

VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
Wednesday, December 1, 2021 – 10:00 a.m. (EST)
Learning Resource Center – Innovation Room #112
130 E. College Avenue
Vincennes, IN 47591

Members Present:

John Stachura, Chair
Darrel Bobe (Zoom)
Scott Brand
Kelly Clauss (Zoom)
J.R. Gaylor (Zoom)
Tim Grove
Reggie Henderson
Chuck Johnson, President
Dustan Jones, Student Trustee (Zoom)
Greg Parsley
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 & Legal Affairs (Zoom)
Laura Treanor, Provost (Zoom)
Dave Tucker, Vice President for Workforce Development/Community Services (Zoom)
Tim Eaton, Vice President for Financial Services (Zoom)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair John Stachura called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. (EST) in the Learning Resource Center Innovation Room #112 in Vincennes, Indiana.

ROLL CALL/ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

Nancy Irwin called the roll. A quorum was declared with 13 Trustees present. An addition to the agenda was made by Chair Stachura and he noted President Johnson would be presenting the additional agenda item later in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 10-4-21 Regular Session had been distributed. With no questions from the Board, Chair Stachura requested a motion be made to approve the minutes. Trustee Reggie Henderson made a motion to approve the minutes and Trustee Scott Brand seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and there were 13 yeas and 0 nays, with the minutes 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 be extended another year, to December 31, 2024. Chair Stachura shared his own appreciation for the superb job President Johnson has done during very challenging times, all the while keeping staff and students safe during the pandemic. Trustees Scott Brand and Mike Sievers also shared comments on their full endorsement and support for the work President Johnson has done and the solid groundwork he has laid for the future of the University.

MOTION # 21-23

Chair Stachura asked for an approval and motion for the extension of President Johnson's employment contract; Trustee Reggie Henderson made a motion to approve and Trustee Mike Sievers seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and there were 12 yeas and 0 nays, with President Johnson abstaining from the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

AMENDED AGENDA ITEM:

President Johnson invited longtime administrator Mike Gress and his family to join the board meeting via Zoom for a special recognition. The President acknowledged the heroic, dedicated, extraordinary, and passionate work of Mike Gress for Vincennes University with the following Board Resolution.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
FOR
MICHAEL E. GRESS**

WHEREAS, Michael E. Gress of Indianapolis, Indiana, has served in multiple roles at Vincennes University for over 41 years, including Professor of English and Philosophy, and Department Chair of English; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gress provided extraordinary leadership as Director of Institutional Effectiveness, Assistant Provost of Curriculum and Instruction, and Senior Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gress was a gifted leader for Vincennes University and provided invaluable contributions for his work with the Higher Learning Commission on behalf of the institution, developed a culture of assessment, and the facilitation of new academic partnerships with industry and higher education institutions; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gress brought honor to Vincennes University, its Board of Trustees, and to himself by his able service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Vincennes University, through its Board of Trustees, expresses appreciation to Michael E. Gress for his dedicated service and his devoted work to the University and its mission.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary cause to be spread of record on the official minute book of the Board of Trustees for Vincennes University a copy of this Resolution, and that an appropriate signed copy be personally delivered to Michael E. Gress.

DATED at Vincennes, Indiana this 1st day of December, 2021.



John A. Stachura, Chair
Vincennes University Board of Trustees



J.R. Gaylor, Secretary
Vincennes University Board of Trustees

Chair Stachura and Trustee Mike Sievers also expressed their appreciation for the decades of service Mike has given to the University, especially all his work with the Higher Learning Commission on behalf of the institution. President Johnson also acknowledged Mike's family members who were also on the Zoom; his wife, Nancy, their son and two daughters and expressed to them how proud they can be of their husband and father for all the incredible work he has done for Vincennes University, and for the valued colleague he was to so many at the institution. The President concluded that Mike had been a champion and hero for the University, and that VU would not be where it is now as an institution if not for Mike's great efforts.

MOTION # 21-24

Chair Stachura asked for a motion to approve the Resolution of Appreciation for Michael E. Gress; Trustee Tim Grove made the motion and Trustee Reggie Henderson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 13 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

Action Items:

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 # 21-25

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.

Treasurer of University / Board

Committee Chair Schach brought forth a recommendation to approve Tim Eaton, Vice President for Financial Services, as the Treasurer of the University and the Board.

MOTION # 21-26

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

Curriculum Items

Provost Treanor was involved with a site visit/review with the Higher Learning Commission in Indianapolis, so President Johnson presented the following curriculum item to the board.

Board of Trustees
Vincennes University

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 Addition

- Nursing – LPN-BSN Completion Concentration 6002 (BS)

Approved:



Charles R. Johnson, Jr., President



Laura Treanor, Provost

President Johnson reported that the demand for nurses with a bachelor's degree is rising and the program addition of the LPN-BSN Concentration establishes a direct pathway for LPNs to obtain a bachelor's degree in three years instead of the typical four to five years. The President also thanked Dean Michelle Cummins, Jill Alsman, Tammy Halter, and Nellie Jones for all their hard work in bringing this program to fruition.

MOTION # 21-27

With no questions from the board, Chair Stachura asked for a motion to accept the program addition; Trustee Don Villwock made the motion and Trustee Scott Brand seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 13 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously. In her vote, Trustee Kelly Clauss also expressed great appreciation for this program addition.

Authorization to Finance/Revenue Committee to approve future bids

Committee Chair Mike Sievers reported he had recently met with VP of Financial Services, Tim Eaton and Andrew Young, Director of Architectural Services & Facilities regarding three upcoming projects going out to bid that will need to be approved before our next full board meeting in March. The three projects are the Welsh Administration Building, Young Building, and Steam Plant upgrades.

