

VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
Wednesday, April 15, 2026 – 10:15 a.m. (EDT)
Learning Resource Center – Innovation Room #112
130 E. College Avenue
Vincennes, IN 47591

Members Present:

Mike Sievers, Chair
Darrel Bobe
Scott Brand (Zoom)
Jeff Cochren
J.R. Gaylor (Zoom)
Reggie Henderson (Zoom)
Chuck Johnson, President
Nate Myers (Zoom)
Greg Parsley
John Stachura
Don Villwock
Kate Wise, Student Trustee

Others Present:

Graham Dycus, Attorney for the Board
Nancy Irwin, Secretary for the Board
Conya Wampler, Vice President for Financial Services
Tony Hahn, Vice President for Government & Legal Affairs
Jaci Lederman, Interim Provost
Dave Tucker, Vice President for Workforce Development/
Community Services

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Mike Sievers called the meeting to order at 10:15 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 12 Trustees present.

AMENDED AGENDA

Chair Sievers requested an amendment to the agenda pertaining to President Johnson's contract. Trustee John Stachura made a motion to approve the amended agenda and Trustee Don Villwock seconded the motion. A vote was taken with 12 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the 2-24-26 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 John Stachura made a motion to approve the minutes and Trustee Darrel Bobe 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 extended his appreciation for how beautiful the campus looks and also for the Center for Health Sciences being such an incredible addition to the campus. The Chair also praised the work of Conya Wampler, Travis Linneweber and the entire Financial Services team regarding the excellent reports pertaining to multiple audits conducted by the State Board of Accounts. Chair Sievers extended his appreciation to all the members of the Workforce Housing Group (Conya Wampler, Travis Linneweber, Tony Hahn, Dave Tucker, Andrew Young, Whitney Daugherty, Bradley Wolfe, and Trustees Kelly Clauss and Greg Parsley) for all their great work and time commitment to this important and exciting opportunity. He concluded his remarks by asking for a motion to approve the modifications to President Johnson's contract extending it for another year to December 31, 2029, as presented in the Executive Session.

MOTION # 26-06

Trustee Don Villwock made a motion to approve the extension of the contract and Trustee John Stachura seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and there were 11 yeas and 0 nays, with President Johnson abstaining from the vote. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

Personnel/Nominating Committee:

Committee Chair Greg Parsley presented the following list of candidates for 2026-27 Promotion and Tenure:

2026-27 PROMOTION AND TENURE LIST

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES:

Business and Public Service

NEW TITLE

Jennifer Pacheco, Program Chair, Business Administration & Management Professor
Jennifer Steffy, Department Chair, Agribusiness Associate Professor

Health Sciences and Human Performance

Emily Bushnell, Associate Degree Nursing Associate Professor
Elizabeth Carter, Associate Degree Nursing Associate Professor
Kelly Dellinger, Associate Degree Nursing Associate Professor
Tamera Halter, Program Director, Bachelor Degree Nursing Professor
Ben Scott, Physical Therapy Associate Professor

Humanities

Christopher Schneberger, Art Associate Professor
Paul “Bernie” Schmitt, English Professor
Aaron Tyson Sims, English Professor

Learning Resource Center - Library

Jamie Cox, Public Services Librarian Professional Staff Level IV

Science, Engineering, and Mathematics

Jubin Chen, Department Chair, Physics and Engineering Professor
Shannon Finerty, Biology Associate Professor

Technology

Adam Bezy, Program Director, Advanced Manufacturing Associate Professor

FACULTY WHO RECEIVED TENURE

Jubin Chen, College of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics / Physics and Engineering
Shannon Finerty, College of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics / Biology
Paul “Bernie” Schmitt, College of Humanities, English
Christopher Schneberger, College of Humanities, Art
Aaron Tyson Sims, College of Humanities, English

MOTION # 26-07

With no questions from the Board, Committee Chair Parsley made a motion to approve the list of candidates for promotion and tenure and Trustee Darrel Bobe 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 brought forth a formal request that the Board delegate the final authority to the Finance/Revenue Committee to approve and award bids for two upcoming capital projects: the Clark Residence Hall partial renovations and the Steam Plant Project. These projects are on the State Budget Committee’s agenda for their April 16, 2026 meeting, and once approved, we will be able to proceed with accepting the bids for these projects. Detailed information on these bids have been provided in the Board folder, and Committee Chair Brand asked Andrew Young, Director of Architectural Services and Facilities, to provide an overview.

Clark Residence Hall Partial Renovations

The scope of this project includes a complete HVAC system update, plumbing and electrical upgrades and finishes. Total bid for this project is \$3,246,517.00.

