

VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
Wednesday, December 2, 2020 – 11:05 a.m. (EST)
ZOOM/CALL-IN MEETING
Learning Resource Center – Innovation Room #112
130 E. College Avenue
Vincennes, IN 47591

Members Present:

John Stachura, Chair
Darrel Bobe (Zoom)
Scott Brand (Zoom)
J.R. Gaylor (Zoom)
Tim Grove (Zoom)
Reggie Henderson (Zoom)
Chuck Johnson, President
Conner McKinney, Student Trustee
Greg Parsley (Zoom)
George Ridgway (Zoom)
Rick Schach (Zoom)
Mike Sievers
Don Villwock

Others Present:

Brent Stuckey, Attorney for the Board
Nancy Irwin, Record Clerk for the Board
Tony Hahn, Vice President for Government Relations (Zoom)
Laura Treanor, Provost
Dave Tucker, Vice President for Workforce Development/
Community Services (Zoom)
Linda Waldroup, Vice President for Financial Services (Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair John Stachura called the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. (EST) in the Innovation Room #112 in the Learning Resource Center in Vincennes, Indiana.

ROLL CALL/ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Nancy Irwin called the roll. A quorum was declared with 13 Trustees present. The agenda was approved by consensus of the Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 10-5-20 Regular Session had been distributed. With no questions from the Board, Trustee Mike Sievers made a motion to approve and Trustee J.R. Gaylor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and there were 13 yeas and 0 nays, with the minutes passing unanimously.

PERSONNEL & NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT:

Election of Board Officers

Committee Chair Rick Schach reported that the Personnel & Nominating Committee had met and brought forth a recommendation to re-elect Mike Sievers for First Vice Chair, Reggie Henderson for Second Vice Chair, and J.R. Gaylor for Secretary for the Board of Trustees for another year.

MOTION # 20-29

Committee Chair Schach made the motion and Trustee Don Villwock seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 13 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chair Stachura reported on the Executive Session and the discussion regarding President Johnson's evaluation and contract review. He stated many positive comments were shared during the session regarding the President's job performance, and that his contract will remain the same that was in effect last year; however, the contract was extended another year, to December 31, 2023 and does not include a salary increase. Chair Stachura shared his own appreciation for not only President Johnson's work during a very challenging time, but also to the President's entire team and University community for not only their incredible work but their ability to remain flexible through all the changes due to the pandemic. Trustees Scott Brand, Reggie Henderson, J.R. Gaylor, and Mike Sievers also shared comments on their full endorsement and support for the work President Johnson has done, and will continue to do for the University. President Johnson responded with great appreciation for the comments and support he receives from the Board members, his Executive Team, and the University community.

MOTION # 20-30

Trustee Don Villwock made a motion to accept the extension of President Johnson's contract and Trustee Reggie Henderson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 12 yeas and 0 nays, with President Johnson abstaining from the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORT FROM UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE:

University Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Reggie Henderson asked Provost Laura Treanor to present information on the following Program Additions item:

The following item has been approved by the Vincennes University Curriculum and Academic Affairs Committee and Faculty Senate. This item is submitted for consideration by the Board of Trustees as approved by Provost Laura Treanor and President Charles R. Johnson, Jr.

Program Additions

- Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences - Sustainable Foods and Farming Systems Concentration 4466 (AS)

Approved:



Charles R. Johnson, Jr., President



Laura Treanor, Provost

MOTION # 20-31

Chair Stachura asked if this addition would be under Susan Brocksmith's programming and Provost Treanor confirmed it would be. With no further questions from the board, Committee Chair Henderson made a motion to approve the program addition, and Trustee Don Villwock seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 13 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Recruitment/Enrollment Report

Sarah Fortune, Senior Director of External Relations, reported on marketing enrollment management, application numbers, new advertising avenues, and latest improvements on the website design. Sarah reported that the Slate program has been an incredible addition and is extremely helpful in assessing trends, which in turn, is useful as a guide in marketing decisions. Slate also offers a texting feature that has proven very effective in helping students who have not fully completed their application. Ms. Fortune also reported that in 2020, community colleges nationwide have seen a decrease in enrollment at 7.5%. Sarah also reported on results from various digital marketing campaigns, as well as exciting upward trends in VU website analytics. Trustee J.R. Gaylor complimented Sarah on her presentation and asked if there were any metrics available regarding efforts being done and how that converts to actual enrollment. Ms. Fortune responded that they will be implementing a tracking mechanism within Slate, which will generate tremendous information and help in this area. President Johnson also responded that the average yield rate on applications has been in the 40% range overall, but with the tracking features within Slate, we will be able to target students' needs, etc. more effectively. Trustee Mike Sievers also complimented Sarah on the impressive presentation and the tremendous job being done by her and her team.

