



**VASFAA Fall Business Meeting Minutes**  
**Monday October 14, 2019**  
**CCV Montpelier**

**Call to Order** at 12:15pm by Melaney Wald, VASFAA President

**Attendees (Quorum)**

- |                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Champlain College               | Mary Miller  |
| 2. Community College of Vermont    | Ryan Dulude, Conner Gilbert, Melissa Theis<br>Michael Griffith, Rebecca Divelbliss |
| 3. Goddard College                 | Shannon Trainor, Beverly Jene  |
| 4. Norwich University              | Stephanie Doherty, Jennifer Tosi   |
| 5. Springfield College             | Allene Begley Curto  |
| 6. University of Vermont           | Laurie Fay, Renee Blanchet, Matt DeSorgher   |
| 7. Vermont Student Assistance Corp | Melaney Wald, Deborah Lessor, Linda Thatcher<br>Marilyn Cargill, Marcia Corey      |
| 8. Vermont Technical College       | Cathy McCullough   |

Ice Breaker/ Introductions

**President's Update** – Melaney Wald

**By-Laws Committee**

- Hard at work editing our current By-Laws.
- Discussion regarding the proposed edits:
  - Ryan Dulude explained that a one-year Presidential term is the norm for most, if not all, State Associations.
  - Deborah Lessor asked about the wording regarding 'June Elections' versus 'At the Annual Conference'. This gives the Association the flexibility to not hold an Annual Summer Conference if that is the decision.
  - Marilyn Cargill asked why the 'Treasurer-elect' didn't have a vote. Due to the possibility of needing a tiebreaker.
- The By-Laws Committee is reviewing topics for the future.



- Amendments to the By-laws must be sent to each voting member at least fifteen days before the vote is called by the Executive Committee. Following this timeframe, we will move forward:
  - The President will send an email vote to the Association the week of 10/21/2019
  - Request for nominations by November 4, 2019 for President-elect.
  - The nomination/voting process should be concluded by Thanksgiving.
  - The term will start immediately.
  - The President-elect will become the new President in June 2020.

#### **Website Committee**

- Lynda Ossola and Ryan Gates have been working on bringing the website current and making it more of a resource for its members.
- If you have any ideas, please contact Lynda Ossola-UVM or Ryan Gates-UVM.

#### **Conference Committee**

- Renee Blanchet is currently alone as a Co-Chair of the Conference Committee.
- We need volunteers to step up to assist.
- Renee shared a proposal regarding an Annual Conference versus more Associate Member-Hosted Training/Meeting Days. See attached.

Discussion regarding the proposal:

- Matt DeSorgher questioned
  - what 'Overwhelming desire for change and more school involvement' meant in regard to the dissatisfaction of Vendors on the Conference Evaluations
  - suggested we should consider sole sponsorship versus having two vendor-sponsors
- Allene Curto asked if the concept of a 2-day conference would remain open for future review because it benefits schools (not a reason not to move forward with recommendation for one day training events.)
  - If we move to a one-day event we would need to work on achieving acceptable attendance to meet sponsor expectations.
  - Melaney could follow up with vendors at the NH and MA conferences to get some feedback that could be used.
- Ryan Dulude thought it was a great idea and we need to move in this direction
- Marilyn Cargill wondered if this would be taking the place of the current Business Meetings-but based on our By-Laws we would still need to hold those meetings
- Renee was tasked with doing some additional research with our Associate Members/Vendors for ideas/information.



### **Summer 2019 Conference Meeting Minutes**

No discussion

Motion to accept by Marilyn Cargill

Second by Renee Blanchet

Approved unanimously

### **Treasurer's Report**

Presented by Laurie Fay

- Final 2018-2019 Budget
- Draft Budget for 2019-2020

No discussion

Motion to accept by Ryan Dulude

Second by Allene Begley Curto

Approved unanimously

### **EASFAA Council Update – Ryan Dulude**

- Membership has gone from 800 to 1300 since last year
- The next EASFAA Conference scheduled for May 3, 2020 – May 6, 2020 to be held at the Manchester, NH Doubletree hotel.
- EASFAA has a new model/vendor for their website which should be up and running by the end of October 2019.
- EASFAA has a Long-range Strategic Plan which we can view on the website
- Reminder-Renee Blanchet is on the 'Tuesdays at 2 trainings' Committee. If anyone has ideas, please contact the Committee

### **New Business:**

- We will be using the web-based platform 'Zoom' for trainings.
- On **November 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm** join the discussion regarding 'FA Award Letters/Offers' in a Round-table format.
- Details coming soon!

**Meeting Closed** by Melaney Wald at 1:17pm.

**Respectfully Submitted** by Laurie Fay-UVM VASFAA Treasurer on behalf of Lisa Cummings-St. Michaels College VASFAA Secretary