

VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
Wednesday, August 21, 2024 – 10:30 a.m. (EDT)
Vincennes University Jasper Campus
Center for Technology, Innovation and Manufacturing
961 College Avenue – Room 226/227
Jasper, Indiana 47546

Members Present:

Mike Sievers, Chair
Gayle Baugh, Student Trustee
Darrel Bobe
Scott Brand (Zoom)
Jeff Cochren
J.R. Gaylor (Zoom)
Reggie Henderson
Chuck Johnson, President
Greg Parsley
Rick Schach (Zoom)
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 Mike Sievers called the meeting to order at 10:30 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 11 Trustees present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 6-12-24 Regular Session had been distributed. With no questions from the Board, Trustee Reggie Henderson made a motion to approve and Trustee Don Villwock 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 thanked Stephanie Stemle and the staff at VU Jasper for hosting the board meeting on their campus today and also congratulated Ms. Stemle for her recent promotion as Interim Dean of the Jasper Campus. Chair Sievers extended his appreciation to the University and Board for their investments in VU faculty and staff, including the salary improvements made to attract and retain the best employees. He was especially proud that we were able to make significant changes and establish some benchmarks in just one year. Chair Sievers also thanked all who served (Trustees Scott Brand, Kelly Clauss, J.R. Gaylor, John Stachura) on the Administrative Committee and expressed great appreciation for their contributions and insights. He concluded his remarks by noting that construction appears to be progressing well on the new Center for Health Sciences on the Vincennes Campus.

REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP:

VU-Jasper Campus update – Stephanie Stemle, Interim Dean/Assistant Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, shared the following updates pertaining to the Jasper Campus.

- VU-Jasper continues its strong history in supporting local high school students in numerous ways, including providing technical education to high school students in conjunction with the Patoka Valley Career and Technical Cooperative, which serves Dubois and surrounding counties.
- For the Fall, 2024 semester, VUJ has 225 high school students through dual enrollment and dual credit programs in high-demand pathways, such as Construction Trades, Automation and Robotics, EMT, Health Careers, and Criminal Justice. Most of these students are engaged in work-based learning opportunities with employers in Dubois County.
- Patoka Valley students are participating in building a Habitat for Humanity of Dubois County house, which will be the fourth house in the past five years that VUJ has partnered with Habitat for Humanity to construct.
- VUJ is also a partner of Memorial Hospital and Health Care Center, and more than 70% of recent graduates who received their license have gone on to work at Memorial Hospital. Stemle also noted the LPN to BSN nursing program has provided an accelerated path for licensed practical nurses to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and transition to careers as registered nurses.

- Ms. Stemle also highlighted Dubois County’s manufacturing industry and VUJ’s strong partnerships with Kimball Electronics, MasterBrand, OFS, Jasper Engines, and others through the Automation and Robotics Academy, Career Advancement Partnership program and customized business and industry training programs.
- A new PLC lab in VUJ’s Center for Technology, Innovation, and Manufacturing (CTIM) will supplement training offered by VU Jasper.
- VU Jasper Foundation has sponsored Scholastic Excellence Awards for five straight years. 120 students have received full tuition, a one-year \$1,000 stipend, and a laptop through the scholarship program.
- VUJ is exploring more ways to reach adult learners and the area’s growing Latino population with vital educational opportunities.
- Nearly \$3 million investments have been made at VU Jasper, including in new equipment and technology.
- Ms. Stemle thanked the faculty and staff at VU Jasper for their support and concluded her remarks by highlighting several VUJ personnel – Kathy Hollander, Donna Schmidt, and Mandy Osborne