Update on COVID-19 Contact Tracing Efforts and Fall Outcomes

Tony Hahn, Vice President for Government Relations, shared details of the University's extensive efforts in contact tracing and how the University provided a safe working environment, learning environment, and campus community during the Covid-19 pandemic. He attributed the University's success in mitigating the spread of the coronavirus and minimizing the disruption to learning and operations to multiple reasons. He credited the University Primary Care Clinic (UPCC), rapid response times from the team of volunteer contact tracers, 24/7 contact with the UPCC team, quick isolation and quarantine for students if needed, and taking a conservative approach to who was quarantined and when. VP Hahn thanked all of the University volunteers on the contact tracing team, the UPCC team, Dean of Students office, Housing, Sodexo, VUPD, Physical Plant, and Human Resources for the tremendous job they have done in addition to their regular work responsibilities, all of whom went above and beyond to help. President Johnson echoed Tony's appreciation for everyone involved and applauded Tony for his incredible leadership.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

- The President thanked the Board for their continued support, and offered congratulations to the Board officers that were reelected to another term.

- President Johnson thanked everyone for their efforts in creating a smooth transition to virtual instruction during the final days of the semester.
- Midyear Commencement will be on December 12th and will be broadcast as a live event on www.vincennespbs.org at 11:00 a.m. (EST). Mr. Albert Chen will be featured receiving his honorary doctorate award.
- Updates were given on various campus projects: Shircliff Humanities Center is scheduled to reopen before classes begin in January – Electrical infrastructure work continues to be done throughout the campus – Final work is also being completed on the Summers Center with new windows being installed. The President also thanked the City of Vincennes and utilities services for their work in the levee project. VU has been a contributor to those efforts as well.
- The budget presentation has been given to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the State Budget Committee. Some key highlights being: 1) a request to return funding for dual credit back to the original \$50 per credit hour reimbursement level, 2) a modest increase to our CTE Early College line item, 3) three capital projects: major infrastructure project combining work on the Vincennes campus, along with appropriate infrastructure work on the Jasper Campus with much needed upgrades; a new Health Sciences building, and a new Welding facility, both on the Vincennes Campus.
- VU has enrolled its first online cohort of 8 Chinese students in our Distance Education program. Thanks was extended to Rad Wang and Shanni Simmons for all their work in establishing this program.
- Later this month, two agreements will be signed with high schools in Taiwan, which will use our Distance Education programming to deliver VU credits to qualified high school students to set them on a path to a VU degree, with hopes of continuing their education here after graduating high school.
- Through the work of Kristi Deetz and the VU Foundation, VU received a \$250,000 grant from the Toyota Foundation, which will provide support for the AMT (Advanced Manufacturing Technician) program, as well as the Women in STEM initiative.
- On Thursday, December 3rd, VU will be awarded, through a virtual ceremony, a National Leadership Award for the JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) program for our partnerships in Workforce Development and the establishment of a summer JAG Academy. The President acknowledged and applauded Shaun Brames, Dave Tucker, and Rob King for all their efforts in this program. He also stated that Governor Holcomb previously chaired the National JAG Board and recently had very nice things to say about VU's JAG program.
- Trustee J.R. Gaylor asked the President for an update on the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. President Johnson reported that a lot of focus on the state level has been on Next Level Jobs funding and utilizing CARES Act dollars. Dave Tucker and his team have been a part of that effort, and the Admissions team has been working hard to get people enrolled under the special funding. A second round of federal support is also expected. Continued work is taking place on the CTE pathways in high schools, which dovetails with VU's work in the high schools. A vast majority of focus has been on trying to utilize the resources through the pandemic, which has given us extra monies to go towards training grants for employers and individuals. VU has enrolled close to 2,000 Hoosiers in non-credit and credit programs since the summer, mostly in the Health Sciences area, but also across different fields.
- The President concluded his remarks by showing the Board the "Surf VU" video.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the Regular Session adjourned at 12:20 p.m. (EST).

J.R. Gaylor, Secretary

John Stachura, Chair