

H.456

An act relating to establishing strategic goals and reporting requirements for the Vermont State Colleges

The Senate proposes to the House to amend the bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

* * * Vermont State Colleges; Strategic Goals and Reporting * * *

Sec. 1. 16 V.S.A. § 2171a is added to read:

§ 2171a. STRATEGIC GOALS

(a) The Corporation shall establish its priorities, budget and allocate its resources, and develop its capabilities to ensure that students successfully achieve their academic goals in a manner and in an environment that provides a high-quality education and that is:

- (1) affordable;
- (2) accessible;
- (3) equitable; and
- (4) relevant to Vermont's needs.

(b) As used in this chapter:

(1) "Accessible" means each student, regardless of where the student's home campus is located, has increased access to academic opportunities, majors, and courses across the Corporation's academic system.

(2) “Affordability standard” means the extent to which affordability is being achieved for students and for the Corporation as determined jointly by the Corporation and VSAC.

(3) “Affordable” means a level of financial commitment that results from the application of the affordability standard.

(4) “Equitable” means the extent to which gaps in educational access and success are being reduced for students from economically deprived backgrounds, first-generation students, students of color, and other marginalized groups.

(5) “Relevant to Vermont’s needs” means that students graduate as informed and engaged citizens who are prepared for the world of work and for participating in a democratic society.

(6) “Total cost of attendance” has the meaning provided in 20 U.S.C. § 1087ll, as amended.

(7) “Unmet need” means the total cost of attendance minus:

(A) the Student Aid Index, as determined under 20 U.S.C. § 1087mm, as in effect on July 31, 2023; and

(B) all nonloan student financial assistance.

(8) “VSAC” means the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation.

(c) The Corporation's Board of Trustees shall approve and maintain institutional missions that align to the strategic goals set out in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 2. 16 V.S.A. § 2171b is added to read:

§ 2171b. VERMONT STUDENT ASSISTANCE CORPORATION AND
VERMONT STATE COLLEGES; REPORTING

On or before January 15, 2024 and on or before January 15 annually thereafter, VSAC, with the assistance of and in collaboration with the Corporation, shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education containing:

(1) the Corporation's progress in attaining affordability for full-time students enrolled with the Corporation for the first time;

(2) the Corporation's progress in attaining affordability for all other students;

(3) the average and median amount of unmet need for full-time students enrolled with the Corporation for the first time and the average and median amount of unmet need for all other students;

(4) the average, median, annual, and cumulative student and parent debt by loan type (federal direct to student, federal direct to parent, state, or private) for students obtaining a two-year or four-year degree; and

(5) for students enrolled with the Corporation, their average:

(A) yearly continuation rate;

(B) academic progress, showing satisfactory and unsatisfactory progress; and

(C) graduation rate.

Sec. 3. REPORT

On or before July 1, 2023, the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, in collaboration with the Agency of Education, shall submit a written report to the House and Senate Committees on Education on whether and how to implement a requirement that all high school students complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid as a condition of graduation.

Sec. 4. 16 V.S.A. § 2171(c) is amended to read:

(c) The Corporation may acquire, hold, and dispose of property in fee or in trust, or any other estate, except as provided in subsection (d) of this section; shall have a common seal; and shall be an instrumentality of the State for the purposes set forth in this section. The State of Vermont shall support and maintain the Corporation. The sale, lease, demolition, or disposal of property by the Corporation shall comply with the applicable requirements of 32 V.S.A. § 962.

Sec. 5. REPEAL

16 V.S.A. § 2188 is repealed.

Sec. 6. AFFORDABILITY STANDARD; DETERMINATION

On or before July 1, 2023, the Vermont State Colleges and the Vermont Student Assistance Corporation shall jointly recommend to the Senate and House Committees on Education and the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations the definition of the affordability standard under Sec. 1 of this act.

