

**VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
Wednesday, August 23, 2023 – 10:15 a.m. (EDT)  
Vincennes University Jasper Campus  
Center for Technology, Innovation and Manufacturing  
961 College Avenue – Room 226/227  
Jasper, Indiana 47546**

**Members Present:**

John Stachura, Chair  
Gayle Baugh, Student Trustee (Zoom)  
Darrel Bobe (Zoom)  
Scott Brand (Zoom)  
Jeff Cochren  
J.R. Gaylor (Zoom)  
Reggie Henderson  
Chuck Johnson, President  
Greg Parsley  
Rick Schach (Zoom)  
Mike Sievers  
Don Villwock

**Others Present:**

Brent Stuckey, Attorney for the Board  
Nancy Irwin, Record Clerk for the Board  
Laura Treanor, Provost (Zoom)  
David Tucker, Vice President, Workforce Development/  
Community Services  
Tim Eaton, Vice President, Financial Services (Zoom)  
Tony Hahn, Vice President, Government and Legal Affairs

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair John Stachura called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. (EDT) in Room 226/227 of the Center for Technology, Innovation, and Manufacturing (CTIM) Building, 961 College Avenue, Jasper, Indiana. Chair Stachura announced an amendment to the agenda was made to reflect the swearing in of a new trustee.

## SWEARING IN OF NEW TRUSTEE

University Attorney, Brent Stuckey, administered the following Oath to Serve as Trustee to Jeff Cochren:

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

**STATE OF INDIANA     )**  
**COUNTY OF KNOX       )**

I, Jeff Cochren, 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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Jeff Cochren

Subscribed and sworn before me, a Notary Public for Knox County, Indiana, this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of August, 2023.

My Commission expires:  
5/27/2031

Brent Stuckey, Notary Public  
residing in Knox County, Indiana

Chair Stachura welcomed Trustee Cochren and asked him to share a bit about himself with the Board. Trustee Cochren shared he was appointed as the new Superintendent of South Knox School Corporation in July, and prior to that served as Assistant Principal and later Principal at Heritage Hills High School. He has been married to his wife, Kathy, for 36 years and is a father to three daughters, grandfather to three grandsons and that family is very important to him. He concluded that he is very excited for the opportunity to be a part of the VU Board.

## **ROLL CALL**

Nancy Irwin called the roll. A quorum was declared with 12 Trustees present.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the 6-14-23 Regular Session and 8-22-23 Finance/Revenue Committee meeting had been distributed. With no questions from the Board, Trustee Reggie Henderson made a motion to approve and Trustee Greg Parsley seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and there were 12 yeas and 0 nays, with the minutes passing unanimously.

## **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chair Stachura expressed appreciation to Trustees Don Villwock, Mike Sievers, and Reggie Henderson for all their work in preparing the information that was discussed in the Executive Session. He also thanked Dean Christian Blome and the Jasper Campus for being such great hosts and inviting the Board of Trustees to campus for the meetings today. Mr. Stachura also reported to the Board that he recently participated in the State Board of Accounts' Entrance meeting and stated that they will be sending out a questionnaire this week to each Board member. The Board members are not required to complete the questionnaire, but the State Board of Accounts would greatly appreciate participation from the Board members.

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

### **Finance/Revenue Committee**

Chair Stachura asked Committee Chair Mike Sievers to give an overview of the committee meeting that took place on Tuesday, August 22, 2023. Committee Chair Sievers reported that the committee met to review and approve the gift agreement between Lothian Skelton and the Vincennes University Foundation. The gift commitment of \$4 million will fund an expansion of the Red Skelton Museum of American Comedy located in the Red Skelton Performing Arts Center on the Vincennes Campus. The proposed 7,200-square-foot addition will feature gallery and event space, and will also give the museum additional space to showcase Red Skelton's artwork. The addition will also include a serving kitchen and more room for archives. A ceremonial groundbreaking is slated tentatively for October.

President Johnson also reported that this agreement is subject to various levels of approval, the first of which is the Board of Trustees. Even though the project is being funded by private funds, it will still need to go before the State Budget Committee for approval as well.

