

**VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION**  
**Wednesday, April 19, 2023 – 10:30 a.m. (EDT)**  
**Learning Resource Center – Innovation Room #112**  
**130 E. College Avenue**  
**Vincennes, IN 47591**

**Members Present:**

John Stachura, Chair  
Darrel Bobe  
Kelly Clauss (Zoom)  
J.R. Gaylor (Zoom)  
Tim Grove  
Chuck Johnson, President  
Gayle Baugh, Student Trustee  
Greg Parsley  
Rick Schach (Zoom)  
Mike Sievers  
Don Villwock

**Others Present:**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair John Stachura called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. (EDT) in the Innovation Room at the Learning Resource Center in Vincennes, Indiana.

**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the 2-28-23 Board Retreat and Regular Session, and 3-15-23 Finance/Revenue Committee meeting 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 Tim Grove 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 there would be an adjustment to the agenda, which will be addressed a bit later in the meeting. Mr. Stachura complimented all those responsible for an outstanding issue of the Columns magazine, as it highlights many incredible VU stories. He also congratulated the men's basketball team for all their hard work this season and their eighth-place ranking in the NJCAA. He is also encouraged by Coach Franklin's efforts in recruiting for next season. Chair Stachura concluded his remarks with congratulations to the College of Technology and the CNC faculty and students on their recent accomplishments, which will be highlighted later in the meeting.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Personnel/Nominating Committee:**

**2023-24 Promotion & Tenure**

Committee Chair Rick Schach presented the following list of candidates for 2023-24 Promotion & Tenure.

**2023-2024 PROMOTION AND TENURE LIST**

**INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES:**

Curriculum and Instruction

Cheryl Litherland, COPE Student Support Services

Health Sciences and Human Performance

Geoffrey Hodgson, Funeral Services Education

Humanities

Jessie Davis, Family and Consumer Sciences

**NEW TITLE**

Professional Staff Level III

Assistant Professor

Associate Professor

Matthew Norman, English

Professor

Science, Engineering, and Mathematics

Dr. Aiqin Fang, Chemistry

Associate Professor

Amanda Haag, Mathematics

Professor

Social Science, Performing Arts and Communication

Ann Herman, Education

Professor

Lisa Miller, Education

Associate Professor

Technology

Jon McKinney, Aviation

Assistant Professor

**FINANCIAL SERVICES:**

VU Old Post Bookstore

Aimee Cummings, Manager – Marketing and Merchandise

Professional Staff Level II

**WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Extended Studies

Shanni Simmons, Assistant Vice President of Lifelong Learning

Professional Staff Level IV

Generations

Jennifer Meadows, Options Counselor

Professional Staff Level III

Military Education Program

Jacob MacGibbon, Florida Site Director

Professional Staff Level III

Alex Sievers, Indiana Military Education Program Director

Professional Staff Level III

Workforce Development Services

Jayme Bellman, Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Specialist

Professional Staff Level II

Shaun Brames, Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) College and

Professional Staff Level II

Career Success Program Manager

Jennifer Robinson, Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) Program Manager

Professional Staff Level III

**FACULTY WHO RECEIVE TENURE**

Ann Herman, Education / College of Social Science, Performing Arts, and Communication

Scott Wallace, Precision Machining, Advanced CNC Machining / College of Technology

**MOTION # 23-05**

With no questions from the Board, Trustee Greg Parsley made a motion to approve the list of candidates for promotion and tenure and Trustee Don Villwock seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 11 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

**University Affairs Committee:**

**Curriculum Items**

In Chair Henderson's absence, Committee member Kelly Clauss asked Provost Laura Treanor to present information on the following curriculum items:

The following items have 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.