Steam Plant Project

This project replaces two boilers which are exceeding their serviceable lifecycle. The boilers and associated equipment totaled \$890,000 and were approved at the February 9, 2026 Finance/Revenue Committee meeting. The bid currently up for approval is \$2,449,900.00, which is for labor and miscellaneous materials required for the installation of the boilers.

MOTION # 26-08

With no further questions from the Board, Committee Chair Brand made a motion to request the Board delegate the final authority to the Finance/Revenue Committee to approve and award bids, pursuant to the State Budget Committee’s approval of these projects, 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.

Housing Project Proposal:

Committee Chair Brand asked Andrew Young, Director of Architectural Services and Facilities, Conya Wampler, Vice President of Financial Services, and Tony Hahn, Vice President of Government and Legal Affairs, to present information regarding a transformative housing project to strengthen the University’s partnerships with industry leaders and to modernize on-campus housing.

Godare Hall

Complete redesign that includes:

- Typical and efficiency units, each with new private bathroom, new kitchenette area with refrigerator and microwave, and new hotel-style furniture
- Reimagined and stylish amenity spaces
- Refreshed interior spaces that create inspiring and relaxing environments
- Typical units have the capability to convert back to traditional student housing

Vanderburgh Hall

Renovation creates a modern, growth-oriented living environment for students:

- Refreshes and maximizes efficiency for student restrooms
- Revitalizes common areas with modern amenities to foster social interactions
- Features furniture and designs specially curated to support student activities
- Integrates smart technology built to sustain future growth

The total construction budget estimate is \$35 million and the University is confident the housing projects will be mostly funded through non-fee replaced debt (revenue bonds) and housing reserves. VP Hahn presented the following resolution for Board approval, explaining that once approved, the University will then submit the project for the State of Indiana's authorization, including the Commission for Higher Education, State Budget Committee and the Office of the Governor.

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF VINCENNES UNIVERSITY

1. DECLARING THE NECESSITY FOR A PROJECT TO UPDATE AND IMPROVE ON-CAMPUS HOUSING AT VINCENNES UNIVERSITY;
2. GRANTING APPROVAL TO PLAN, FINANCE, AND CONSTRUCT THE PROJECT PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS CONTAINED IN I.C. 21-35-6 AND OTHER APPLICABLE STATUTES;
3. AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY TO REQUEST ALL NECESSARY STATE APPROVALS FOR THE PROJECT;
4. AUTHORIZING CERTAIN OFFICERS OF THE UNIVERSITY TO NEGOTIATE FOR AND OBTAIN PERMANENT FINANCING FOR THE PROJECT, SUBJECT TO ALL STATUTORY PROVISIONS AND SUBJECT TO PRIOR APPROVAL BY THE TREASURER; AND
5. DECLARING OFFICIAL INTENT TO REIMBURSE CERTAIN PROJECT COSTS WITH BOND PROCEEDS

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of Vincennes University (the "Board") has recognized the University's unique advantage in short-term, residential apprenticeship training, and the commitment to competitive student housing options on the Vincennes Campus;

WHEREAS, the Board desires to address the need for additional housing options on the Vincennes University campus;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board as follows:

1. The Board hereby finds that a necessity exists for the planning, financing, and renovation of Godare Hall and Vanderburgh Hall on the Vincennes University Campus ("Project").
2. The proposal to plan, finance, construct, and award one or more contracts for the completion of the Project is hereby authorized and approved.
3. To provide funds with which to complete this Project, the Treasurer of the University (Article III, Section 2 of the Bylaws) is hereby authorized, under the authority of this Resolution, and without the need for further authorization from the Board, to use proceeds from bonds or other obligations of the University in an amount up to the total authorized Project cost, which is hereby set and approved at \$35,000,000 (the "Authorized Cost"); provided, that the Treasurer is also authorized and empowered to use, as funding either to supplement and replace a portion of the above-referenced bond proceeds (up to the Authorized Cost) or to cover the financing costs thereof: funds from Vincennes University housing reserves.
4. The Board authorizes and directs the Treasurer to select, retain, and contract with an architectural/engineering firm to provide planning services for such amount and on such terms as she, in her sole discretion, shall deem to be in the best interest of Vincennes University.
5. The Board further authorizes the financing of said Project, as further provided herein, subject to (i) the provisions for the financing thereof contained in IC 21-33-3-6, 21-35-6, 21-32-2, (collectively, the "Indiana Code"), (ii) the additional state approvals required by the Indiana Code, and (iii) the limitations as to costs which may be financed for said Project as set forth in the Indiana Code, so long as the principal amount of bonds or other obligations issued for the costs of said Project (excluding additional costs allowable for interest and financing charges, underwriter's discount, debt service reserves, credit enhancement or bond or reserve insurance, or other incidental costs permitted by statute) does not exceed, in the aggregate, the Authorized Cost for the Project.
6. The Board further authorizes and empowers the Treasurer, as follows: If in their judgment it appears prudent, under then-current market conditions, the Treasurer is authorized to commence negotiations with commercial banks, investment banking