MOTION # 21-28

Committee Chair Sievers made a motion that the board grant authorization to the Finance/Revenue Committee to approve the bids that are forthcoming for these three projects and Trustee Scott Brand 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

VU & Tatanka Consulting

Bryan Rathert, President, Tatanka Consulting reported on the work being done in partnership with Dale Pietrzak, Senior Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research in using data to identify and validate improvements. Following are the areas highlighted to the board:

- * Increase enrollment (Use data mining to increase our understanding then take action to address these)
- * Improve effectiveness of support organizations – piloting with IT and Human Resources (Choose key performance indicators, {KPIs}; trend and benchmark; identifying opportunities to improve and validate)
- * Improve the admit-to-attend conversion (Assisting or coaching with the FAFSA process; promoting a more inviting environment to improve enrollment and retention of “at risk” groups; increase interaction with those admitted early)

Update on Business & Industry

Dave Tucker, Vice President for Workforce Development and Community Services, presented information regarding annual revenue, full-time and part-time employees, and people served in the following areas of Workforce Development and Community Services:

- * Business & Industry Training
- * Military Education
- * Distance Education
- * WorkOne Services
- * Generations
- * TRIO Programs
- * Adult Basic Education

Total impact for these areas for 2020-21 was \$27.7 million in revenue – 619 employees – 51,168 people served – 879 Academic Degrees & certificates awarded.

VP Tucker also reported that after five years with Purdue University's Manufacturing Extension Partnership, Rob Hudson has returned to VU as the new Senior Director of Corporate Partnerships. Rob will connect with employers to create training and educational opportunities on the Vincennes campus, as well as focus on intensive, high-quality training in a residential setting.

Update on Admissions

Ryan Barbauld, Director of Admissions, shared information regarding enrollment trends, as well as recruitment and outreach efforts. Ryan reported that nationwide college enrollment continues to decline and Indiana high school students going to college has declined from 65% to 59%. Application numbers are up for the Vincennes Campus, Jasper, Aviation Technology Center maintenance program, and American Sign Language for Spring 2022; numbers are also up for Fall 2022 for the Vincennes and ATC campuses. Using predictive modeling, and if trends continue, Ryan also noted the University could see an enrollment increase of 1-4% in the Fall of 2022. Mr. Barbauld also shared the many recruitment efforts of the Admissions team, specifically high school visits, college fairs, PreVU Days and StartVU Days, as well as several national conferences, golf outings, and virtual financial aid nights. Ryan concluded with optimism for the Fall 2022 semester, with an increased focus on promoting Bachelor's Degree programs, the housing scholarship, and PreVU, StartVU, and MyVU Days.

Report from Information Technology

Bob Wisler, Chief Information Officer, presented an update from the Information Technology department and the digital transformation taking place at VU. Mr. Wisler applauded the dedication of the IT staff, and the entire VU community, but like any organization, especially IT, continuous improvement is ongoing. There has been a focus on enhancing operation excellence, including Blackboard, VU's online learning management system being moved to the cloud; a new ADA tool for Blackboard (Ally); WiFi improvements in the dorms; conversion to cloud email system from Google; new PC monitoring software to gauge student usage; IT Help Desk with extended hours, which includes student workers from the VU IT academic program. Another area of focus is increasing IT security and proficiency, and creating an Information Technology Executive Committee (ITEX) to examine broad issues relating to technology use at the University. Mr. Wisler concluded by stating digital transformation is the desired future, which includes IT goals that support the VU Strategic Plan, systems and processes that increase enrollment and retention, focus on improved student experience, modernization of business processes, long-term budgeting, and making the digital footprint a part of the VU brand.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

- The President thanked Bryan Rathert, Dave Tucker, Ryan Barbauld, and Bob Wisler for their informative presentations.
- President Johnson thanked the Board for their faith in him and for the extension of his contract.
- Congratulations were extended to the board officers and appreciation for their willingness to continue to serve on the board.
- The President reported that next week is final exam week and Saturday we will return to a face-to-face Midyear Commencement ceremony. In order to keep numbers manageable, two ceremonies will take place; one at 10:30 and the other at 1:00.
- Provost Treanor and Dale Pietrzak have been helping with planning for site visits from the Higher Learning Commission at some of our Indianapolis area early college sites and the Aviation Technology Center. The HLC Comprehensive visit to Vincennes will occur in 2023. Thanks was extended to all the teams and partners in those locations for their work as well.
- Vincennes University continues to be involved and included in several READI Grant proposals and presentations.
- The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Council continues to meet, with the four subcommittees tasked with identifying top priorities related to improvements in diversity within our student body, and within our faculty and staff. Professional Development sessions and activities are being planned for Spring 2022 to support these efforts.

- Provost Treanor and Human Resources have launched a *Leadership Lunch and Learn* series for faculty and staff, which focuses on a variety of elements related to leadership.
- December 9th we will host a Cobot Training Lab and Ribbon Cutting at our Lebanon Haas Training Center. January 18th we will host a similar event at our Jasper Campus.
- Vincennes University was recently honored by the EC-Council with an Academic Circle of Excellence award in cybersecurity education and training. VU was one of only four universities in North America that was honored. The President acknowledged the excellent work of the Information Technology faculty - Jaci Lederman, Department Chair and Greg Hirsch, Assistant Professor.
- The President concluded his remarks with great appreciation for the incredible work Mike Gress has done for Vincennes University and wished him all the best in his retirement.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the Regular Session adjourned at 11:45 a.m. (EST)

J.R. Gaylor, Secretary

John Stachura, Chair