

**VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF REGULAR SESSION
Wednesday, August 19, 2026 – 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
Darrel Bobe (Zoom)
Scott Brand (Zoom)
Kelly Clauss
Jeff Cochren
J.R. Gaylor (Zoom)
Chuck Johnson, President
Greg Parsley
John Stachura
Don Villwock (Zoom)
Kate Wise, Student Trustee

Others Present:

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

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 6-10-26 Regular Session had been distributed. With no questions from the Board, Trustee John Stachura made a motion to approve and Trustee Kelly Clauss 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 expressed his appreciation to everyone at the Jasper Campus for hosting the board meeting and commended them on their beautiful campus. The Chair also acknowledged and congratulated Trustee Reggie Henderson for being honored on July 14th by Governor Braun with the Outstanding Black Hoosier Award. The award focuses on individuals whose leadership, service, and contributions strengthen their communities and create lasting impacts across the state of Indiana.

ACTION ITEMS:

University Affairs:

Greenhouse Naming Rights Proposal

In Committee Chair Reggie Henderson's absence, Committee member Kelly Clauss presented information on the proposal and thanked Kristi Deetz for providing a detailed packet of information. Trustee Clauss asked President Johnson to provide additional background on the proposal.

President Johnson stated this proposal was the culmination of a 2 ½-3-year fundraising project for the University. The Greenhouse will be located adjacent to the existing VU Ag Center on Highway 41 and will be a state-of-the-art instructional and lab facility, and one that will elevate the experience of our students in agriculture, agribusiness, and horticulture. Many partners have stepped up to offer support and the University has committed about \$250,000.00 towards the project, which is expected to total around \$850,000.00 for both the instructional and lab spaces. The Winemiller family has a long-standing association with Vincennes University and Mr. Jim Winemiller was a VU alum. Their family requests the following for the naming rights:

- The donor requests the facility to be officially named: "James D. and Kay Winemiller Greenhouse."
- The donor requests that the interior sign be worded as – "In honor of James D., Kay, Doris and Maurice Winemiller and their belief in the power of education."
- Total gift amount: \$252,517.19 received.

MOTION # 26-12

Committee member Clauss brought forth a recommendation to approve the aforementioned naming rights proposal as a motion, 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 ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP:

VU-Jasper Campus update – Interim Assistant Vice President and Dean, Alli Tempel, shared the following updates pertaining to the Jasper Campus.

- (RISE) Recruit-Inspire-Support-Engage was created from a wide variety of both internal and external stakeholder input, and through these efforts, VU-Jasper is already seeing positive enrollment gains:
 - Summer 2026 – headcount for summer courses increased 34%
 - Fall 2026 – 11% increase in continuing numbers
 - 16.8% increase in students enrolled full-time
 - Increased balance between traditional students and dual enrolled students
- Student demographics data was presented
- Strategic projects and progress were reported on the following:
 - Increase offerings of hybrid courses
 - Strengthened relationship with Veteran's Services
 - Creation of Fast Track Pathways
 - Increase collaboration with Deaconess Memorial Medical Center
 - Tour of Opportunity
 - Alumni & Faculty spotlights
 - Partner with employers offering tuition reimbursement
 - Attract and support the Spanish-speaking population
 - Continue to build upon established relationships and continue to create new partnerships
 - Nursing pass and completion rates
 - Fall partnership events
- Peer Recognition nominees and winners were acknowledged, as well as employees who had reached the 5 years of service milestone
- Summer RISERs of the month were also acknowledged

President Johnson expressed his appreciation to Alli for her willingness to step into this additional role of Interim Dean, in addition to the already great work she has done in her regular role as Assistant Dean of Academic and Student Services. Trustee Kelly Clauss echoed President Johnson's words and expressed her appreciation for Alli's leadership and the incredible work she has done for the institution. She thanked Alli for being a shining star for VU-Jasper.

RSVP (Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) Update

Laura Holscher, Assistant Vice President & Executive Director of Generations, shared the following information on the AmeriCorps Grant in Dubois and Pike Counties:

- Generations is a program of Vincennes University and is designated by the Indiana Division of Aging's Commission on Aging as the Area 13 Agency on Aging, impacting nearly 52,000 individuals across six counties.
- In July, Generations was awarded an \$89,550 AmeriCorps Grant to support and expand new volunteer services for older adults in Dubois and Pike counties. The grant awarded falls under AmeriCorps Seniors, which connect adults 55+ with volunteer opportunities. The six focus areas of the grant initiative are as follows:
 - Fraud prevention
 - Tax preparation
 - Nutrition support
 - Health education
 - Caregiver support
 - Nonprofit resource development
- Laura concluded her remarks with an outstanding report from Knox and Green Counties, where they exceeded targets for both volunteers and service outputs in these counties.