or underwriting firms, or other lending or financial institutions, and to undertake preparation of documents for the proposed permanent financing of said Project through the issuance and sale of one or more new series of fixed or variable rate student facilities system revenue bonds (covering all or less than all of said Project and Authorized Cost). The bonds: (i) may be issued in any denomination, with maturities not later than 30 (thirty) years from the date of issuance, (ii) may be sold at a negotiated sale as provided by IC 21-32-3, and (iii) may bear interest payable at any interval or intervals not exceeding one year. The Treasurer is authorized to grant the approvals described in this section, to authorize the execution, sale, and delivery of any such bonds, and to delegate to one or more other officers of the Board or of Vincennes University such authority to determine and fix the final terms and conditions of the fixed or variable rate transaction as, in her sole discretion, the Treasurer deems appropriate.

7. The Board hereby declares its official intent, pursuant to applicable Treasury Regulations, to plan, design, acquire, construct, equip and furnish the Project and to reimburse certain costs of design, acquisition, construction, equipping and furnishing of said Project with the proceeds of debt to be incurred by the University with respect to said Project, as well as to issue debt not in excess of the maximum amounts for said Project as set forth in this Resolution and as otherwise limited or permitted by applicable statutes.

8. Except for the authority specifically delegated to the Treasurer in Section 6 above with respect to the financing of the Project, the Treasurer is further authorized and empowered to delegate to one or more officers and representatives of University such tasks and responsibilities with respect to the completion of the Project as she, in her sole discretion, shall deem to be in the best interests of the Board and University and consistent with the exercise of the authority granted in this Resolution.

9. The Board further authorizes the appropriate officers of the Board and University to execute all documents necessary to finance the Project (the "Financing Documents") in counterparts and by electronic means (as described below), all of which counterparts taken together shall constitute the same respective instrument; moreover, the Board hereby authorizes the Financing Documents to be signed and/or transmitted by email or as .pdf documents or using electronic signature technology (e.g. via DocuSign or similar electronic record), it being understood that any documents so signed or transmitted shall be deemed valid and as effective to bind the signing party as a paper copy bearing such party's handwritten signature.

10. The Chairman, Treasurer, General Counsel, Secretary, and the President of Vincennes University, are hereby authorized and empowered, on behalf and in the name of the Board, or of the University, to: (a) request the necessary approvals of the Governor and the Budget Agency and all other necessary governmental approvals for the actions hereinabove authorized; and (b) take all other necessary and proper actions to carry out the purpose and intent of this Resolution, whether herein specifically authorized or not, except such actions as are specifically required by law to be taken by the Board as the governing board of Vincennes University.

MOTION # 26-09

Committee Chair Brand thanked Conya, Tony, and Andrew for their presentation and review of information. With no further questions from the Board, Committee Chair Brand made a motion to approve the aforementioned resolution and Trustee Don Villwock seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 12 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP

Overview of new mentor program

April Yap, Director of Mentorship and Student Engagement Initiatives, presented information pertaining to VU's Mentor Leadership Program.

The Opportunity – Expanding access to first generation college-going students:

- 40-45% of Indiana's college students are first generation
- 51% of Indiana's Hispanic population is 24 years old or younger
- Indiana's public school enrollment - 14.6% are Hispanic & 13.4% are Black

A Three-Phase Mentorship Pipeline was created:

- Phase 1 – VU to High School (VU students mentor high schoolers on college readiness)
- Phase 2 – VU Peer-to-Peer (Upper classmen support new students)
- Phase 3 – Alumni/Community Leaders to VU (Alumni/community leaders to guide current students on career paths)

Future Program Structure:

- 3-5 Mentors chosen from VU Jasper campus due to proximity to high schools selected for the pilot program
- Vetting process with interviews and signed contract; each will earn a stipend and/or credit aligned with certain course study requirements
- Curriculum training – Use of proven PREPP (Planning – Research – Evaluation – Preparation – Placement) curriculum
- 10 students per semester – work with high school counselors to help identify students at five key Dubois County high schools

Ms. Yap reported the program and funding initiatives began in September-October, 2025; followed by curriculum evaluation and recruitment, mentorship leadership program launch, and then the inaugural high school mentorship program launch in March-May, 2026.

