

To: Vermont State College System Communities  
From: Chancellor Sophie Zdatny  
Re: **Transformation Update #7**  
Date: July 5, 2021

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Dear Vermont State Colleges Community,

This is the seventh of our regular transformation updates to you. The prior updates, along with additional information about the transformation process can be found on the VSCS website at [www.vsc.edu/transformation](http://www.vsc.edu/transformation).

## **PROJECT MANAGEMENT: LAUNCHING TRANSFORMATION TEAMS**

Starting the week of July 12th, we will be kicking off the first two cross-functional Transformation teams, **Student Experience** and **Academic Operations**.<sup>1</sup> These teams will help to define the student learning, support, and engagement processes for the new university and will provide recommendations for how to support these processes with technology. Students will be at the center of how we think about our offerings, access, and learning and feedback from students will also be collected throughout the process. We will engage in discovery and design with an eye towards best practices, and the programs, processes, and practices we develop will serve as the foundation for our future.

Each of the core process areas will have a Core Team that will lead the cross-functional work and coordination, and then the Core Teams will be supported by other sub-teams and workgroups to provide functional and institutional expertise. Here is some high-level information about the first teams which will be launching:

### **I. Core Process Area: Student Experience**

#### **Team Purpose:**

The purpose of this team is to help define the future student experience across all functional areas - how we want to interact with and support students outside of the classroom – and how we support this experience with processes, data, and systems.

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<sup>1</sup> Other core process teams are planned for administrative consolidation and workforce development.

**Core Team:**

- Team Lead – Maurice Ouimet (CU)
- Admissions/Enrollment – Victoria Dutcher (NVU)
- Marketing – Amanda Chaulk (VTC)
- Financial Aid – Matt Couture (CU)
- Student/Resident Life – Jason Enser (VTC)
- External Relations – Katherine Levasseur (OC)
- IT/Registrar Ops – Doug Eastman (OC)
- Project Manager - Wilson Garland (OC)
- Financial Analyst - TBD
- Business and Process Analyst - TBD
- Business Intelligence Manager - TBD

**Sub-Teams and Workgroups:**

- Admissions and Enrollment
- Alumni and Development
- Athletics
- Branding Identity
- Brand Launch/Marketing Ops
- Financial Aid Operations
- Registrar Operations
- Student/Residence Life

**II. Core Process Area: Academic Operations**

**Team Purpose:**

The purpose of this team is to help define how we provide the academic learning experience, as well as student academic support across all functional areas that interact with students as part of their learning.

**Core Team:**

- Team Lead – Yasmine Ziesler (OC)
- Academic Programs - Nolan Atkins (NVU)
- Student Success – Kelley Beckwith (CU)
- Career Services – Amy Wright (NVU)
- Faculty - John Kidder (VTC)
- Teaching & Learning – Chris Boettcher (CU)

- IT – Kellie Campbell (acad. systems) (OC)
- Project Manager – Wilson Garland (OC)
- IR/Accreditation/Assessment - TBD
- Library Director - TBD
- Financial Analyst
- Business and Process Analyst

### **Sub-Teams and Workgroups:**

- Academic Programs
- Academic Support/ADA/Advising
- Career Services
- General Education
- Institutional Research
- Libraries
- Teaching & Learning Innovation

### **GET YOUR TRANSFORMATION QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

#### *Weekdays with Wilson: Your Transformation Virtual Office-Hours*

Over the next several weeks, there will be multiple opportunities to attend an informal and informational virtual session with Wilson Garland, the Director of Transformation Projects. If you have questions about Transformation and how the work will be organized or you have ideas or suggestions about things that should be considered during the transformation effort, these sessions are for you.

#### **Schedule:**

Tuesday, July 20th, 10:00am <https://vsc.zoom.us/j/85761503744>

Thursday, July 22nd, 2:00pm <https://vsc.zoom.us/j/81146599506>

Wednesday, July 28th, 11:00am <https://vsc.zoom.us/j/85688557676>

Friday, July 30th, 10:00am <https://vsc.zoom.us/j/86253521140>

### **IN BRIEF**

- The work of the **Academic Program Optimization Working Groups** is well underway, following an initial Kickoff meeting on June 24<sup>th</sup> and a curriculum optimization workshop on June 29<sup>th</sup>. The Working Groups will be executing work plans and developing optimization proposals over the next few weeks.

- Work is also underway by the leaders of the four Faculty Assemblies to set up a **Faculty Governance Planning Group** to develop a cross-campus approval process for the academic changes coming out of the summer academic program optimization work, as well as creating a faculty governance model for the new university.

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

August 4<sup>th</sup> – Board of Trustees Meeting

August 19<sup>th</sup> – Education, Personnel, and Student Life Committee Meeting

August 23<sup>rd</sup> – Finance and Facilities Committee Meeting

September 13<sup>th</sup> – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Meeting

September 20-21<sup>st</sup> – Board of Trustees Annual Retreat

Additional information about Board and Committee meetings, including information on how to access the meetings may be found [here](#).

## PUBLIC INPUT

We will continue to solicit broad input as our transformation continues. **We encourage you to share your feedback at [this link](#)**. Additionally, we will continue accepting public comments at Board and Committee meetings and will post regular updates on our [Transformation page](#). The feedback received through the transformation page survey link is posted publicly each month on the transformation page.

I will continue to keep you updated as the transformation process unfolds. I welcome your ongoing feedback and input. Thank you for engagement in this critical work.

With kind regards,

Sophie