Adult Education Program

Vicmary Jimenez-Bene, IET/WEI/ABE Lead Instructor, provided information on Vincennes University's Adult Education program, which serves nine counties.

- 4 Pillars of Adult Education:
 - High School Equivalency (HSE)
 - English Language Learner (ELL or ESL)
 - Workforce Education and Training (WEI)
 - Integrated Education and Training (IET)

- Highlights from programs in Dubois County were also shared:
 - Farbest Foods has been a successful partnership in workforce education and training in Dubois County, with Farbest Foods Inc being recognized at Adult Education Day by DWD and IAACE as a 2026 Adult Education Advocate Business partner.
 - 43 students were served in GED/High School Equivalency programs and currently serving 52 active ESL students
 - Continuing to pursue opportunities to expand workforce and integrated training pathways and connecting adults to credentials, as well as explore additional certification opportunities and align training with local employer needs.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS:

- President Johnson thanked Alli Tempel, Laura Holscher, and Vicmary Jimenez-Bene for their presentations and commended each of them for all the great work being done in each of their areas.
- Various members of the VU Jasper Community Advisory Committee and VU Jasper Foundation Board were in attendance and introduced themselves -- Gary Schnell, Nancy Eckerle, Dan Fritch, and Jasper Mayor, Ryan Craig. President Johnson thanked them for their continued support and applauded the great cooperation that continues between schools, employers, and communities to help support the efforts of VU-Jasper.
- The President provided updates on enrollment trends, noting that while overall numbers are relatively flat, the Vincennes campus is down due to delayed international student arrivals; ATC and Distance Education programs are up significantly. The President was encouraged that overall enrollment numbers are trending in a positive direction. He thanked Director of Admissions, Sarah McLin, and her team for their continued efforts, as well as the Jasper Admissions team for all their great work, with Jasper enrollment numbers trending upwards.
- A strategic partnership has been formed with our WVUT team, studio, and External Relations department which will provide exciting opportunities to produce world-class, high-quality video and audio content. The President reported we are still reviewing options for our radio station, WVUB, and ways we can move forward in that area.
- While the Blazers Achieve and Experience VU TRIO programs had their funding restored last spring, the actual funding has not yet arrived. One item of great interest is if the University will be reimbursed as well for maintaining those programs.
- Many leadership transitions have recently taken place throughout the institution:
 - Jaci Lederman, Provost
 - Mandy Haag, Dean, College of Science, Engineering, and Mathematics
 - Joan Puckett, a long-serving faculty member and Dean of the College of Humanities, retired in June
 - Matt Norman, previous English Department Chair, is now serving as Interim Dean of the College of Humanities
 - Jason King, Interim Dean, College of Health Sciences and Human Performance, has returned to teaching full time
 - Tamera Halter, a long-serving faculty member and former Chair of the Bachelor's Degree in Nursing, has been appointed Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Human Performance
 - Alli Tempel, Interim AVP/Dean of Jasper Campus
 - Two candidates for the AVP/Dean of Jasper Campus will be coming this week for further interviews
 - Final discussions are taking place to hire an Interim CIO while a broader search for a permanent CIO takes place.
- Work continues on the Clark Hall, Steam Plant, and Beckes Park projects, and planning continues on the Godare and Vanderburgh renovations.
- A Strategic Facilities Working Group was established earlier this year and is being chaired by Stephanie Stemle. One of their directives is to assess how we can optimize our use of space, and they are currently focusing on Beckes Student Union and the former Health Sciences building.
- Several strategic initiatives continue to show progress:
 - Herron-Riverside High School will be one of our first CTE partners at The Grove, which is through our exciting partnership with the Marian REID Project.
 - Funding continues to progress regarding the Southern Indiana Aviation program.
 - The AI in Higher Education grant proposal has been submitted and a meeting took place in July to answer some follow-up questions pertaining to the proposal.
 - Through this AI grant proposal, VU is now part of a consortium led by Indiana University. While no grant dollars will be awarded through this group, it was created to develop a collaboration of various institutions which can work together to share best practices.
 - The Online Teacher Preparation Initiative was recently launched and is designed to support K-12 partner schools facing critical shortages. This initiative provides a new online, high-quality Bachelor's Degree program designed to streamline the certification process and place future educators in the classrooms that need them most. The President stated an online dual licensure in Elementary Education (K-6) and Special Education (Mild Interventions P-12) Bachelor's Degree from VU is a vital pathway to professional