Update on Enrollment

Sarah McLin, Director of Admissions, shared a report from the Admissions Office

- Updates on campus visits were given and the specific groups that are focused on for these visits, such as Knox County students, JAG students, and high school counselors.
- From January 2024 – August 2024, there has been a 12% increase in Start VU attendees.
- VU kicked off the Fall 2024 semester with the largest incoming class on the Vincennes Campus since 2021, with just under 1,100 students. Ms. McLin acknowledged this is a result of all pockets of the University coming together to accomplish this progress. She also thanked Jessi Parker and the entire Financial Services team for all their tremendous help with the FAFSA processing. Increases were also seen for the Aviation Technology Center, and a slight decrease in Distance Education.
- There was a 20% increase in enrollment from Twin Rivers Career and Technical Education Cooperative on the Vincennes Campus. This program serves high school students from Knox, Sullivan, Daviess, Greene, and Martin counties, providing them with dual enrollment opportunities in high-demand fields.
- The University also had the largest number of housing contracts on the Vincennes Campus since 2020.
- There is a 60% increase in the number of incoming Trailblazers who were the Valedictorian or Salutatorian of their high school class.
- Preliminary first-day figures also revealed encouraging diversity growth, with an increase in African-American and Latino students, compared to Fall, 2023; international student numbers, both on the Vincennes Campus and online, are growing; and, slight increases are taking place in the female and urban student populations.
- Ms. McLin concluded her report by sharing what her team is focused on moving forward:
 - Latino population recruitment
 - Dual credit matriculation
 - Targeting specific recruitment events
 - College fairs
 - A goal of 1,203 incoming class on the Vincennes Campus for Fall, 2025

PRESIDENT’S COMMENTS:

- President Johnson welcomed members of the VU Jasper Community Advisory Committee and the VU Jasper Foundation Board that were in attendance for the meeting.
- He also thanked Stephanie Stemle, Jacob Berg, and the staff for all the great work they continue to do at the Jasper Campus.
- The President thanked Sarah McLin and her entire team in Admissions for their incredible work and the encouraging results we are experiencing in enrollment numbers. He also thanked Gary Swegan for his continued help and support with our Admissions teams.
- We are still in the fundraising phase for the new Greenhouse at our Agricultural Center, and the project has reached 51% of the total funding. He thanked Dean (Susan) Brocksmith, the Agribusiness staff, and the VU Foundation for all their efforts and work in this important project.
- The President reported we were not selected for funding through the *Colleges and Community Collaboration (CCC)* Grant, but much of the work that brought community members together to discuss planning and revitalizing our community will continue to move forward. While perhaps not at the same scale as could have been done through the grant, he is encouraged that many projects can still come to fruition. Meetings with four developers who are still interested in potentially helping in specific areas are forthcoming. Other funding through the Lilly Endowment and the READI Grants also hold promise to help with additional projects being considered.
- Marian University has been selected as a CCC Grant winner and VU is part of their vision in taking over the old Larue Carter State Hospital site across from their campus in Indianapolis. VU was brought in on their request, with a vision to expand high school and workforce development programs focused on that particular area of Indianapolis.

- The President announced the first recipients of the Ro and Shorty Whittington Endowed Professorships:
 - Larry Bland, Diesel Technology
 - Chad Hill, Diesel Technology
 - Jeramy Smith, Diesel Technology
 - Jennifer Steffy, Agribusiness and Horticulture
 - Larry Stremming, Diesel Technology, John Deere and Cummins

The President thanked Ro and Shorty Whittington for their commitment to the University and their generous \$750,000 gift over the next three years towards this endowment

