

**VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION**  
**Wednesday, June 10, 2026 – 10:30 a.m. (EDT)**  
**Shake Learning Resource Center - Innovation Room # 112**  
**130 E. College Avenue**  
**Vincennes, IN 47591**

**Members Present:**

Mike Sievers, Chair  
Darrel Bobe  
Kelly Clauss (Zoom)  
J.R. Gaylor (Zoom)  
Reggie Henderson (Zoom)  
Chuck Johnson, President  
Greg Parsley  
John Stachura  
Don Villwock

**Others Present:**

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mike Sievers called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. (EDT) in the Shake Learning Resource Center Innovation Room #112 in Vincennes, Indiana.

**ROLL CALL**

Nancy Irwin called the roll. A quorum was declared with 9 Trustees present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the 4-15-26 Executive and Regular Sessions, and the 4-29-26 Finance/Revenue Committee meeting 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 Don Villwock seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and there were 9 yeas and 0 nays, with the minutes passing unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chair Sievers thanked all the members of the Board and guests who joined the meeting today. He also extended congratulations to Jaci Lederman for being selected as the next Provost/Vice President of Instructional Services/Dean of Faculty for Vincennes University. He also expressed his appreciation for the many roles she has served in at the institution and looks forward to working with her in this new role. The Chair also shared that Adam Watkins, Assistant VP and Dean of the Jasper Campus, recently made a decision to step down from his role due to personal reasons, and thanked him for all the great work he has done for the institution and for the Jasper Campus. Mr. Sievers expressed appreciation to Alli Tempel (current Assistant Dean) for her willingness to step in as Interim Dean at Jasper. The Chair concluded his remarks stating how grateful he is for the beautiful grounds and facilities on this campus.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**University Affairs:**

**Curriculum Items**

Committee Chair Henderson asked Provost Lederman to present the following information requiring Board approval:

**Program Suspensions**

- Advanced Cyber Security and Information Assurance Certificate 5443, C.P.C.
  - ***Rationale:*** *These programs have generated little interest over the past five years.*
- Business Office Management Technology Certificate 5516, C.G.
  - ***Rationale:*** *These programs have generated little interest over the past five years.*
- Information Technology - Data Analytics and Visualization Concentration 5514, A.S. Transfer
  - ***Rationale:*** *These programs have generated little interest over the past five years.*
- Information Technology - Web Design Concentration 5512, A.S. Transfer
  - ***Rationale:*** *These programs have generated little interest over the past five years.*

- Networking and Security Specialist - IT Support Specialist Concentration 8257, A.S. Career/Tech
  - **Rationale:** *These programs have generated little interest over the past five years.*
- Programming and Game Development Certificate 5456, C.P.C.
  - **Rationale:** *These programs have generated little interest over the past five years.*
- Software Development - Database Certificate 5455, C.P.C.
  - **Rationale:** *These programs have generated little interest over the past five years.*
- Virtual Assistant 5611, C.P.C.
  - **Rationale:** *These programs have generated little interest over the past five years.*
- English 2150, A.A. Transfer
  - **Rationale:** *The English 2150, A.A. degree has seen no enrollment in recent years and currently has no enrollment. The English 2150 A.S. degree is still available.*
- Technology - Advanced Manufacturing Baccalaureate Concentration 8001, B.S.
  - **Rationale:** *These are considered low enrollment concentrations and are being removed.*
- Technology - Industrial Development Baccalaureate Concentration 8002, B.S.
  - **Rationale:** *These are considered low enrollment concentrations and are being removed.*
- Technology - Career/Technical Education Baccalaureate Concentration 8005, B.S.
  - **Rationale:** *These are considered low enrollment concentrations and are being removed.*

