

**VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
***ANNUAL MEETING***  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION**  
**Monday, October 2, 2023 – 10:15 A.M. (EDT)**  
**Vincennes University Learning Resource Center**  
**Innovation Room #112**  
**130 E. College Avenue**  
**Vincennes, IN 47591**

**Members Present:**

**Others Present:**

## CALL TO ORDER

### SWEARING IN OF NEW TRUSTEE

OATH TO SERVE AS TRUSTEE  
OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FOR THE VINCENNES UNIVERSITY

[illegible]

I, Gayle Baugh, being duly sworn upon my oath say that I will support the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Indiana, and that I will honestly and faithfully discharge my duties as a member of the Board of Trustees for The Vincennes University to the best of my skill and ability. So help me God.

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Gayle E. Baugh

Subscribed and sworn before me, a Notary Public for Knox County, Indiana, this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2023.

My Commission expires:  
5/27/2031

Brent Stuckey, Notary Public  
residing in Knox County, Indiana

## ROLL CALL

Nancy Irwin called the roll. A quorum was declared with 11 Trustees present.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the 8-23-23 Executive Session and Regular Session had been distributed. With no questions from the Board, Chair Stachura requested a motion be made to approve the minutes. Trustee Mike Sievers made a motion to approve the minutes and Trustee Rick Schach seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and there were 11 yeas and 0 nays, with the minutes passing unanimously.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chair Stachura stated to the Board that he would be stepping down as the Chair but will continue to serve as a Trustee on the Board. He expressed his appreciation and thanks to his fellow Board members, President Johnson, the Executive Team, and Nancy Irwin for all of their help and support through the years. Mr. Stachura also acknowledged Trustee J.R. Gaylor for all his great work as Board Chair in the past, and that he hoped he had done just as great of a job serving as Chair as Trustee Gaylor had done. Mr. Stachura also gave a special recognition to Marcia Martinez for all of her great work in writing the press releases for the University.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

### **PERSONNEL & NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:**

#### **Election of Board Chair**

Committee Chair Rick Schach commended Trustee Stachura for his many years of great work as Chair of the Board. Committee Chair Schach reported that the Personnel & Nominating Committee had met and brought forth a recommendation to elect Mike Sievers as the new Chair for the Board of Trustees.

### **MOTION # 23-13**

Committee Chair Schach made a motion to approve and Trustee Don Villwock seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 10 yeas and 0 nays, with Trustee Mike Sievers abstaining from the vote.

Trustee Stachura turned the meeting over to newly elected Chair, Mike Sievers. Chair Sievers thanked the Board for their support and echoed Trustee Stachura's comments regarding Trustee Gaylor's past leadership as Chair, and also praised Mr. Stachura for his years of service as Board Chair as well.

## **REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP**

### **Report from Student Government Association (SGA) and Campus Activities Board (CAB)**

Marissa Bradley, President of Student Government Association, and Olivia Steward, Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator for Campus Activities Board shared an overview of the important role and support both of these organizations bring to the students.

Student Government Association (SGA):

- A student led group which provides an outlet for students to address their ideas, concerns, and observations about important matters on campus.
- The group also serves as the main point of contact for the clubs and organizations on campus. The SGA president meets with President Johnson regularly to discuss student perspectives and observations.
- The hometown and major of study for each of the SGA officers were also highlighted.

Campus Activities Board (CAB):

- A student led advisory board which provides entertaining and educational events for students. These events are designed to elevate the student's experience during their time at Vincennes University.
- Communication strategies were highlighted, such as social media, flyers, and various digital boards across campus.
- The various ways the group serves the community throughout the year are by supporting local charities, pet food drive, Welcome Week, and Parent and Family weekend.
- Upcoming events include a Halloween party with the academic deans, Homecoming, Holiday Tree Lighting, Spring Fling, and the Eclipse 2024 party.
- The hometown and major of study for each of the CAB officers were also highlighted.

### **Annual Update for VU Foundation**

Kristi Deetz, VU Foundation Director and Senior Director of Institutional Advancement, and Leslie Kidwell, Director of Development, presented an update from the Foundation. Some of the highlights of the past year include:

- 83% increase in contributions to the Vincennes University Foundation since 2018 – excluding large one-time grants. These include increases in giving through companies, foundations, estates, and individual contributions of over \$10,000.
- Annual Funds (Children of Alumni, License Plates, Friends of the Arts, VU Society, Blazers Give Fund) also saw increases, totaling over \$46,400.00.
- Average gift amounts also increased, from \$408 in 2018 to \$900 in the end of fiscal year 2023.

