

VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
Wednesday, April 17, 2024 – 10:30 a.m. (EDT)
Learning Resource Center – Innovation Room #112
130 E. College Avenue
Vincennes, IN 47591

Members Present:

Mike Sievers, Chair
Gayle Baugh, Student Trustee
Darrel Bobe (Zoom)
Scott Brand (Zoom)
Kelly Clauss (Zoom)
J.R. Gaylor (Zoom)
Reggie Henderson (Zoom)
Chuck Johnson, President
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 & Legal Affairs
Laura Treanor, Provost
Dave Tucker, Vice President for Workforce Development/
Community Services

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mike Sievers 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 2-27-24 Board Retreat and Regular Session had been distributed. With no questions from the Board Chair Sievers requested a motion be made to approve the minutes. Trustee Don Villwock made a motion to approve the minutes and Trustee John Stachura 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 Sievers stated he was pleased to see the construction progressing for the new Center for Health Sciences and reiterated what an incredible addition this will be to the Vincennes Campus. Chair Sievers also reported that President Johnson has established an Administrative Committee to further review the results of the compensation study. Members of the committee are Chair Sievers and Trustees Scott Brand, Kelly Clauss, J.R. Gaylor, and John Stachura. The Committee has met and will meet again next week. Chair Sievers also included in the Board packet a copy of a memo that was sent to all faculty and staff regarding the Board's commitment to working through this process of reviewing the information and bringing forth recommendations to the administration.

ACTION ITEMS:

Personnel/Nominating Committee:

2024-25 Promotion & Tenure

Committee Chair Rick Schach presented the following list of candidates for 2024-25 Promotion & Tenure.

2024-25 PROMOTION AND TENURE LIST

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES:

Business and Public Service

Dragan Petreski, Management and Accounting

NEW TITLE

Associate Professor

Curriculum and Instruction

Michael "Justin" Robinson, Blazers Achieve Student Support Services

Professional Staff Level II

Distance Education/Extended Studies

Evan Sievers, Academic Advisor

Professional Staff Level III

Dual Credit Programs

Judith Anderson, Site Director, Early College

Professional Staff Level II

Humanities

Ron Wise, Department Chair, Art and Design
Emily Yetka, English

Associate Professor
Associate Professor

Science, Engineering, and Mathematics

Dr. Aaron Bruck, Chemistry
Toni Eagleson, Chemistry Lab Supervisor
Gary Johns, Engineering
Nancy Riggs, Mathematics
DanaLea Woehl, Mathematics

Professor
Professional Staff Level IV
Associate Professor
Professor
Professor

Social Science, Performing Arts and Communication

Jessica Zellers, Department Chair, Sociology/Social Work

Professor

Student Affairs

Kathleen “Kathy” Evans, Mental Health Counselor

Professional Staff Level IV

FINANCIAL SERVICES:

Student Financial Services

Kimberly Heldt, Financial Aid Counselor/Compliance Officer

Professional Staff Level III

University Primary Care Clinic

Deborah Bedwell, Clinical Director

Professional Staff Level III

PRESIDENTIAL SERVICES

Foundation and Alumni

Kristi Deetz, Foundation Executive Director/
Senior Director of Institutional Advancement

Professional Staff Level IV

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT/COMMUNITY SERVICES

Generations

Pamela Burton, Director of Fiscal and MIS

Professional Staff Level III

FACULTY WHO RECEIVE TENURE

Dr. Jennifer Pacheco, College of Business and Public Service / Business Administration and Management

MOTION # 24-03

With no questions from the Board, Trustee John Stachura made a motion to approve the list of candidates for promotion and tenure and Trustee J.R. Gaylor 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

Committee Chair Reggie Henderson asked Provost Laura Treanor to present information on the following curriculum items:

Provost Treanor reported the following items have been approved by the Vincennes University Curriculum and Academic Affairs Committee and Faculty Senate. The items submitted for consideration by the Board of Trustees have also been approved by Provost Treanor and President Johnson.

