

To: Vermont State College System Communities
From: Chancellor Sophie Zdatny
Re: **Transformation Update #24**
Date: February 28, 2022

Dear Vermont State Colleges Community,

Today's update hits some of the many highlights of the ongoing transformation work. As a reminder, the new Transformation website is now live (see <https://transformation.vsc.edu/>) and is a good resource for information on transformation.

UPDATES FROM PROJECT TEAMS

Message from the Student Experience Team

The Admissions and Financial Aid teams met this past week at Vermont Tech-Randolph to spend some time together to plan for the future. The number one priority for both teams is to provide the best experience for our students. Conversations focused on designing services for Vermont State University that build on the current strengths of these areas and how to best align these services with the needs of all students, regardless of their location or learning modality. In addition to great conversations, it was nice to see colleagues come together across our campuses to meet in person. Some were meeting each other face to face for the first time!

An extra big thank you to the many faculty have already taken the time to respond to the call from the Admissions and Marketing teams for their program highlights and talking points! The list and content is impressive and we look forward to receiving the remainder of the responses in the coming days. Please know how much this information is appreciated. Thank you!!

Message from the Brand Launch and Marketing Operations Sub-Team

The Brand Launch and Marketing Operations Sub-Team is in the early stages of turning planning into action for an exciting brand launch to:

1. Build awareness and generate excitement for Vermont State University; and
2. Ensure continued healthy enrollment for our communities.

Coming soon, be on the lookout for ways you can continue to participate and contribute to our new Vermont State University as we launch in social media, in the news, at events and other ways to engage.

In addition, we have released a Request for Proposals for creation of the Vermont State University website. See [here](#). The deadline for responses is Friday, March 4. We are seeking a firm to create a fully responsive, mobile-first, and ADA-compliant website. A committee composed of a cross-section of campus stakeholders will select a website developer in the coming weeks.

Message from the Academic Operations Team

Faculty are involved in numerous areas of work, including:

1. Preparing information for Admissions for optimized programs for Vermont State University;
2. Planning for curriculum reviews;
3. Designing the details of the Vermont State University Connections General Education program; and
4. Reviewing academic organization models for the new university at this month's Faculty Assemblies.

In addition, over 40 faculty have expressed preliminary interest in participating in the f2f+ pilot. The Teaching & Learning Innovation sub-team continues its planning work on the pilot.

Message from the Administrative Operations Team

The Administrative Operations team is preparing for a discovery stage gate meeting with the Alumni & Development sub-team. The Alumni and Development team has completed its initial discovery work and produced their initial design principles. The team anticipates completing its the stage gate meeting with Project Sponsors and stakeholders in late March.

The Business Planning Team has completed initial discovery on two of their four primary deliverables. Initial discovery for the remaining deliverables is planned for late March with the discovery stage gate presentation to follow.

The Employee Services Team continues to actively work on discovery items. The team has identified a long list of deliverables and is slowly working their way through the materials.

Message from the Information Technology Sub-team

Colleague Merger and Consulting Work – our engagement with Ferrilli, supporting our business process review (BPR) and foundational work in our Colleague system, is underway. We have teams working through their BPR sessions and we have a kick-off meeting this week with our 60+ colleagues that will be involved in this project this week. You can find more information, including membership on this project team [here](#).

Academic Scheduling - An RFP has been issued for software to support Academic Scheduling for Vermont State University, with a deadline for proposals of April 8, 2022. See [here](#). A course scheduling working group within the Academic Programs sub-team will serve as the core of the selection committee. In issuing the RFP we are looking for not only a tool that will facilitate the processes for submission of the course offerings to registrars for scheduling, but one that prioritizes demand-based course scheduling practices to ensure that students have access to the courses they need at their location, including online. Past scheduling practices have been largely based on rolling over past terms' offerings and making minor adjustments. As we seek to assure student success and financial sustainability in the creation of the new institution, we must take a data driven approach to course scheduling and cannot rely on copying over past schedules at our institutions to project the course offering needs of the new university.

STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Council convened again on Thursday, February 24th, this time to discuss advising and academic support. Members of the Advising and Academic Support Sub-Team attended and presented some initial design work related to the future advising model for Vermont State University to collect feedback, and they also engaged in some discovery work related to academic support. In particular, the students offered some insights into how they define student success and what types of services and supports they find valuable in supporting their success. The discussion confirmed that different types of students need different options for advising and support, and that all students could benefit from more or better information about what services or offerings were available. Further details about what was covered can be found at [Student Advisory Council – VSCS Transformation](#).

UPCOMING BOARD AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Agenda and meeting materials for upcoming meetings are posted [here](#).

March 7, 2022, at 2:00 p.m.	Finance and Facilities Committee (Zoom)
March 7, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee (Zoom)
March 19, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.	Regular Board Meeting (Zoom)
March 21, 2022, at 1:00 p.m.	Education, Personnel & Student Life Committee (Zoom)

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

Feedback

If you would like to submit your thoughts regarding the ongoing system transformation or offer suggestions to a specific team, please send your questions or comments to VSC-Transformation@vsc.edu, and we will make sure it gets to the right place. This email address is monitored twice a week.

With kind regards,
Sophie