**Certificate Additions**

*Pre-Health Care Professional Certificate 6254, C.P.C.*

*Aviation Maintenance Technology – Military Airframe Certificate 8143, C.G.*

*Aviation Maintenance Technology – Military Powerplant Certificate 8153, C.G.*

*Education – Intense Interventions Certificate 1002, C.P.C.*

**Concentration Addition**

*Aviation Maintenance Technology – Military Airframe Concentration 8142, A.S. Career/Tech*  
*Aviation Maintenance Technology – Military Powerplant Concentration 8152, A.S. Career/Tech*

**Program Suspension**

*Pre-Law 1400, A.A. & A.S. Transfer*  
*Supply Chain and Logistics Certificate 5403 C.P.C.*  
*Supply Chain Logistics Management 5405, A.S. Transfer*

**Academic Guidelines and University Core Curriculum Items**

*Academic Guidelines Proposal AG-1*  
*Academic Guidelines Proposal AG-2*  
*UCC Committee Curriculum Proposal UCC-2*

Approved:



Charles R. Johnson, Jr., President



Laura Treanor, Provost

President Johnson clarified that a program is not permanently closed when a suspension takes place, rather for the time, new students will not be admitted into that particular program. This allows the University to maintain a quicker ability to resume programs, versus having to go through the full process of approval through the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.

**MOTION # 23-06**

With no questions from the Board, Trustee Kelly Clauss made a motion to approve the curriculum items and Trustee Don Villwock seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 11 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

**AMENDED AGENDA ITEM:****Report from Finance/Revenue Committee:**

Chair Stachura reported at the February 28, 2023 board meeting, the full board voted to authorize the Finance/Revenue Committee to review and approve bids regarding renovations to Green Activities Center. Mr. Stachura asked Committee Chair, Mike Sievers, to give a report to the board regarding their committee meeting.

Chair Sievers reported the committee met on March 15, 2023 to review and approve the following information:

**Robert E. Green Activities Center Renovations**

The renovations will be for much-needed upgrades to the HVAC system, lighting, fire alarm system, wireless access points, IT cabling, and new security cameras. The following bids were presented to the committee.

**Contract # 1 – General Construction – Wolfe Construction, Vincennes, IN**

Base bid	<u>\$272,538.00</u>
Alternate #1	<u>\$111,459.00</u>
Alternate #4	<u>\$ 26,810.00</u>
Total Recommended General Award	<u>\$410,807.00</u>

**Contract #2 – Mechanical Construction – H.G. Heinz, Inc, Vincennes, IN**

Base bid	<u>\$1,246,000.00</u>
Total Recommended Mechanical Award	<u>\$1,246,000.00</u>

**Contract #3 – Electrical Construction – Jerry Smith Electric, Vincennes, IN**

Base bid	<u>\$319,118.00</u>
Total Recommended Electrical Award	<u>\$319,118.00</u>

**TOTAL RECOMMENDED AWARD      \$1,975,925.00**

There were no questions from the Board regarding this information.

## **REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP**

### **Update from Information Technology**

Jaci Lederman, Director of Enterprise Applications, and Levi Ramsey, Director of IT Security, shared updates on several areas within IT, including enterprise applications, infrastructure, and security. Ms. Lederman and Mr. Ramsey highlighted the significant cybersecurity investments the University has made over the last year and a half to maintain the integrity of systems and to protect students, faculty, and staff from data breaches. They presented detailed reports regarding the University's digital transformation and modernization. They also shared updates on upgrades, specifically the new cloud phone system and the conversion of more learning spaces to smart classrooms.

Information Technology majors Bryce Coleman and Marianna Guillen shared how VU students are working closely with the University's Information Technology staff as part of a class project to help better VU's current student portal. The upgrades should improve efficiency and enhance the student experience as they access all information relevant to their time at VU. IT students are conducting testing, creating visual resources such as tutorial videos and PDFs, and training a pilot group.

### **Update from Admissions**

Sarah McLin, Interim Director of Admissions, shared updates on application numbers, recruitment efforts, campus and group visits, and upcoming events. Ms. McLin spotlighted the tremendous growth of students enrolling in VU bachelor's degree programs and the substantial recruitment efforts driving the increase. She is also very positive that VU will increase the number of admitted students and enrolled students over the next few months before Fall Semester 2023. Ms. McLin also reported that it is still early in the enrollment cycle, but noted the University is enjoying an increase in admitted applications at almost all campuses.

President Johnson thanked Ms. McLin for her leadership and great work, specifically in building and maintaining a stable team within Admissions.