- President Johnson reported on the following items that took place at the Opening Meeting of the University on August 12th:
 - Dr. Jay Akridge gave a presentation on the challenges facing higher education. He then led a panel discussion with members of the Executive Team to discuss those challenges and how Vincennes University is preparing for, or in some cases, already dealing with those challenges. Dr. Akridge was very complimentary of the momentum VU has in addressing many of these issues.
 - New employees were recognized, as well as service awards for current employees. The President acknowledged Kalisa Edwards for her 50 years of service to VU, all in the Information Technology department.
 - Peer Recognition Award winners were announced and will be receiving a \$1,000 stipend, as well as being recognized at a reception in the fall.
 - The Year of Listening will take place during the 2024-25 academic year, an idea that came out of the Executive Team's summer retreat. The team will be meeting with various groups and stakeholders across campus for their feedback on a variety of topics. The President believes this will also help inform planning for our new strategic plan, as the current plan will end at the end of 2025.
- Mike Gehrich was introduced in his new role as the Interim Dean of the College of Technology. He continues to serve as the Director of the Aviation Technology Center as well.
- The President introduced John Meeks, via Zoom, as the new Director of Intercollegiate Athletics. He will begin on campus September 9th. Mr. Meeks expressed great appreciation and excitement to join the Trailblazer Team, and developing a strong athletic program that the community can be proud of as well. He and his family are very grateful for this opportunity and are excited to get to Vincennes and plug into the community.
- President Johnson shared the fourth training class graduated from VU's industrial maintenance lab at the Jackson County Learning Center in Seymour.
- Leadership from Indiana Farm Bureau will be visiting our Agricultural Center on September 18.
- Governor Holcomb and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation will be conducting their 3rd quarter Board meeting on the Vincennes Campus on September 19.
- For 15 straight years, the College of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics' Pre-Pharmacy program has enjoyed a 100% acceptance rate to pharmacy schools nationwide. The President acknowledged Dean (Curt) Coffman and the faculty and staff of that College for this incredible track record.
- During a recent Executive Team meeting of the Knox County Indiana Economic Development Corporation, comments were made regarding VP (Dave) Tucker and his team working quickly with Sunrise Coal to put together a program for them. Their HR Director was very complimentary of this work, as well as the many great things VU is doing in workforce development.
- The President shared that Nichole Like, President/CEO of the Pantheon Theatre, recently spoke highly of our CARA (Center for Applied Robotics & Automation) Director Kim Wright and John Stone for their great efforts in working collaboratively on some new technologies for collaborative robotics.
- The President was recently invited to represent Vincennes University on the Pantheon Board.
- President Johnson announced this is the final meeting of our Student Trustee, Gayle Baugh, and the following Board Resolution of Appreciation was extended to Gayle. The President also noted Ms. Baugh is the only VU student trustee who has served two terms on the Board.

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
FOR
GAYLE E. BAUGH**

WHEREAS, Gayle E. Baugh, a resident of Greencastle, Indiana, and a student of Vincennes University, was appointed the Student Trustee of the Board of Trustees for Vincennes University by the Honorable Governor Eric Holcomb in December, 2022, and again in October, 2023 for an unprecedented second term; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Baugh has served with distinction as the Student Trustee for the Vincennes University Board of Trustees and served on the Trustee External Affairs and University Affairs Committees; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Baugh has been a full-time student at Vincennes University pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education, Mild Intervention K-12, as well as serving in the Office of Admissions as a student campus tour guide; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Baugh has served extensively in campus activities, including serving as captain of the VU Cheer Team, being a member of the service-oriented Education Club, participating in the Horticulture Club, being a Dean's List student, as well as a 2023 Indy 500 Festival Princess; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Baugh has ably represented the students during her consecutive terms as a member of the Board of Trustees for Vincennes University, presenting their viewpoint and expressing their concerns for the consideration of the Board.

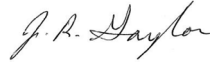
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Vincennes University, through its Board of Trustees, expresses great appreciation to Gayle E. Baugh for her dedicated service as a member of the Board and expresses its gratitude for her devoted work to the school and the cause of education.

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 Ms. Gayle E. Baugh.

DATED at Vincennes University, Jasper, Indiana this 21st day of August, 2024.



Michael J. Sievers, Chair
Vincennes University Board of Trustees



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

Student Trustee Baugh shared her initial goal was to complete two years at Vincennes, then transfer to Purdue. But, she shared that she fell in love with VU and decided to complete her education career here. She concluded that she was very appreciative of the opportunity of serving on the Board and is grateful for all the opportunities it has provided. Chair Sievers also thanked Gayle for her great service to the Board. He concluded the meeting by stating it was easy to have a passion for VU when we have such a great team serving across the institution.

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

J.R. Gaylor, Secretary

Mike Sievers, Chair