

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

As a response to the faculty and staff cuts from the recent Optimization 2.0 decisions, the VTSU Student Government Associations at Castleton, Johnson, Lyndon and Randolph, excluding the Castleton President, have chosen to submit a **vote of no confidence** in the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees (excluding the Student Trustee), the Vermont State University Office of the President, and the Vice President of Business Affairs. The attached document shows the official vote, which was submitted to each of the parties who received a vote of no confidence.

WHAT THIS MEANS:

The SGAs at Castleton, Johnson, Lyndon, and Randolph do not believe that the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees (excluding the Student Trustee), the VTSU President, and the Vice President of Business Affairs have the best interest of students in mind when making important decisions regarding essential staff and faculty on our campuses. We understand that cuts need to be made throughout the system in order to return to financial stability. However, the cuts that have been made through Optimization 2.0 are not in the best interest of the students, as they include crucial student-facing personnel on each campus. As we represent each member of the student body, we are expressing to each of the parties listed above that they have failed to meet the needs of our student bodies across the Castleton, Johnson, Lyndon, and Randolph campuses.

WHY EXCLUDE THE STUDENT TRUSTEE/CASTLETON PRESIDENT?:

Castleton SGA President Perry Ragouzis also serves as the Student Trustee to the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees. When the vote was cast by the Vermont State Colleges Board of Trustees to accept the proposed transformation report for the changes in the administrative staffing structure of Vermont State University, the vote was cast as follows: 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention. **Perry abstained from taking part in the vote. Perry has been a vital force in advocating for student concerns throughout the Optimization 2.0 and entire VTSU Transformation process. This has shown each SGA that Perry truly has the best interests of our students at heart when representing us.** Perry has remained out of the conversations regarding this vote, due to his role as the Student Trustee, and thus he (the Castleton President) has not been included in casting the vote of no confidence.

Each SGA is beyond frustrated with the actions taken to cut essential staff and incredible faculty from our campuses. It has been beyond disappointing to see the needs of our student body be constantly overlooked throughout this transformation process, and we will not sit and allow it to unfold. We ask the entirety of the VTSU student body to join us as we continue to **respectfully** advocate against Optimization 2.0 as the plan for our future.

For any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the vote, please contact any of your student leaders that you know on your campus, or contact the Chairperson of each SGA that voted on the decision, whose names are listed below:

Castleton: Executive Vice President Adsel Sparrow

Johnson: President Emily Carchia

Randolph: President Gabriel Wilkinson

Lyndon: President Alberto Bustamante

We stand with you, and won't let your voices go unheard.

Sincerely,

VTSU Castleton Student Government Association

VTSU Johnson Student Government Association

VTSU Randolph Student Government Association

VTSU Lyndon Student Government Association