Program Additions

- Certificate of Program Completion in Education 1101, CPC (*SSPAC-5*)

Program Suspensions

- Business Management – Direct Supervision Concentration 5365, ASCT (*BPS-7*)
- Business Management – Direct Supervision Certificate 5366, CG (*BPS-7*)
- Business Management – Direct Supervision Certificate 5367, CPC (*BPS-7*)
- Office Accountant Training Certificate 5252, CPC (*BPS-7*)

Program Deletions

- Auto Body Repair 8076, CPC (*TEC-9*)

Academic Guidelines, University Core Curriculum, & University Manual Items

- Academic Guidelines Proposal AG-1, 2024-2025
- Academic Guidelines Proposal AG-2, 2024-2025
- Academic Guidelines Proposal AG-3, 2024-2025
- UCC Committee Curriculum Proposals UCC-1, 2024-2025

- UCC Committee Curriculum Proposals UCC-2, 2024-2025
- UCC Committee Curriculum Proposals UCC-3, 2024-2025
- UCC Committee Curriculum Proposals UCC-4, 2024-2025
- UCC Committee Curriculum Proposals UCC-5, 2024-2025

Committee Chair Henderson asked Provost Treanor if the University is looking to develop curriculum that would benefit the rising increase in data centers being promoted in the state of Indiana. Provost Treanor responded that there are a number of opportunities that we have in a variety of growth areas across the state. We typically work through a process where our advisory boards help us to understand the opportunities that are available, as well as working with the Deans and Program Directors to identify if there is a program or a concentration that we can put together to meet those needs. In regards to data centers, the Provost was not aware of anything currently specific to that, but stated within our College of Business and Public Service, they are constantly looking for growth opportunities.

MOTION # 24-04

With no further questions from the Board, Committee Chair Henderson 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.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Update from Business and Industry

Kristie Byrns, Senior Director of Corporate Partnership Development, shared the following areas of focus for the Business and Industry area:

Initiatives

- Primary outreach representative for VU
- Lead efforts to develop customized training solutions for employers
- Development of program curriculum, objectives, and intended outcomes
- Elevate VU to be the premiere destination in Indiana for workforce development and partnerships
- Expand training partnerships in hybrid and online learning formats

Relationships

- Develop new workforce training programs and partnerships
- Continued cultivation of current partnerships

Employer Gateway Website

- Developing a one-stop location for employers and students, focusing on Hire / Train / Work & Learn

Trustee Villwock stated he attend the recent Amazon graduation and was inspired on what a difference this program is making in so many lives and careers. Trustee Gaylor asked if the University had a policy or specific criteria it uses in regards to labeling certain training programs as apprenticeships. VP Dave Tucker responded that the University takes great care in distinguishing apprenticeships as being US DOL (Department of Labor) approved apprenticeships. We have other work and learn programs, but the institution is very careful to be certain the apprenticeships are its own unique type of work and learn programs.

Highlighting Student-Athletes

Members of the Athletic Department, coaches, and student-athletes were recognized at the meeting for their many accomplishments throughout this academic year.

Men's Basketball

Head Coach Todd Franklin has achieved 700 wins, was the 2023-24 NJCAA Division I Region 24 Coach of the Year, and has led his teams to the NJCAA Tournament 11 out of the last 12 years.

Assistant Coach Brian Davis was also in attendance, along with three of the student-athletes from the men's basketball team; one of which received All Region 24 honors.

Baseball

Head Coach Chris Barney was recognized for recently achieving his 400th win.

Track & Field

Head Coach Marty Rogier focused the spotlight on sisters Julia and Sophia Amaral, who have both excelled in athletics and academics. At the 2024 NJCAA Indoor National Championships, Julia received her third All-American honor and placed 8th in the women's pole vault; Sophia won the national championship in women's pole vault. Sophomore Oleg Kozjakovs won National Athlete of the Year award, and Sophomore Desroy Jordan won the National Championship in the 600-meter dash. In total, Coach Rogier reported he had 13 Academic All Americans on the Track & Field roster.

