

**VINCENNES UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE SESSION  
Wednesday, August 25, 2021 – 10:45 a.m. (EDT)  
Vincennes University Jasper Campus  
Ruxer Student Center - 850 College Avenue  
Jasper, IN 47546**

**Members Present:**

John Stachura, Chair  
Darrel Bobe  
Scott Brand (Zoom)  
Kelly Clauss (Zoom)  
Tim Grove  
Reggie Henderson (Zoom)  
Chuck Johnson, President  
Greg Parsley  
Mike Sievers  
Don Villwock

**Others Present:**

Brent Stuckey, University Attorney  
Nancy Irwin, Record Clerk for the Board  
Tony Hahn, Vice President for Government and Legal Affairs  
Laura Treanor, Provost  
Dave Tucker, Vice President for Workforce Development/Community Services  
Linda Waldroup, Vice President for Financial Services

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair John Stachura called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. (EDT) in the Ruxer Student Center in Jasper, Indiana.

**ROLL CALL/ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Nancy Irwin called the roll. A quorum was declared with 10 Trustees present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of the 6-16-21 Regular Session had been distributed. With no questions from the Board, Chair Stachura requested a motion be made to approve the minutes. Trustee Don Villwock made a motion to approve the minutes and Trustee Darrel Bobe seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and there were 10 yeas and 0 nays, with the minutes passing unanimously.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chair Stachura complimented the Executive Team, as well as faculty and staff for the incredible job they have done and continue to do staying on top of all the information regarding Covid and its impact on the county, state, and university. He thanked everyone for all their hard work in the midst of all the changes made over the past year. Chair Stachura also thanked his fellow board members for all their input and for the entire board working so well together.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Finance/Revenue Committee:**

Committee Chair Mike Sievers reported on items that had been approved at the 8-19-21 Finance/Revenue Committee meeting and now need approval from the full Board.

**Bond Refinancing Proposal**

Committee Chair Sievers reported on information regarding refinancing of the following Auxiliary Facilities and Student Fee Bonds:

Auxiliary Facilities Bonds	\$8,770,000
Student Fee Bonds	\$22,570,000

Committee Chair Sievers reported that the Finance/Revenue Committee voted unanimously at their August 19, 2021 committee meeting to recommend to the full Board the issuance and sale of Auxiliary Facilities Bonds, Series 2021 maturing in 2034. Refinancing will yield approximately \$1,250,000 savings over the life of the bonds; and, the issuance and sale of Student Fee Bonds, Series N maturing in 2028. Refinancing will yield approximately \$2,128,000 savings over the life of the bonds.

### **MOTION #21-18**

Chair Mike Sievers made a motion to approve refinancing of the aforementioned bonds, and Trustee Darrel Bobe seconded that motion. A roll call vote was taken with 10 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

### **Granting of Drainage Easement at Vincennes University Jasper Campus**

President Johnson reported to the Board that a local (Jasper) developer is seeking to build an apartment complex on the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> & Meridian Streets in Jasper. The developer of the project has requested the University grant a drainage easement across the VU Jasper property into a ditch along the road. The President asked the Board to allow the administration to enter into final negotiations to grant the easement, based on specific language and terminology regarding the easement and subsequent property.

### **MOTION # 21-19**

With no questions from the Board, Trustee Don Villwock made a motion to authorize President Johnson and administration to negotiate the specific language and final agreement regarding the drainage easement, and Trustee Scott Brand seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 10 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

### **Extension of Strategic Plan to 2025**

President Johnson reported that in 2017 the University adopted a Strategic Plan based upon six strategic priorities that were developed with the Board and the Executive Team leadership. The original plan was designed to end in 2022, and while significant progress has been made on many of the strategic priorities, the President feels it is important to extend the plan to 2025. The recommendation is based on the following factors:

1. All six of the current Strategic Priorities remain relevant to the University's Mission, Vision, and Values and to the conditions in which VU operates.
2. The existing annual review process has already permitted VU to adjust objectives, metrics, and goals within the plan, allowing for continued realignment so the plan can maintain its relevance given changing environmental factors.
3. While work continued on the plan during the pandemic, the time needed to focus on changing operations to deal with the pandemic, combined with the impact of the pandemic itself on the plan's progress in key areas, suggests that ending the plan 18 months from now would be premature.
4. VU is set for its next Comprehensive Review and Visit from HLC in 2022-2023. From VU's experience leading up to and during its most recent Comprehensive Review and Visit in 2017-2018, significant institutional capacity is required to prepare for a successful outcome. Undertaking both the work needed to develop a new strategic plan and prepare for the Comprehensive Review in the same period would be a strain on the institution and could result in subpar outcomes for both efforts.
5. By extending the current plan to 2025, VU would be able to incorporate feedback received as a result of the Comprehensive Review and Visit into the development of its next strategic plan, which would be helpful in its preparations for its Reaffirmation of Accreditation Review and Visit in 2028-2029.

