

**VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION  
Wednesday, August 24, 2022 – 10:00 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  
Darrel Bobe (Zoom)  
Scott Brand  
J.R. Gaylor (Zoom)  
Tim Grove  
Reggie Henderson  
Chuck Johnson, President  
Greg Parsley  
George Ridgway  
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  
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 10:00 a.m. (EDT) in Room 226/227 of the Center for Technology, Innovation, and Manufacturing (CTIM) Building, 961 College Avenue, Jasper, Indiana.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the 6-13-22 Executive Session and Regular Session had been distributed. With no questions from the Board, Trustee Don Villwock 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 the minutes passing unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chair Stachura expressed appreciation to Dean Christian Blome and the Jasper Campus for inviting the Board of Trustees to campus for the meetings today. He also mentioned that today's meeting was the final meeting for Student Trustee Dustan Jones and Trustee George Ridgway. Dustan was unable to join the meeting, as he was currently involved in classes at the University of Illinois, but Chair Stachura mentioned Trustee Ridgway would be honored a bit later in the meeting. He expressed his appreciation to both Trustees for their service to the Board and the University. He thanked Trustee Ridgway for his years of counsel and expertise on many construction projects at the University, and stated that he has represented the Board and the University incredibly well.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Finance/Revenue Committee**

Chair Stachura asked Committee Chair Mike Sievers to give an overview of the committee meeting that took place prior to the Regular Session. Committee Chair Sievers reported that the committee reviewed and approved the refinancing of bonds, which will save the state close to \$80,000.00. By doing so, this once again represents Vincennes University as a very good steward of state funding. Trustee Sievers also acknowledged the great work of Vice President of Financial Services, Tim Eaton, and his entire staff for their diligent work overseeing such opportunities. The committee approved the following breakdown and is bringing their recommendation to refinance the bonds to the entire Board for approval.

**Refinancing of Series I Student Fee Debt Service Bonds****Existing Series I Debt Service:**

Fixed Interest Rate	4.09%
Current Financing Bank	Old National Bank
Current Principal Owed	\$3,700,000
Scheduled Interest Owed	<u>\$ 543,970</u>
<b>Total Scheduled Debt Service – Series I</b>	<b>\$4,243,970</b>

**Proposed Refinancing – Series O Debt Service**

Fixed Interest Rate	2.70%
Bank	Regions Bank
Current Principal Owed	\$3,820,000
Scheduled Interest Owed	<u>\$ 344,142</u>
<b>Total Proposed Debt Service – Series O</b>	<b>\$4,164,142</b>

**Projected Net Savings to VU/State of IN** **\$ 79,828**

**MOTION # 22-12**

Committee Chair Sievers made a motion for the full board to approve the refinancing of the aforementioned bonds, and Trustee Reggie Henderson seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 12 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

Chair Stachura expressed his appreciation to the entire board for being mindful and responsible in its fiduciary obligations. He also expressed great appreciation to the University's entire Financial Services staff.

**REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP:**

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

- Completion of a \$2.5 million renovation of the Administration Building.
- VU-Jasper and the Patoka Valley Career and Technical Cooperative have forged a strong partnership in a variety of programs that equip high school students with in-demand skills. This has also introduced new pathways for Fall 2022, including Law Enforcement/Criminal Justice, Education Professions, Certified Nursing Assistant, and Human/Social Services.
- 23 students were recipients of Scholastic Excellence Awards, which includes full tuition, in addition to a \$1,000 stipend and laptop computer. VU-J Foundation unanimously voted in July to renew the scholarship program for the 2023-24 academic year.

Information Technology update – Jaci Lederman (Director of Enterprise Applications), Sean Wilkerson (Director of Technology & Infrastructure), and Levi Ramsey (Director of IT Security) gave reports on a variety of updates taking place in Information Technology. A summary was given in the following categories:

- Infrastructure
- Business Operations
- Enterprise Applications
- Security
- Help Desk
- Updates and upgrades have been made on enhanced cybersecurity, a recent dorm technology upgrade, a cloud phone system, and the installation of Zoom rooms at the Vincennes, Jasper, and Gibson County campuses. The smart classrooms will have 4K high-definition cameras and enhance a high-quality remote learning experience for students.

Enrollment update – Ryan Barbault, Director of Admissions, shared an update on various data regarding enrollment.

- Vincennes & Jasper campuses saw an increase in applicants compared to Fall 2021. Distance Education, ATC, and ASL saw a slight decrease
- Vincennes saw an increase in admits compared to Fall 2021, while other locations saw a slight decrease.

- In regards to enrolled numbers – we ended slightly down on the Vincennes campus, ATC, Distance Education, and ASL; seeing a small increase at the VU-Jasper campus.
- We are projecting to be slightly down in system-wide enrollment, however, close to flat system-wide FTE.
- There has been an increase in the number of African-American/Black freshmen for the Fall 2022 semester.
- Other data was also shared regarding first-time freshmen in regards to urban / rural status, average age, and gender.