Chair Sievers thanked the coaches and student-athletes for all their great work in representing the University so well and that they make us all proud. President Johnson reported that Coach Harry Meeks and Lesa Tucker were not able to be attendance today, but wanted to spotlight two of the student-athletes from the women's basketball team. Destinee Hooks was named the Region 24 Player of the Year, and Elikya Basesyila received All-Region 24 honors for the second time.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

- The President thanked the coaches and student-athletes for representing the University so well, and applauded them for all their great accomplishments.
- Congratulations were also extended to all the faculty and staff who were awarded promotion and tenure.
- Blazers Give Day recently took place and we exceeded our goal in donations.
- VU was proud to be a part of the Eclipse Day activities, and the President thanked Curt Coffman and his committee members for all their hard work in preparing for the event. He also thanked the Physical Plant staff, grounds crew, Student Activities staff, and VUPD for all their great work.
- The President applauded all the hard work of the Physical Plant, grounds crew, and Architectural Services for making our campus look so beautiful all year long. He also made mention of the new sign recently put in place at the work site of the new Center for Health Sciences.
- The President shared brief updates from two conferences he recently attended:
 - Higher Learning Commission Annual Conference
 - AI was a major topic of discussion; how to utilize it to enhance certain things, and how to develop policies surrounding the use of it;
 - Regulatory environment and potential changes in the accreditation landscape;
 - Data-driven strategies and safety – The President stressed that VU has already been highly engaged with this topic with our Data Governance Committee led by Dr. Dale Pietrzak, as well as work being done by our Information Technology staff in regards to data safety;
 - Innovation in higher education and what does higher education look like in the next ten years;
 - Demographic cliff and the challenges nationally as to why people are not going to college.
 - CHE (Indiana Commission for Higher Education) Weldon Conference
 - VU was well represented with Dr. Lori Pence and Ben Davis University High School principal, Valerie Miller, serving on a panel that focused on work-based learning;
 - A Ben Davis University/VU student also served on a panel and shared about his experiences as a BDU/VU student;
 - Discussions surrounding work-based learning programs and how to better loop in career and tech centers;
 - How to better leverage the career scholarships for high school students.
- The President mentioned the recent disruptions surrounding FAFSA and how our Financial Services and Foundation personnel have been working diligently to communicate with our students regarding their financial aid status.
- The President concluded his remarks by highlighting the upcoming Commencement season. He recently participated in the St. Augustine, Florida (Military Education program) ceremony; Vincennes campus will be April 27, American Sign Language and Aviation Technology Center will be May 3, and Jasper campus will be May 4. Throughout May and June our various Early College and Military Education sites will also conduct their commencement ceremonies, with Amazon cohort graduations taking place every three weeks. The President reported that as of today, over 2,500 petitions for graduation have been filed, and he applauded the hard work of our faculty and staff for another successful year.

Trustee Don Villwock asked President Johnson to mention the generous gift that was given to the University from Shorty and Ro Whittington, and, asked if VP Hahn could share any updates from the conclusion of the legislative session. President Johnson reported that Shorty and Ro Whittington recently blessed the University with a \$750,000 first-of-its-kind faculty endowment fund focused on agricultural innovation. Vice President for Government and Legal Affairs, Tony Hahn, reported that several of the items he highlighted at the February Board Retreat did pass both the House and Senate, and that the Board will have some tasks in the future in adopting some new policies surrounding institutional neutrality and tenure review. Work will also need to be done by the University with the Indiana Commission for Higher Education in regards to the Reverse Transfer process, and development of a Complaint Policy. Other legislation that was passed focused on College Core requirements for high schools, as well as numerous reports that will be required from a wide range of stakeholders within the University, regarding spending at various points in the year, spending on DEI efforts, and outcomes in certain training programs.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the Regular Session adjourned at 11:30 p.m. (EDT).

J.R. Gaylor, Secretary

Mike Sievers, Chair