## **MOTION # 23-12**

With no further discussion from the Board, Committee Chair Sievers made a motion for the full board to approve the gift agreement, and Trustee Reggie Henderson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 12 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

## **REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP:**

**VU-Jasper Campus update** – Assistant Vice President & Dean, Christian Blome, shared information regarding exciting developments taking place at the Jasper Campus.

- Updates were given regarding Spring and Fall 2023 enrollment numbers.
- The Career Advancement Partnership (CAP) Program is a workforce development initiative with local manufacturing companies, and the Fall enrollment of 46 students is the largest number in program history. Students in this program learn high-demand technical maintenance skills with paid internships while enrolled at VU Jasper as full-time students earning associate degrees.
- Relationships within the community and region continue to grow and drive success for the Jasper Campus and its students, with a focus on meeting key workforce needs.
- Several updates have been completed in the Center for Technology, Innovation, and Manufacturing (CTIM) building, including upgrades to all computers in the Computer Aided Design (CAD) labs, and a complete redesign of the Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) trainers. The VU Jasper Foundation also invested in building out two new study rooms in the Academic Center for Excellence (ACE) in the Habig Building.
- Members of the Jasper Foundation were in attendance and were introduced.

Chair Stachura asked if the Jasper Campus and the Jasper Foundation were receiving the support they needed from the main campus. Both Dean Blome and Jasper Foundation Chair, Dan Fritch, both stated they receive tremendous support from personnel at the Vincennes Campus, as well as at the Foundation Office on the Vincennes Campus.

## **VU-Jasper Business & Industry Training Update**

John Tooley, Manager of Business & Industry, provided an update to the Board in the following areas:

- 307 employees and students participated in a variety of VU-Jasper Business & Industry classes for 2022-2023
- Level Up training with Masterbrand is a 6-month work and learn program

- Assesses current maintenance employee skills in mechanical, welding, and electrical areas
- Provides Smart Automation Certification Alliance (SACA) credentialing and testing
- Is a customized training program created to meet specific employer needs
- A wide variety of Business & Industry training options are available for the Fall 2023 schedule at VU-Jasper

### **Update on Enrollment**

President Johnson introduced Special Assistant to the President for Enrollment Management, Gary Swegan, to the Board. During Sarah McLin's maternity leave, Mr. Swegan will act as Director in Admissions. He brings to the position more than 30 years of admissions and enrollment management experience, and retired as an Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management at Youngstown State University in Ohio in 2019. Mr. Swegan shared the following information with the Board:

- Enrollment numbers in Distance Education, Aviation Technology Center, and American Sign Language were higher in the first week of the Fall 2023 semester compared to last Fall.
- 3,449+ visitors were hosted on campus during the Fall 2023 recruitment cycle. This number does not include the many camp attendees that were also on campus.
- StartVU had the highest average show rate in the last six years, and the highest individual event show rate in the last six years. This is in large part to new strategic communications through texting, email, phone calls, and following up with the "no shows."
- Mr. Swegan was excited to learn that the University is using the Customer Relationship Management software, Slate, and how beneficial this will be in elevating communications with prospective students.
- Bachelor Degree recruitment has improved over the past year by creating a website specific for Bachelor's Degrees, updating marketing material, increasing travel to transfer fairs, as well as increasing and enhancing partnerships with community colleges.
- Efforts continue to strengthen the Knox County Visit Days, Local Registration Days, and yearly application days at each Knox County school.
- As of August 14, 2023, we are seeing the highest enrollment in Early College numbers in the last seven years, with a concentrated focus on group visits, Early College Registration Day, and a new application process.
- 2024 Recruitment strategies and goals include continued events, such as Counselor Days, JAG Days, PreVU Days, Financial Aid Nights, and 1:1 Financial Aid appointments, as well as collaborations with camps, academics events, and other colleges.

### **Update on Assessment**

Matt Groneman, Director of Assessment, presented the following information to the Board.