certification for anyone who wants to become an educator. This initiative will help K-12 partners recruit and prepare local aspiring teachers through a powerful “Grow-Your-Own” strategy.

- With Oakland City suspending their undergraduate programs, Dr. Bob Hacker, Education Department Chair, reached out to Provost Lederman to seek VU’s help with 10-12 education students who were entering their junior or senior year of study. The President thanked Dean Cynthia Ragle and Ann Herman (Professor and Department Chair of Education) for all their efforts and work to make it possible for those students to continue their education at VU and obtain their degrees.
- A round of accreditation reviews with The Higher Learning Commission will be taking place in several of our sites, which will include some Early College, Project Excel, and Military Education sites. The University’s next reaffirmation will occur in 2028.
- VU received an A+ rating for its dual licensure for Elementary Special Education and Mild Intervention Program from the National Council on Teacher Quality, which is the highest rating they give. The President praised the VU faculty for all their tremendous work in making this rating possible.
- New Wrestling coach, Gunnar Gardner, has already made an incredible impact with this new sport and has recruited 53 men and women wrestling student-athletes who will start this year.
- The Military Education program recently celebrated its 40th anniversary and the President thanked VP David Tucker and his team for the great work they continue to do in this important outreach to active-duty personnel and first responders.
- The 2026 Peer Recognition recipients were announced at the Opening Meeting on August 10th and a special reception will be held in their honor later in the fall semester.
 - Tricia Trent, Assistant Professor & Academic Area Coordinator for Business/IT/Public Service – VU Jasper
 - Ben Scott, Associate Professor, PTA Program
 - Samantha Riley, Admissions Counselor & Community Engagement Specialist – VU Jasper Admissions
 - Audrey Case, Assistant Math Professor & Area Academic Coordinator – VU Jasper
 - Jillian Kiefer, Chair – Pharmacy Technology
- The President announced this would be the final meeting for Student Trustee Kate Wise and he presented the following Resolution of Appreciation to Kate:

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
FOR
KATE E. WISE**

WHEREAS, Kate E. Wise, an alumna of Vincennes University, was appointed the Student Trustee of the Board of Trustees for Vincennes University by the Honorable Governor Eric Holcomb in October, 2024, and appointed for a second term by Honorable Governor Mike Braun in October, 2025; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Wise 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. Wise was a full-time student at Vincennes University, earning an Associate of Science Degree in Legal Studies, with Cum Laude honors, and a Bachelor’s Degree in Homeland Security & Public Safety, with Magna Cum Laude honors; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Wise was extensively involved in campus activities, including serving as treasurer of the Legal Studies Club, secretary of the Bass Fishing Club, and as a student campus tour guide in the Office of Admissions; and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Wise honorably represented the students as a member of the Board of Trustees for Vincennes University, presenting their viewpoint and expressing their concerns for the consideration of the Board.

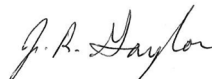
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Vincennes University, through its Board of Trustees, expresses great appreciation to Kate E. Wise for her dedicated service as a member of the Board and expresses its gratitude for her devotion to Vincennes University and the cause of education.

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. Kate E. Wise.

DATED at Vincennes University, Jasper, Indiana this 19th day of August, 2026.



Michael J. Sievers, Chair
Vincennes University Board of Trustees



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

Ms. Wise thanked the President for the special recognition and shared that it was an honor to be able to serve on the Board for two years.

Chair Sievers concluded the meeting by thanking the Jasper Campus for hosting the meeting, and thanked the Trustees and senior leadership for their participation in today's meeting. He also thanked Alli Tempel, Laura Holscher, and Vicmary Jimenez-Bene for their informative presentations. He concluded the meeting by stating it is just very easy to be proud of Vincennes University & VU Jasper.

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