### **Student Winners of MasterCam Wildest Parts Competition**

Ty Freed, Dean of the College of Technology, and Jonathan Vennard, Advanced CNC Assistant Professor introduced students Nate Conrad and Luke Schirmer. Nate and Luke, along with classmate Jackson Roberts designed and manufactured an innovative and unique electric skateboard that won first place in the Educational Division of the 2022 MasterCam Wildest Parts Competition, which was an international competition. Mr. (Jackson) Roberts was unable to attend, as he graduated midyear and is now employed by Urschel Labs. The students proudly displayed the award-winning skateboard to the Board.

## **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

- The President extended his congratulations to Nate Conrad, Luke Schirmer, Dean Freed, and Assistant Professor Vennard for all their incredible work and for representing Vincennes University so well.
- Congratulations were also extended to all the faculty and staff who were awarded promotion and tenure.
- President Johnson introduced Travis Linneweber as the University's new Budget Director.
- VU recently hosted the Indiana Association of Career and Technical Education Districts event at the Aviation Technology Center. President Johnson stated it was a great opportunity for the University to engage with the directors and deepen our partnerships regarding Early College CTE educational programs. The President thanked Mike Gehrich for the great job he did hosting the event.
- An MOU signing recently took place with the headmaster of the Bright Future Global Academy (Mongolia), which created another partnership in our international student recruitment.
- The President report on several recent updates regarding the Lilly Endowment Phase 3 Grant *Charting the Future*:
  - Next week the Lilly Endowment will host a Convening involving the major institutions involved with the grants. VU will be represented by President Johnson, Provost Treanor, Stephanie Stemle, and Angela Dougherty. This will provide a great opportunity to come together and share best practices and learn from Lilly some of the things they are focused on and prioritizing for the future.
  - Funding was recently reallocated to create a new high school career counselor position, in which we will work with local schools and health care providers regarding a wide spectrum of opportunities, including careers that are available in health care.
  - Approval was also given to reallocate funds to create a Design and Innovation Training Center in the Summers Center on the Vincennes campus. VU, with the Lilly Endowment support, has been able to proliferate Design and Innovation studios for elementary and middle school students, most recently with all the Knox County schools participating in that initiative. A state-wide convening is currently taking place involving 70+ elementary and middle school teachers from around the state. The hope is that VU can become the Southern Indiana hub for such activities in the future, as well as a training center for new faculty coming on board. Another hope is that we can also create STEM certifications that will help our graduates that are moving on to be faculty members in elementary and middle schools.
- The President reported Rob Hudson, Senior Director of Corporate Partnership Development, recently left the University. President Johnson, along with Vice President for Workforce Development and Community Service, Dave Tucker, are currently seeking a replacement for this important position.
- Vice President for Government and Legal Affairs, Tony Hahn, is closely monitoring the statehouse and the last remaining days of the legislative session. The revenue forecast appears encouraging and favorable to higher education.

- Blazers Give Day occurred last week and by all measures was a success, as we reached our goal for donors and have exceeded our goal for total giving. The President thanked all of the donors who contributed to the day, as well as the entire Foundation/Alumni staff, including Kristi Deetz, Leslie Kidwell, Aaron Selby, Sara Young, and Steve Beaman. The Donor Appreciation Dinner was also held last week.
- Vincennes University has applied for a \$250,000 planning grant through the Lilly Endowment for the *College and Community Connections Grant*. This is a 30% matching grant program, and if selected, would bring money to the community, as well as provide opportunities to partner with other community organizations to address critical needs within our community, which will also help the University and the community as a whole. Preliminary conversations have taken place with Knox County Indiana Economic Development, Chamber of Commerce, and the Mayor's Office. Needs that have already been identified as areas of focus are: housing needs for the workforce community, childcare issues, quality of place initiatives, and workforce development, specifically in the Ag Tech sector.
- The commencement season is in full force. The President & Vice President Dave Tucker recently took part in the commencement ceremony at our military site in St. Augustine, Florida. President Johnson gave special recognition to Jake MacGibbon, Bill Karback, and Kelly Smith for their outstanding work in organizing the event and providing opportunities to engage with alums and partners in the area as well. Commencements will continue in the coming weeks on the Vincennes, ASL, ATC, and Jasper campuses, as well as several Early College and Military site ceremonies.
- The President welcomed Nancy Irwin back from her medical leave.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the Regular Session adjourned at 12:10 p.m. (EDT).

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J.R. Gaylor, Secretary

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John Stachura, Chair