

VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
Tuesday, February 27, 2024 – 10:15 a.m. (EST)
Hilton Indianapolis Hotel and Suites
120 West Market Street
Indianapolis Ballroom – 2nd Floor
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Members Present:

Mike Sievers, Chair
Gayle Baugh, Student Trustee
Scott Brand
Darrel Bobe
Kelly Clauss
J.R. Gaylor
Reggie Henderson
Chuck Johnson, President (Zoom)
Greg Parsley
Rick Schach (Zoom)
John Stachura
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 Relations
Laura Treanor, Provost
Dave Tucker, Vice President for Workforce Development & Community Services
Jaci Lederman, Chief Information Officer
Conya Wampler, Associate Vice President for Financial Services/Controller
Kristi Deetz, Executive Director/Senior Director Institutional Advancement, VU Foundation
Leslie Kidwell, Director of Development, VU Foundation
Kirk Bouchie, VU Foundation Board
Pat Carter, VU Foundation Board
Chris Ernst, VU Foundation Board
Gregg Sturm, VU Foundation Board

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mike Sievers called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. (EST).

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from 12-6-23 Executive Session and Regular Session, and the 2-7-24 Finance/Revenue Committee meeting had been distributed. With no questions from the Board, Trustee Don Villwock made a motion to approve the minutes and Trustee Scott Brand 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 Sievers reported that on February 19th a groundbreaking took place on the Vincennes Campus for the new Center for Health Sciences building, which is the largest single building project in the University's history. The Chair also applauded the entire Financial Services team for another outstanding effort regarding the recent WVUT, WVUB and Federal audits. Mr. Sievers also noted that the auditors from the State Board of Accounts also praised the entire Financial Services team for their exemplary work, and noted the University came in almost \$42,000 under the budgeted auditing fee. Chair Sievers extended his appreciation to the Administration, Human Resources, and other staff for all their dedicated work to the Compensation Study and the ongoing efforts involved. The Chair concluded his remarks by thanking the Trustees, Foundation Board members, and all who are participating in the Board Retreat.

ACTION ITEMS:

UNIVERSITY AFFAIRS:

Honorary Doctorate Candidates

President Johnson presented information on former President and current Corporate Advisor for Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana, Inc., Leah Curry, as a candidate to receive the honorary doctorate degree at the Spring Commencement on the Vincennes Campus. She has been a tremendous partner for Vincennes University with the AMT (Advanced Manufacturing Technician) program, as well as the Women in STEM initiative.

MOTION # 24-01

With no questions from the Board, Trustee Darrel Bobe made a motion to approve Ms. Leah Curry as a candidate for the honorary doctorate degree, and Trustee John Stachura seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 12 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

Curriculum Items

Provost Treanor presented information regarding the following curriculum item:

Course Subject Code Revision

- COMM 216 (formerly JOUR 216) (SSPAC-1)
 - **Rationale:** JOUR 216 is a “Mass Communication” course that is required of students at VU in the Journalism, Photojournalism, Broadcasting, and Public Relations major programs. This JOUR subject code designation encourages this course to be perceived as a Journalism course whereas it is a communication course that is used in all these programs. This course is designated as COMM 192 – Introduction to Mass Communication at USI, it is COMM-M 150 Mass Media and Contemporary Society at IUPUI, and COMM 204 – Media and Society at ISU. Our transfer institutions use the Communication designation and by making this subject code change, VU will likely have better transfer currency with this course.

Program Additions

- Product Design Certificate 8336, C.G. (TEC-8)
 - **Rationale:** Creation of a CG would be a stackable credential that leads into the ASCT. It would not detract from other programs. Creation of a CG has the potential to get on the Next Level Jobs listing which would be a good recruitment and marketing tool.

MOTION # 24-02

With no questions from the board, Committee Chair Reggie Henderson made a motion to approve these items, and Trustee J.R. Gaylor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 12 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

Finance/Revenue Committee

Committee Chair Scott Brand and Director of Architectural Services and Facilities, Andrew Young, gave an overview of the 2-7-24 Finance/Revenue Committee and the following projects.

New Center for Health Sciences

Information was presented regarding bids received for new construction on this 72,000 square foot building which will serve as the new home for Nursing programs, Surgical Technology, Physical Therapy, Pharmacy Technology, and Funeral Services. Mr. Young was very pleased with the bid participation and that these bids came in below the projected budget, as monies will also be needed for equipment, furniture, and other enhancements the building would need.

Contract #1 – General Construction

Empire Contractors, Inc. – Evansville, IN

Base bid	\$13,298,460.00
Alternate #2	\$ 155,000.00
Alternate #4	\$ 281,000.00
Alternate #5	\$ 136,000.00
Alternate #6	\$ 136,700.00
Alternate #8	\$ 83,200.00
Alternate #9	\$ 15,300.00
Alternate #10	\$ 64,000.00
Alternate #11	\$ 38,500.00
Total General Construction Award	\$14,208,160.00

Contract #2 – Mechanical Construction

Huntingburg Machine Works – Huntingburg, IN

Base bid	\$ 4,290,000.00
Alternate #4	\$ 200,000.00
Total Mechanical Construction Award	\$ 4,490,000.00

Contract #3 – Electrical Construction

Weyer Electric, Inc – Ferdinand, IN

Base Bid	\$ 2,254,900.00
Alternate #4	\$ 108,465.00
Alternate #7	\$ 20,445.00
Alternate #8	\$ 3,070.00
Total Electrical Construction Award	\$ 2,386,880.00

**Contract #4 – Site Construction
Kerns Excavating – Bicknell, IN**

Base Bid	\$ 649,590.00
Alternate #1A	\$ 39,000.00
Alternate #1B	\$ 51,800.00
Alternate #2	\$ 35,900.00
Alternate #3	\$ 16,100.00
Alternate #12	(\$ 17,400.00)
Alternate #12A	(\$ 1,100.00)
Alternate #12B	(\$ 4,200.00)
Total Site Construction	\$ 769,690.00)

TOTAL PROJECT AWARD \$ 21,854,730.00

Clark Residence Hall Furniture Replacement

Information was presented regarding the scheduled furniture replacement for this residence hall. The current furniture is 16 years old and in need of replacing. Mr. Young recommends Foliot Furniture for this project, as previously purchased Foliot products for other residence halls have held up extremely well, the furniture comes with a 25-year warranty, and the bid also includes labor and installation costs. Andrew anticipates installation should begin in May, with all furniture in place for the start of the Fall, 2024 semester. Some of the old furniture will be repurposed to other locations on campus, some will need to be disposed of, and some of the furniture will be repurposed in the community. Vice President Eaton confirmed the funding source for this project will come from our housing reserves.

Foliot Furniture – Las Vegas, NV

Base Bid \$663,918.00

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS

- The President thanked the Board for their participation in this year’s retreat and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to discuss numerous items of importance to the University.
- President Johnson expressed appreciation to Leah Curry for her willingness to be recognized by receiving the honorary doctorate degree and he looks forward to honoring her at our Spring Commencement in April.
- The President concluded his remarks by noting this is a very interesting time in the world of higher education, but through our discussions, hopes the Board is also learning how Vincennes University is adapting and attempting to stay ahead of some of the curves. He looks forward to continuing conversations on how we make the institution even better for the future.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the Regular Session adjourned at 10:35 a.m. (EST).

J.R. Gaylor, Secretary

Mike Sievers, Chair