Ms. Yap also acknowledged gratitude to the many generous funding sources for this important initiative:

- German American Bank
- Jasper Engines

- VU Jasper Foundation
- Dubois County Community Foundation
- ROI Rural Welcoming Grant
- ROI Welcoming Uplands Grant

Ms. Yap was also encouraged to report that 3 VU Students Mentors have been secured, high school participation confirmed, and 13 Mentees identified for this pilot program in Dubois County.

President Johnson thanked Ms. Yap for all her attention and work in developing and implementing this important program.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

- The President began his comments by highlighting students and faculty from the following programs and clubs:
 - Campus Christian Fellowship
 - Photo Club
 - Blazer Catholic
 - Earth Science and Biology Club
 - Snow Minion "Club"
 - Auto Club
 - Student-Athletes and Coaches from:
 - Men's Bowling
 - Men's and Women's Basketball
 - Women's Volleyball
 - Men's and Women's Track and Field
 - Gunnar Gardner was introduced as the inaugural head coach of the Men and Women's Wrestling Program
- The President expressed his appreciation to Athletic Director John Meeks and his visionary leadership with our athletic programs. He also applauded all the students and faculty members for the great work being done in all of these programs and clubs.
- Congratulations was extended to all the faculty and staff that received promotion and tenure, and President Johnson also thanked them for all the important work they do for the institution and our students.
- The President also extended his appreciation to the Board for their support of the upcoming housing projects and steam plant improvements.
- VU Graphic Design Students were recently recognized for the signage they designed and created for the new Daviess Community Hospital Women's Center.
- The President acknowledged the success of the recent Blazer's Give Day and also expressed his gratitude to Tom and Chris Ernst for their generous gift of \$300,000.00, noting the impact it will have for generations to come.
- Due to the loss of federal and state funding, the recent difficult decision was made to relinquish our PBS affiliation with WVUT. The University is working closely with Kevin Watson, Director of Broadcasting Operations, and the radio station (WVUB) to create a model that allows us to take advantages of the great resources, studio, and equipment that we already have in place. This will not only continue to be a benefit for our University overall, but also to our community, and more particularly for the academics of our students and the tremendous experience we can offer in that area.
- The President reported we are waiting to hear from the federal government regarding our TRIO programs Grant and that we are part of a class that is looking to pursue funding from the Department of Education. In the meantime, we remain committed to the mission of those programs and are working with the leadership team (Rick Kribs, Candace Joles, Katie Deckard) to develop a model that will continue to meet the students' needs but also be financially viable for any financial uncertainty for those programs.
- The President thanked Tony Hahn and his team for all their great work in helping develop the *Vincennes University at the Grove* Marian REID Project. A community event was held in March with great support and enthusiasm, and we look forward to see this exciting project come to fruition with career and technical education opportunities.
- The Southern Indiana Aviation project continues moving forward with a great foundation of funding already in place, while additional funding sources continue to be pursued.
- The President reported requests were recently made for additional information for the IYPC (Indiana Youth Program On Campus) Grant. This is a Lilly Endowment \$500,000 second-round grant that will help us sustain and grow some of the great programs we have in place to reach high-school aged students and provide them opportunities to experience our campuses.
- The AI in Higher Education Grant is a \$12 million initiative being led by Interim Provost Lederman. If VU is fortunate enough to receive this grant, it will have significant impact on the University and our ability to adopt AI in four pillars:
 - Student success
 - Academic innovation
 - Operational excellence
 - Responsible AI.

- Official enrollment numbers for spring semester are up 5% full-time equivalent (FTE) students for both the Vincennes campus and system-wide. The President acknowledged that is a result of a concerted effort by so many people to not only bring students here, but to help those students stay the course and complete their degree. The President also reported that application numbers for the fall are trending in the right direction as well.
- Commencement season will soon begin, with over 2,300 credentials to be awarded this spring and summer. Much work is being done by our Records Office, Deans, and faculty to make sure our students have the courses they need to receive those credentials.
 - May 2nd – Vincennes Commencement – Dennis Bland will receive an Honorary Doctorate
 - May 8th – ASL and ATC Commencements
 - May 9th – Jasper Campus Commencement
- The President concluded his remarks by thanking the Board for their continued support and guidance and he looks forward to continuing to serve the institution.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the Regular Session adjourned at 11:45 a.m. (EDT).

J.R. Gaylor, Secretary

Mike Sievers, Chair