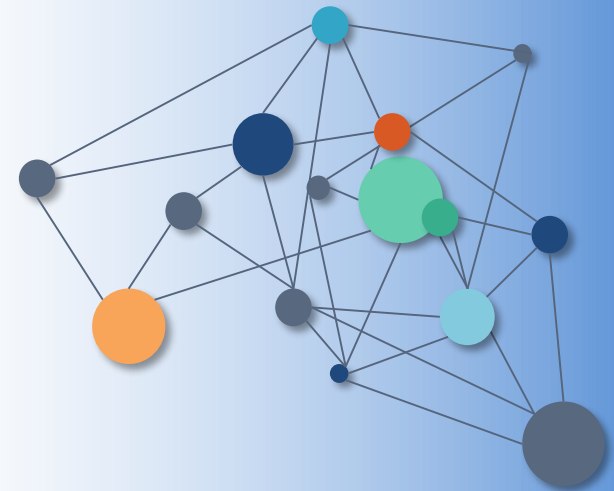


The Future of Higher Education in Vermont Select Committee Meeting NOTES

September 21, 2020



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Question 2

2. In the interests of trying to assess the extent of a shared vision for postsecondary education in Vermont among Select Committee members, what are the two or three most important ways in which public postsecondary education should serve the state?
 - Make programs Accessible, (very) Affordable, and Workforce Relevant to students of all ages in all parts of the State—on-campus and via a robust online infrastructure
 - Create education, social, and economic opportunity for low income Vermonters
 - Increase rate of college participation
 - Integrate students into the state’s workforce
 - Contribute to the economic and cultural vitality of the state
 - Attract and retain talent (especially among younger population)



Question 2: Additions as a result of 9/21 Select Committee Meeting

Include success, not just access—students who enter PSE should depart with a credential of value

Reflect the importance of guided career pathways

Include a definition of Postsecondary Education

- Credentials included
- The range of individuals who can be considered PSE students
- Include displaced workers



Question 3

3. What are the topics with which the Committee's report must deal believing that failure to do so would a) avoid the key questions or b) leave the Committee open to charges that it ducked the key questions?
- Workforce relevance and strategies to integrate new workers (e.g., internships)
 - Address costs and funding/sustainability of VSC
 - Coordination of services—including linkages with PK-12
 - Innovative delivery (physical vs. virtual capacity), responsiveness
 - Nature of any consolidations/necessary structural changes; relationships between VSC and UVM
 - Address poor performance issues in terms of student success rates
 - Stem the tide of population loss
 - Affordability for students and taxpayers—a credible plan to bring tuition below the national average
 - Program accessibility for all students—physical campus in each corner of State
 - The urgency of change
 - Dedicated source of revenue from state



Question 3: Additions as a Result of 9/21 Select Committee Meeting

- Recognize that Vermont is a state of small employers. Redefine “internships” to include workplace-based learning opportunities consistent with that reality
- Ensure that linkages with PK-12 pay special attention to the development of foundational skills needed for college success
- Recognize that college is an option throughout life, not just as the next step for recent high school grads
- Make clear the value of PSE—not just the costs—to
 - Students
 - Community
 - Employers



Question 4

4. Are there other, minor topics that, although they don't rise to the level of key issues, have been circulating for years and need to be addressed in order to a) clear the air for attention to the larger issues or b) have important stakeholders feel that the Committee had done its job?
 - Appointments of the right people to governing boards and leadership positions
 - Priority of funding higher education vs. other social services
 - Portability of VSAC aid
 - Duplication of programs
 - Role of early college programs and dual enrollment
 - Partnerships with companies to create synergies between programs and workforce needs.



Question 4: Additions as a Result of 9/21 Select Committee Meeting

- Not just duplication of programs, but absence of programs
- Equity issues have to be addressed with regard to dual enrollment/early college programs
- Catalog the barriers to success
 - Example was barriers to production of nursing graduates
- Develop a map of needs of the state and providers responding to those needs
 - Multiple funding sources supporting different providers—workforce funding programs, for example
 - Adult CTE as PSE programs



Question 5

5. Are there topics that should NOT be addressed—addressing them will poison the well for dealing effectively with the most critical issues facing Vermont higher education?
- Social equity issues distracting from the main focus on a better way to delivery postsecondary education
 - Institutional closure
 - Reducing the role played by unions and collective bargaining
 - Portability of VSAC aid
 - Merger of VSC and UVM
 - Assuming too broad a charge—looking at issues beyond the future of VSC



Question 6

6. What fear(s) do you have for what might emerge from this Select Committee's work? In your opinion, what outcomes would be detrimental?
- Maintaining the status quo; doing nothing; making recommendations that aren't bold enough
 - Recommendations that do not reduce the cost of attendance
 - Reinforcing the focus on a traditional four-year degree as the only measure of success
 - Restating already known issues (whining about demographic and economic realities)
 - Lack of a clear implementation plan and follow-up inaction
 - A focus on in-state High School students to the exclusion of potential out-of-state students and adults
 - Recommendations that would lead to institutional closure(s)
 - Recommendations that focus on preserving physical locations



Question 6: Additions as a Result of 9/21 Select Committee Meeting

Failure to alter the charge/mission statement of VSC to reflect the future requirements of the state

Not coordinating Select Committee work with VSC Board efforts to rethink System mission