Cobot Lab update – Jacob Berg (VU-Jasper CTIM Director) and Paulo Dutra e Mello (Telamon Robotics) presented information on VU's Collaborative Robot (Cobot) labs. Mr. Berg shared that the state-of-the-art cobots are a game changer, and are incredibly popular with prospective students, as well as the VU-J students. Mr. Dutra e Mello is involved with the Center for Applied Robotics and Automation on the Vincennes Campus, which is funded by a Lilly Endowment grant. An open house event in the College of Technology will take place in October, featuring the new center.

Design and Innovation Studios – Courtney Hopf (Northeast Dubois Elementary School Principal) and Jennifer Wright (Technology Teacher, Northeast Dubois Elementary School) shared a presentation on the exciting work their elementary students are doing in the Design and Innovation Studio VU has implemented in their school. This is yet another program funded from a Lilly Endowment grant. In partnership with the Indiana Next Generation Manufacturing Competitiveness Center (IN-MaC) at Purdue University, VU has launched Design and Innovation Studios in multiple elementary and middle schools to introduce students to coding, robots, 3D printing, and other STEM-related education and technology. Ms. Hopf and Ms. Wright gave an update on how their students engage with the cutting-edge technologies in their school's new studio. Principal Hopf thanked VU for its commitment to youth and investing in their earliest learners. She and Ms. Wright shared how excited their students are being able to participate in projects that involve problem solving, coding, and technology. Principal Hopf stated – “These students are knocking it out of the park.”

GEER Grant Videos – President Johnson shared a video that was produced with funds issued to the University through the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER). The videos were created with the help of a production company, and will be of help and accessible to both students and instructors. The videos are a great way to continue teaching and learning in a hybridized environment, with no interruption in instructional services.

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

- President Johnson thanked Dean Blome and his staff for hosting the board meeting, and for the great work they continue to do on the Jasper campus.
- As a member of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, the President announced that the group will begin meeting in some of the workforce regions throughout the state. VU-Jasper is part of Region 11 and the GWC will meet on the Jasper campus on October 25<sup>th</sup>. Many of the things that were highlighted today will likely be part of the discussion during the October meeting.
- The President extended his thanks and appreciation to all the presenters and the great work they are doing for the University.
- On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, an open house will be held at the Technology Center on the Vincennes campus and will showcase the Center for Applied Robotics and Automation, HURCO Advanced CNC Machining, and Additive Manufacturing and Reverse Engineering
- The University's partnership with First City Art continues and two new pieces of sculpture will soon be installed on the Vincennes campus later this fall.
- A new 1-year version of the Toyota Advanced Manufacturing Training program was recently launched. Ty Freed and Tim Hedrick were instrumental in developing the program.
- Recipients of the Lilly Endowment grant for Indiana Youth Programs on Campus will be announced soon. If selected, this could be a great opportunity for us to build on some of the initiatives we've already developed, such as STEM Academy, Techmester, and Science Fridays.
- President Johnson is wrapping up his term as the president of the CATYC (Council for Accreditation of Two-Year Colleges) and VU is the host for their fall conference in Indianapolis September 25-27. VU will be hosting a reception at the Aviation Technology Center for the attendees on Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>.
- The president recently attended a dinner in Indianapolis with several other college presidents from around the state of Indiana, as well as two authors, Nathan Grawe and Jeff Selingo. The discussion centered around several areas facing higher education, primarily 1) addressing some of the shifts in college enrollment, 2) improving student success and outcomes, and 3) innovative ways institutions are adapting to changes in the environment that we are

seeing and expect to see with higher education. It was a good opportunity to also highlight several things Vincennes University is already doing in several of these areas.

- President Johnson thanked Trustee George Ridgway for his wisdom, and years of service to the Board and the University. He presented the following Resolution of Appreciation to Trustee Ridgway:

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
FOR  
GEORGE S. RIDGWAY**

**WHEREAS**, George S. Ridgway of Springville, Indiana, was appointed a member of the Board of Trustees for the Vincennes University by the Honorable Governor Mike Pence in October, 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Ridgway has provided extraordinary leadership throughout his tenure on the Vincennes University Board of Trustees by serving as a member of the Finance/Revenue Committee, and the University/Foundation Relations Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Ridgway has brought great pride and honor to Vincennes University for his many years of service and dedicated assistance in the restoration of historic facilities throughout the state of Indiana, the nation, and the world;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Ridgway has also shown outstanding support of Vincennes University as a student, faculty member, department chair, architect, and contributor of scholarships for students;

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Ridgway has brought honor to the Board of Trustees, to Vincennes University, and to himself by his extraordinary service.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Vincennes University, through its Board of Trustees, expresses appreciation to George S. Ridgway for his dedicated service as a member of the Board and for 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 delivered to Mr. George S. Ridgway.

**DATED** at Jasper, Indiana this 24<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2022.



John A. Stachura, Chair  
Vincennes University Board of Trustees



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

Trustee Ridgway stated it had been a pleasure to serve as a student, faculty member, architect and trustee of the University through the years. Chair Stachura reiterated his appreciation for Trustee Ridgway as a friend and fellow trustee and thanked him for his years of service to the institution.

With no further business to come before the Trustees, The Regular Session adjourned at 12:00 p.m. (EDT)

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J.R. Gaylor, Secretary

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John Stachura, Chair