

April 19, 2020

To the Vermont State Colleges System Board of Trustees,

The Northern Vermont University Faculty Assemblies agree that in light of current realities and ongoing underfunding of the Vermont State Colleges System a thorough remodeling of that system is crucial. However, the Chancellor's proposal is not a visionary solution: it is a retreat.

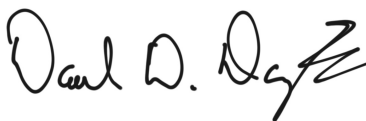
Vermonters have been given a proposal that does not reflect the monumental complexities involved in moving academic programs and students from Northern Vermont University to Castleton, or of closing campuses. Implementing the proposal would decimate the already economically stressed northern tier of our state; deny practical access for rural Vermonters to institutions granting four year-liberal arts and professional degree programs; sabotage the academic progress of thousands of students already enrolled in NVU and the Randolph campus of VTC; and dump at least 500 more Vermonters into the ranks of the unemployed. This is not a bold, visionary solution. It is a shortsighted massacre with lasting and irrevocable consequences.

To avoid these consequences, we need the opportunity to develop collectively a workable solution. VSCS faculty, staff and students, state legislators, and the people of Vermont could well provide valuable contributions to that effort.

You would do far better to reject the Chancellor's proposal and to convene a working group of relevant stakeholders to create and present sustainable solutions to support the VSCS as we enter this new chapter of the 21st century. Chancellor Spaulding has repeatedly spoken of the need to "save the corporation." Apparently, he is intent on doing so at the expense of the Vermonters to whom he is obligated to serve.



Tyrone Shaw, Chair, NVU-Johnson Faculty Assembly
On behalf of the NVU-Johnson Faculty Assembly



Daniel Daley, Chair, NVU-Lyndon Faculty Assembly
On behalf of the NVU-Lyndon Faculty Assembly