

Journal of the House

Monday, April 6, 2009

At one o'clock in the afternoon the Speaker called the House to order.

Joint Resolution Placed on Calendar

J.R.H. 18

Joint resolution relating to certain financial and managerial policies of the University of Vermont

Offered by: Representative Turner of Milton

Whereas, the General Assembly chartered the University of Vermont on November 3, 1791 for providing higher public education, and

Whereas, the Vermont Agricultural College was created in accordance with Act 96 of 1864, and

Whereas, under the authority of Act 71 of 1945, these two institutions of higher education were unified into a single educational entity that has garnered great esteem among the citizens of Vermont, and

Whereas, the University of Vermont, notwithstanding the respect it has earned in this state and notwithstanding its unusual legal status and autonomy that combine attributes of both a legislatively chartered private corporation and an instrumentality of the state, should be a responsible institutional citizen in the conduct of its organizational operations and the management of its financial affairs, and

Whereas, the difficult economic times through which our state and nation are living only magnify the need for financial prudence and responsibility at the university, and

Whereas, under these circumstances, recent managerial and financial decisions at the University of Vermont warrant closer examination by the board of trustees of the university, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly strongly urges that:

1) The University of Vermont board of trustees affirm and encourage the process it has initiated as a full board and through its governance and audit

committee responsibilities and that is guided by the federal Sarbanes–Oxley Act and the recently passed federal Higher Education Act’s reauthorization to continue to examine and thoroughly update the university’s audit process, to continually update the strategic plan and financial plan, to ensure compliance with federal and state law, and to annually evaluate the performance and compensation of the president in accordance with the trustees’ newly adopted protocol for annual review of the compensation of senior officials;

2) Any program or activity at the University of Vermont that is proposed for elimination and that has an annual budget that equals or exceeds a prudent monetary threshold the trustees have set be subject to a vote of the trustees prior to its elimination, and that the trustees endeavor to include a listing of these decisions in the annual financial report of the university;

3) The University of Vermont continue to make every effort to increase the number of Vermonters in the student body who meet admission stands as the university charter directs, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the president of the University of Vermont and to the chair of the University of Vermont board of trustees.

Which was read and, in the Speaker’s discretion, placed on the Calendar for action tomorrow under Rule 52.

Adjournment

At one o'clock five minutes in the afternoon, the Speaker adjourned the House until tomorrow at ten o'clock in the forenoon, pursuant to Rule 9.

Concurrent Resolutions Adopted

The following concurrent resolutions, having been placed on the Consent Calendar on the preceding legislative day, and no member having requested floor consideration as provided by Joint Rules of the Senate and House of Representatives, are hereby adopted in concurrence.

H.C.R. 90

House concurrent resolution congratulating transportation district 7 on earning VOSHA’s Green Mountain Voluntary Protection Program’s Star certification;

H.C.R. 91

House concurrent resolution congratulating the Journey East Program of Leland & Gray Union Middle and High School on its tenth anniversary;

H.C.R. 92

House concurrent resolution honoring the Vermont Children's Aid Society on its 90th anniversary and its retiring executive director Steve Habif;

H.C.R. 93

House concurrent resolution commemorating the 150th anniversary of the third Vermont State House;

H.C.R. 94

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2008 Hartford High School Hurricanes Division II championship boys' ice hockey team;

H.C.R. 95

House concurrent resolution congratulating Essex High School on receipt of a 2009 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement;

H.C.R. 96

House concurrent resolution congratulating Janet Medston Perrigo Brown-Wolff of South Burlington on being named the 2009 Vermont Mother of the Year;

H.C.R. 97

House concurrent resolution congratulating the 2009 Hazen Union High School Division III championship boys' basketball team;

H.C.R. 98

House concurrent resolution honoring Roderick Leach of Plainfield for his extraordinary public service at the agency of transportation;

S.C.R. 16

Senate concurrent resolution recognizing the political accomplishments of former Governor Howard Dean.;

[The full text of the concurrent resolutions appeared in the Senate and House Calendar Addendum on the preceding legislative day and will appear in the Public Acts and Resolves of the 2009, seventieth Biennial session.]