* * * Vermont State Colleges Corporation; Board of Trustees * * *

Sec. 7. 16 V.S.A. § 2172 is amended to read:

§ 2172. TRUSTEES; APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES

(a) The Corporation shall be governed by a board of ~~45~~ 17 trustees who shall be appointed or elected as follows:

(1) Biennially, the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint trustees to serve for four-year terms expiring March 1 of the year of the biennial session. Five trustees may be in office at one time under this subdivision. In the event of any vacancy occurring between biennial sessions in an office under this subdivision, the Governor, pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 257, shall fill the vacancy, and the term of a person so appointed shall expire on March 1 in the year of the next following biennial session.

(2)(A) ~~One trustee~~ Two trustees shall be a student ~~trustee~~ trustees:

(i) who ~~is a~~ are matriculated ~~student~~ students at an educational institution operated by the Vermont State Colleges Corporation;

(ii) who ~~is~~ are pursuing a degree program; and

(iii) who ~~has~~ have reached the age of majority.

(B) The student ~~trustee~~ trustees shall serve a one-year ~~term~~ terms expiring on June 1. The student ~~trustee~~ trustees shall be appointed, and a vacancy may be filled, from among those eligible students applying for the position by the decision of those members of the steering committee of the Vermont State Colleges Student Association who have been elected at large to that committee by the students at their respective colleges. No student trustee may serve more than two consecutive terms.

(3) Four trustees shall be legislative trustees who are members of the General Assembly at the time of their election. Legislative trustees shall serve four-year terms expiring on March 1 of the second year of the biennial session, and they shall be elected by joint assembly of the Legislature. Vacancies for any cause shall be filled by the General Assembly at its earliest opportunity, and the term of a person so appointed shall expire on March 1 of the next even numbered year.

(4) Four trustees shall be elected by the Board of Trustees to four-year terms expiring on March 1. Vacancies for any cause shall be filled by the remaining members of the Board of Trustees, and the term of the person so appointed shall expire on the next following March 1.

(5) One trustee shall be faculty or staff employed by the Vermont State Colleges Corporation and elected by the faculty and staff to a four-year term expiring on August 1. The faculty assembly or assemblies shall oversee all trustee elections under this subdivision, which shall be open to all faculty and staff. Vacancies for any cause shall be filled through an election, and the term of the person so appointed shall expire on the next following August 1.

(b) Appointments by the Governor ~~and~~, elections by the General Assembly, and student appointments shall be made with consideration of the geographic distribution of members to prevent an unfair focus on any single college or campus.

(c) No trustee shall be a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont.

(d)(1) The Board of Trustees, after notice and a hearing, may remove a trustee for incompetency, failure to discharge duties, malfeasance, illegal acts, or other cases inimical to the welfare of the Corporation.

(2) Gubernatorial-appointed trustees shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor pursuant to 3 V.S.A. § 2004.

(3) In the event of a vacancy occurring under this subsection, the ~~Governor or the Board~~ appointing or electing authority of the vacant position, as applicable, shall fill the vacancy pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 8. 16 V.S.A. § 2173 is amended to read:

§ 2173. BOARD OF TRUSTEES; ORGANIZATION

In addition to the ~~44~~ 16 elected and appointed trustees, the Board of Trustees shall include as a member the Governor of Vermont. A majority of the trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Biennially, the Board shall elect one of its voting members to serve as its chair.

Sec. 9. TRANSITION

(a) On or before August 1, 2022, the new faculty or staff member of the Board of Trustees of the Vermont State Colleges Corporation shall be elected under Sec. 7 of this act.

(b) On or before September 15, 2022, the new student member shall be appointed under Sec. 7 of this act. The new student trustee shall serve a partial term, commencing on September 15, 2022 and ending on March 1, 2023.

