



The University of Vermont

Senator Brian Campion
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

April 13, 2022

Dear Senator Campion,

We write to you today in response to the conversations the University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges System have participated in with the Senate Education Committee regarding S.248. We appreciate the opportunity your committee provided us to speak on issues related to board governance and structure, and student, faculty, and staff communication and input.

As noted, UVM is very proud of our commitment to shared governance on campus, and we are pleased to assist the Vermont State Colleges System as it transitions to a new governance paradigm as an integral part of their transformation process. The Vermont State Colleges are proud of the open dialogue, stakeholder engagement, and transparent processes established as a fundamental tenet of transformation and will be examining further collaboration and communication as transformation progresses. As you are aware, the University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges System maintain many productive joint partnerships, and the issue of effective board governance is another area ripe for collaboration.

We also have heard the comments from your committee regarding the need for robust communication with our campus constituencies regarding the work of our Boards of Trustees. To that end, the University of Vermont and the Vermont State Colleges System would like to proactively engage in internal processes that will identify and advance methods of communications to ensure that any interested parties on our campuses are made aware of the critical work our trustees carry out and have ample opportunity for input. We also will highlight avenues for communication with our boards that currently exist, but may be underutilized. We jointly propose creating such a report to return to the Senate and House Committees on Education by December 15, 2022, with an interim report due September 15, 2022, and with the goal of enhancing our already robust governing structures and increasing transparency for all.

We thank you for your work with us on this issue, and look forward to hearing from your committee.

Sincerely,

Wendy L. Koenig
Director of Federal and State Relations, UVM

Katherine Levasseur
Director of External and Governmental Affairs, VSC