills, so they are now in negotiations. The House bill funds VSAC fully from the general fund. The Senate bill proposes a portion of VSAC (also UVM & VTSU) funding come from the Higher Education Endowment Trust Fund, with a plan to replenish the trust. And it is unclear when the Legislature will officially adjourn.

Other Business

There being no other business, the Committee adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Patrick Leduc, Assistant Secretary