* * * University of Vermont and State Agricultural College; Board of
Trustees * * *

Sec. 10. 16 App. V.S.A. Chapter 1, § 1-2 is amended to read:

§ 1-2. BOARD OF TRUSTEES; MEMBERSHIP; TERMS OF SERVICE;
PRESIDING CHAIR

The Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College shall be composed of ~~25~~ 27 members, whose term of office shall be six years, except as to those who are members ex officio and to those who are

student members. Three members shall be appointed by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. During the legislative session of 1955, the Governor shall appoint one member for a term of two years, one member for a term of four years, and one member for a term of six years, and it shall be the duty of the Governor during the session of the Legislature prior to expiration of the term of office of any of the members to appoint for the term of six years a successor to the member whose term is expiring. The terms of office of the ~~Trustees~~ trustees shall expire on the last day of February in the respective years of expiration, and the terms of office of their successors shall thereafter begin on March 1 and expire on the last day of February.

Nine members shall be those who have been heretofore elected by the Legislature as members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, and whose terms have not expired, and their successors, and it shall be the duty of the Legislature at its session during which the terms of office of any class of the members expire to elect three successor members for terms of six years. The terms shall commence on March 1 in the year of election. The nine ~~Trustees~~ trustees and their successors shall also constitute the Board of Trustees of the Vermont Agricultural College.

~~Nine~~ Ten members shall be those who have been heretofore elected on behalf of the University of Vermont as members of the Board of Trustees of

the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College and whose terms have not expired, and their successors, and it shall be the duty of said ~~nine Trustees~~ ten trustees to elect successors to fill vacancies occurring among their number upon expiration of the terms of office of any of them or otherwise. The ~~nine Trustees~~ ten trustees and their successors shall also constitute the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont.

Two members shall be students enrolled at the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College. Their terms of office shall be two years. Prior to February 1, 1978, the Associated Directors for the Appointment of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College Student Trustees, Incorporated shall select and appoint one student for a term of one year and one student for a term of two years, both of whom shall be enrolled as full-time undergraduate or full-time graduate students. Annually thereafter, the Directors shall meet to select and appoint one student trustee for a term of two years in accordance with the provisions of this section. The Directors shall fill any vacancy occurring among the student trustee members upon the expiration of the term of office of any of them or otherwise. A student shall be eligible to serve as a ~~Trustee~~ trustee, provided the student is a full-time undergraduate or full-time graduate student matriculating in accordance with the degree qualifications and requirements established by the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College and ~~if~~ the student remains in that status throughout

the length of the term of office. The term of office of a ~~Student Trustee~~ student trustee shall begin on March 1 following the date of appointment, and the term of office shall end the last day of February in the year of expiration. Any student elected hereunder shall have reached ~~the age of~~ 18 years of age.

One member shall be faculty or staff employed by the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College and elected by the faculty and staff to a six-year term expiring on August 1. The Faculty Senate shall oversee all trustee elections under this subdivision, which shall be open to all faculty and staff. Vacancies for any cause shall be filled through an election, and the term of the person so elected shall expire on the next following August 1.

All ~~Trustees~~ trustees so appointed and elected as hereinbefore provided, shall, together with ~~his or her Excellency~~, the Governor of the State, and the President, who shall be, ex officio, a member, constitute an entire Board of Trustees of the corporation known as the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, who shall have the entire management and control of its property and affairs, and in all things relating thereto, except in the elections to fill vacancies, as aforesaid, shall act together jointly, as one entire Board of Trustees; ~~provided;~~ provided; that all future elections or appointments to the Board of Trustees shall be made with special reference to preventing any religious denominational preponderance in the Board. The Board shall annually, at its

first regular meeting after the election of new trustees, elect one of its members to serve as Chair.

Sec. 11. TRANSITION

On or before August 1, 2022, new members of the Board of Trustees of the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College shall be appointed or elected under Sec. 10 of this act.

Sec. 12. EFFECTIVE DATES

Secs. 1 and 2 shall take effect on July 1, 2023, and Secs. 3–6, 7–11 (VSC and UVM Board of Trustees), and this section shall take effect on passage.

And that after passage the title of the bill be amended to read:

An act relating to the Vermont State Colleges and the University of Vermont and State Agricultural College.