- Assessment is a requirement for accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission, but is also an important and beneficial practice by the University for successful student outcomes.
- The University has six General Education outcomes that each student must achieve:
  - Engage in articulate expression through critical reading and effective written, oral, and digital communication
  - Apply quantitative reasoning and a variety of numeric data to solve problems in a variety of disciplines
  - Evaluate ethical behavior as an individual and as a member of local and global communities
  - Apply critical and creative thinking skills to solve problems
  - Integrate knowledge and perspectives of different disciplines to answer complex questions
  - Develop attitudes, values, and behaviors to interact ethically and responsibly with others in a culturally and socially diverse world
- The University also conducts program assessment in 81 distinct academic programs, and each academic program at VU determines 4-6 program learning outcomes.

### **Update on Performance Funding**

Tony Hahn, Vice President for Government and Legal Affairs, shared information with the Board regarding performance funding for Indiana.

- In the past, funding was focused on enrollment and credit hours, then the focus shifted toward degree completion and specific outcomes, and over the past decade, the focus being formula driven, with a focus on the state's goal of 60% of the population having a credential after high school.
- Previous metrics included:
  - Based on moving average changes
  - Only positive growth earned funding
  - Total dollars funded through reallocation and new state investment
- Previous metrics that were measured included:
  - Total number of degrees
  - At-Risk student completion
  - High-Impact completions (STEM)

- On-time graduation rate
- Student persistence
- Appropriations over the past decade continued to increase; during that time, 2%-7% of VU's total appropriations were determined by the performance funding formula.
- In 2022, a change was made to an outcomes-based formula, and for the first time, put into state law; with the following hybrid approach:
  - FY2024 – 1% “legacy” formula / 2% base increase / 1% “prospective” funding = \$444,754
  - FY2025 – 1% “legacy” formula / 3% base increase / 2% “prospective” funding = \$889,508
- The state's new priorities include a talent pipeline focused on:
  - Enrollment – 15%
  - Completion (On-time / overall / adult / low-income / STEM) – 70%
  - Economic impact (Graduate retention) – 15%

President Johnson commended VP Hahn for the great work he does at the Statehouse on behalf of the University.

#### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:**

- President Johnson welcomed Jeff Cochren to the Board and looks forward to working with him.
- The President reported that Andrew Young, Director of Architectural Services and Facilities, and his team are working with Gibraltar Design to design and develop the new Health Sciences Center, with the goal of being in the facility in the Fall of 2025.
- The agreement has been executed between Vincennes University and AAR for a training program at the Aviation Technology Center in aviation maintenance. Currently, our aviation flight program in Indianapolis is full, and our partnership with Jet Access will allow us to expand our reach with this program across the state of Indiana. This also creates an opportunity for us to return the aviation flight program to the Lawrenceville/Vincennes Airport.
- The President thanked those who attended the VU/AgriNovus event with Senator Todd Young and Mitch Frazier at our Agricultural Center.
- Kimberly Wright was recently hired as the new Director of the Center for Applied Robotics and Automation (CARA). Ms. Wright contributed to VU's launch of the first Amazon Mechatronics and Robotics Apprenticeship Program in the nation as the program manager.
- Work continues with the compensation consultants, NFP. The President thanked Trustees Scott Brand and Kelly Clauss for their part in working with the consultants. NFP has also met with leaders of the Faculty Senate, Professional Staff Congress, and Support Staff Council for their feedback. The President also thanked Tim Eaton, Conya Wampler, and Regina McCord-Fithian for all of their work with this project.
- The President reported that work continues with Slate in Admissions, as well as in the Foundation Office with the Alumni database.
- Yard & Company has been selected as the consultant to work with us on the Lilly Endowment's *College and Community Connections Grant*. They will be on site in Vincennes September 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> to meet with members of the University community and Vincennes community. They will receive feedback on the four areas of focus: housing, childcare, quality of place, and Ag Tech. The final proposal is due to the Lilly Endowment in March, 2024.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, The Regular Session adjourned at 12:05 p.m. (EDT)

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J.R. Gaylor, Secretary

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John Stachura, Chair