- Growth in new donors stemmed from increased outreach through projects such as the PCI Project, Blazers Give Day utilizing Give Campus, and overall peer-to-peer fundraising.
- Blazers Give Day will be April 4, 2024, with plans to expand in Jasper.
- The Blazers Give Fund provided \$190,000 in housing scholarships for the current school year.
- \$1.2 million dollars has been given to university students in scholarships, with an average award of \$2,087 with 505 students impacted.

Opportunities looking ahead include:

- Major gifts from individuals and corporations
- Endowments
- In-Kind Gifts
- Planned Giving
- Alumni Engagement
  - Data Projects
  - Processes
  - Communications
  - Programming

### **Updates on Academic and Student Affairs**

Provost Laura Treanor presented an overview of activities and priorities taking place in the following areas within Instructional Services:

- Dual Credit organization and structure
- Realignment of Distance Education
- Online Education Consultant
- Hybrid and Online Learning Development
- Blackboard Ultra Pilot
- Center of Advancement for Faculty Excellence (CAFÉ)
- Academic Department Chair role
- Circle In
- Academic Impressions
- Leadership Lunch and Learn
- Focus on Inclusive Practices
- Innovation

### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

- The President thanked Chair Stachura for his many years of dedicated service to the Board, and extended his congratulations to Mike Sievers on being elected Chair. The President also congratulated Gayle Baugh on being re-appointed as Student Trustee, and to Trustees J.R. Gaylor, Rick Schach, and Don Villwock for their re-appointments as well.
- The President also thanked all of the presenters who shared great information and exciting things taking place with the University and Foundation.
- For the second year in a row, the Homeland Security and Public Safety program ranked number one in the nation as the best Bachelor's Degree program by Intelligent.com. The President thanked Dean Susan Brocksmith and Program Chair and Professor Lou Caprino for all their great work.
- The President thanked the Admissions team and Gary Swegan for all their hard work in preparing for various group campus visits.
- The second Pre VU Day for the fall semester will take place on Friday.
- The President thanked Institutional Research and Government and Legal Affairs personnel for all their work on a recent special request from the legislature for a major data report.
- Congratulations was given to Jennifer Holscher for a special note of commendation she received from IPEDS for her exceptional work in submitting the University's IPEDS survey ahead of the deadline.
- The President updated the Board on several initiatives regarding faculty and staff:
  - Hybrid/Remote work option continued
  - Summer hours program piloted over the summer
  - Working with Faculty Senate to find options for flexible hybrid work options as well
- Through NEOED we have a better way to track our applicant pool, but the DEI Council subcommittee on Faculty and Staff Diversity is also looking to find ways to better diversify the pool of qualified applicants we have.
- A report is expected soon from NFP regarding the compensation study.
- Work will soon begin again regarding an onboarding consultant, Purple Ink.

- The President's Advisory Committee will begin meeting again this week and provides an opportunity for committee members to learn more about key issues within the institution, as well as bring issues to the President that may need addressed.
- Work continues with Yard & Company on the Lilly Endowment's *College and Community Connections Grant*, with the four main areas of focus on housing, childcare, quality of place, and Ag Tech.
- Earlier this year, Vincennes University received a planning grant, *Advancing Science of Reading in Indiana*, from the Lilly Endowment. Faculty in our Education Department have been working to develop a plan for grant monies to help with our programming, as well as helping educators in our region of the state.
- The Scholarship and Donor Appreciation breakfast was recently held. The President acknowledged Gayle Baugh and Melody Winfrey for their fantastic presentations at the event.
- The Alumni Community Series began their new season last month, with the first concert featuring the Texas Tenors.
- Parent and Family weekend took place last month on the Vincennes campus.
- Vincennes University was recently a lead sponsor for the Indiana Association for Career and Technical Education luncheon in Indianapolis. The President spoke at the event and was a great opportunity to interact with our career and technical education partners from around the state.
- President Johnson also participated in a higher education panel at the Mitch Daniels Leadership Foundation event in Evansville last month.
- The President reported on several events taking place on October 12<sup>th</sup>:
  - President Johnson will participate in a higher education panel at the Indiana Fiscal Policy annual luncheon
  - AAR will hold an event at our Aviation Technology Center
  - The Alumni Association will hold a reception at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum
- President Johnson reported he will be departing for a trip to China on October 13<sup>th</sup> to meet with some of our education partners, several alumni from Hong Kong, and some students who are currently enrolled in our online cohort. This will be his first trip back to China since 2019.

#### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the Regular Session adjourned at 11:35 a.m. (EDT).

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J.R. Gaylor, Secretary

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John Stachura, Chair