#### **Program Deletions**

- Broadcasting - Broadcast Journalism Concentration 7111, A.S. Career/Tech
  - **Rationale:** *The request is being made for the following reasons:*
    - *The Broadcasting – Broadcast Journalism Concentration 7111, A.S. Career/Tech program has low-enrollment and graduation rates.*
    - *In the process of restructuring the Communication Department programs into one parent program with media-related concentrations, the Broadcast Journalism Concentration 7111, A.S. Career/Tech requirements have been merged into the newly restructured Communication and Media - Broadcasting Concentration 7110, A.S. Career/Tech.*
- Broadcasting - Broadcast Journalism Concentration 7111, A.S. Transfer
  - **Rationale:** *The request is being made for the following reasons:*
    - *The Broadcasting – Broadcast Journalism Concentration 7111, A.S. program has low-enrollment and graduation rates.*
    - *In the process of restructuring the Communication Department programs into one parent program with media-related concentrations, the Broadcast Journalism Concentration 7111, A.S. requirements have been merged into the newly restructured Broadcasting 7110 A.S. media concentration.*
- Photojournalism 2352, A.S. Transfer
  - **Rationale:** *The request is being made for the following reasons: The Photojournalism 2352 program has low-enrollment and graduation rates. In the process of restructuring the Communication Department programs into one parent program with media-related concentrations, the Photojournalism 2352 program requirements have been merged into the newly restructured Journalism 2350 media concentration.*
- Public Relations and Communication - Communication Studies Concentration 2501, A.S. Transfer
  - **Rationale:** *This request is being made for the following reasons:*
    - *The 2501 concentration has low-enrollment and graduation rates.*
    - *In the process of restructuring the Communication Department programs into one parent program with media-related concentrations, this Public Relations and Communication – Communication Studies 2501 A.S. concentration has been merged into the parent program.*

#### **MOTION # 26-11**

After some discussion, Committee Chair Henderson, on behalf of the University Affairs Committee, made a motion to approve the above-mentioned program suspensions and deletions and Trustee John Stachura seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 9 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

#### **REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP**

##### **Mid-Cycle Budget Update**

Conya Wampler, Vice President for Financial Services, and Travis Linneweber, Associate Vice President for Budget and Finance, shared the following information:

- A \$3.3 million positive variance due to labor-related savings from vacancy periods, and a modified hiring freeze that achieved better than the typical 10% savings target
- The institution's financial structure relies on the following foundational revenues:
  - State support – which accounts for 58.9% of the revenue budget
  - Student tuition and fees – which account for 39%
  - Interest Income and other sources – which account for the remaining percentage
- The expenditure side:
  - Labor and compensation – 63% of the operating budget
  - Non-labor (supplies, scholarships, utilities) – 34%
  - R&R (Repairs and Renovations) and equipment – Approximately 5%
- Key budgetary challenges for FY 27:
  - Maintaining 0% tuition increase
  - Housing/meal rates will increase by 3%, while remaining committed to continuing our housing scholarship program through the 2026-27 academic year
  - Navigating the second year of the state's funding reductions, which include the 5% appropriation decrease, along with the 5% held in reserves
  - Managing inflationary pressures for essential operating costs, particularly equipment, supplies, and utilities
  - Continuing to monitor enrollment numbers
  - Continue to track if the state will release the 5% reserve; however, we have not budgeted for it
  - Maintain strict operational discipline, including rigorous vetting of all vacancies and continue to evaluate these cost-saving measures
  - Final decisions regarding employee merit increases will be contingent upon our experience in the first quarter, which includes fall enrollment numbers

### **Jackson County Learning Center Partnership**

Dave Tucker, Vice President of Workforce Development and Community Services, and Jerry Ruble, Director of Industrial Maintenance Training, shared the following information and introduced personnel regarding this exciting partnership opportunity to expand workforce training in Jackson County.

- VU Education and Training footprint is significant throughout the state of Indiana, which include VU Campuses, Training Sites, CTE Early College locations, ABC-VU locations, and ABC/VU Prep Academy locations
- Jim Plump, Executive Director of Jackson County Industrial Development Corporation, shared that VU and local stakeholders launched initiatives to modernize technical training. Funding included \$480,000 from READI 1.0 Grant, along with a total regional investment of over \$1.62 Million. The project was designed to focus on addressing local skills gaps with new infrastructure and training programs.
- Jerry Ruble and Brian Sawyers, Site Director/VU Instructor, shared the following training offerings and outcomes:
  - Basic Mechanical – Basic Electrical – Intermediate Mechanical – Intermediate Electrical
  - Outcomes (November 2023 – Present)
    - 100 individuals have participated in training
    - 199 total certificates earned
    - 20 individuals have completed all four currently offered classes
- Primary program partners include the Aisin family of companies, Cummins, Nippon Steel Pipe, and Valeo, along with other numerous companies and organizations in the Jackson County area.
- Dan Davis, President & CEO of Community Foundation of Jackson County, reported that the READI 2.0 Grant will help provide funding to expand training access, support industry partnerships, and reduce costs. This will help in accelerating program growth, innovation, and regional economic development. Future training opportunities include advanced electrical and advanced industrial maintenance. Upgrades and renovations to the JCLC sites will also be supported by this grant.
- Mr. Plump and Mr. Davis both expressed great appreciation to VU for this wonderful partnership and what it means to the area.

### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

- The President thanked the Jackson County personnel for all their great work in developing this exciting partnership and the opportunities it is creating in that area of the state.
- Effective July 1, WVUT will no longer be affiliated as a public broadcasting station. The President reported we will be working with NETA (National Education Telecommunications Association) and the American Public Television Network to continue to provide educational and community-focused programming for the region, as well as working on ways to take advantage of the tremendous resources, assets, and people that we already have in place in the Broadcasting area. The President extended appreciation and thanks to Kevin Watson and Dean Cynthia Ragle for their continued work in navigating these challenges.

- The TRIO Programs (Blazers Achieve and Experience VU) have been re-evaluated and will be receiving their funding for the full 5-year grant. The President acknowledged the steadfast work of Rick Kribs, Candace Joles, and Katie Deckard, who remained focused on maintaining these programs that are of tremendous value and help to many of our students.
- Fall enrollment numbers are currently trending flat system-wide, mainly due to a decline in our returning student numbers. Overall, we are about 2.7% above for full-time equivalent (FTE) compared to last year at this point.
- Knox Life (a non-profit extension of Knox County Indiana Economic Development) recently made a donation to Vincennes University to help provide scholarships for those students impacted by the cessation of undergraduate programming at Oakland City University. Admissions teams from both Vincennes and Jasper campuses have been reaching out to identify individuals from that area who could possibly benefit from transferring to VU. A deadline extension (July 1) has also been granted regarding the housing scholarship for those individuals who have been affected.
- Congratulations were extended to Provost Jaci Lederman, and President Johnson expressed his appreciation for her great work and looks forward to working with her in this new role.
- The President, along with Provost Lederman and the leadership team in IT, are working to identify a transition plan for hiring a new Chief Information Officer. The hope is to have an individual in place by the fall semester.
- President Johnson expressed his gratitude to Adam Watkins for all the great things he accomplished for the institution, and is grateful to Alli Tempel for her willingness to step into the Interim Dean role.
- The President shared an exciting update regarding an exchange program that was developed in 2016 with two Japanese institutions - Utsunomiya University and Sakushin Gakuin University
  - To date, nearly 30 individuals have come from these institutions to attend VU for 1-2 semesters, which has been a great contribution in efforts to provide our student population with more global cultural opportunities.
  - 6 VU students have studied at the Japanese institutions, all of which had to be proficient in the language to live and be involved in these institutions. Some exciting opportunities have developed for these students:
    - Isaac Parman completed the VU-Purdue Engineering Program and began as an engineer at Futaba in Vincennes. He had done an internship with Toyota, and has now been selected for a long-term international assignment at Toyota Headquarters in Japan.
    - Isaac Winfrey graduated from VU in 2025 and is currently serving as a Japanese interpreter at Futaba in Vincennes.
    - Jeremiah Sterrett graduated from VU in May and transferred to Indiana University for Summer 2026, with plans to enroll in the Utsunomiya University Graduate School in Japan for Fall 2027.
    - 3 VU Alumni (Zach Noble, Cameron Carver, and Reece Daugherty) were selected by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to teach English in Japanese public schools.
  - President Johnson praised the excellent work of Yoshiko Cockerham (Instructor of Japanese Culture and History) and the great devotion and care she gives in educating her students in the Japanese language and culture.
- Work continues on the Clark Hall and Steam Plant projects, with both projects being completed this summer. Preliminary plans are being developed as well for the major housing project that was awarded back in April. The President concluded his remarks by asking Andrew Young, Director of Architectural Services and Facilities, to present information on an exciting project being planned for Beckes Park.
- Beckes Park is located between the Administration Building and the new Center for Health Sciences. Several challenges in the area need to be addressed, such as inadequate connections to existing parking, damaged and deteriorated sidewalks, inconsistent crosswalks, damaged brick benches, and trip hazards. The new design concept includes adding walkways for better parking access, improved pedestrian crosswalks, major improvements to Beckes Park, a main circulation path through campus, and a VU-branded flame sculpture as a center point. Construction is slated to begin this month, with a completion scheduled for September. Mr. Young thanked his team for their great work in designing this exciting new project. The President thanked Andrew and his team for an outstanding job designing this exciting improvement for our campus, and was also pleased to report the cost of the project is within the limit of the University's budget authority.

### **Adjournment**

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

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J.R. Gaylor, Secretary

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Mike Sievers, Chair