### **MOTION # 21-20**

With no questions from the Board, Trustee Darrel Bobe made a motion to approve extending the Strategic Plan to 2025, and Trustee Kelly Clauss seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with 10 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

### **Conflict of Interest Statements**

Chair Stachura asked Vice President Linda Waldroup to present the information, which is attached to these minutes. VP Waldroup reported that the University is required annually to report this information, and recommended that the Conflict of Interest statement for J.R. Gaylor be accepted by the Board.

### **MOTION # 21-21**

With no questions from the Board, Trustee Tim Grove made a motion to approve, and Trustee Scott Brand seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, with 10 yeas and 0 nays, with the motion passing unanimously.

## **REPORTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP**

### **Update on Jasper Campus**

Christian Blome, Assistant Vice President and Dean of Jasper Campus, welcomed the Board of Trustees to the Jasper Campus and presented information pertaining to the origins of the Jasper Campus, the current campus, enrollment numbers, community involvement, and the tremendous success VU-J has developed with numerous businesses, schools, and organizations throughout Dubois County. He also acknowledged the work of Dan Fritch, President of the VU Jasper Foundation Board, and introduced him to the Board. Dean Blome concluded his remarks by extending thanks and appreciation to the Board of Trustees, President Johnson, and Provost Treanor for the continued support of the Jasper Campus. Trustee Kelly Clauss

expressed her appreciation for Dean Blome, as well as his faculty and staff for all the outstanding work they are doing at VU Jasper and in the community.

### **CircleIn Presentation**

Provost Laura Treanor presented information to the Board regarding the rationale, overview, and statistics pertaining to the recent implementation of the CircleIn app. The Provost reported the University is working in three key areas to improve retention, completion, and achievement gaps through the work of the Retention Committee, DEI Council, and Continuous Quality Improvement Efforts with programs and apps such as Brain Fuze and CircleIn. The CircleIn app enhances student peer-to-peer academic engagement, self-directed learning, amplifies outcomes by embedding the resource within courses, and normalizes and encourages help seeking behaviors through extrinsic and intrinsic rewards. Other helpful tools and features include faculty insights dashboard and a faculty hub. Provost Treanor also reported current statistics on the number of downloads, sessions, messages, and notes that have already been utilized by our students, as well as the courses with the most students and student activity.

### **Admissions Update**

Ryan Barbauld, Director of Admissions, presented information on trends and takeaways on enrollment in 2021. As expected, there were many challenges caused by the pandemic, and community colleges continued to see enrollment declines for the fall; total enrollment nationwide fell by 3.5% compared to the same time last year. For Fall 2021, Vincennes and VU Jasper numbers are down, but Distance Education numbers are up, and Dual Credit and Early College reported strong numbers over the past year. Ryan also reported on academic profiles, demographics, gender, race/ethnicity, and high school diploma type for first-time freshmen. Mr. Barbauld also reported he is looking ahead with optimism for Fall 2022, highlighting various initiatives with the PreVU Days, MvVU Days, and StartVU Days, all of which will be taking place in the months ahead. Lastly, efforts and initiatives are in place to communicate with and capture more students who decided to sit out a semester to start in the Spring of 2022. Ryan concluded his remarks by thanking his staff, as well as others within the University community for all their efforts and hard work in helping the Admissions department.

### **PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS**

- The President thanked Christian Blome and his team for creating and developing so many outstanding partnerships within the Jasper community.
- President Johnson thanked Provost Treanor for her presentation on the CircleIn app and her leadership in creating this opportunity for Vincennes University, as we are only 1 of 25 schools nationwide using this National Science Foundation funded research product. The President also reported that the Indiana Commission for Higher Education recently reported that Vincennes University's on-time graduation rate grew by the most of any state institution, which is currently at 33%; the average nationwide community college graduation rate is 13%.
- President Johnson thanked Ryan Barbauld for his presentation and for joining the VU team again. He also expressed excitement and enthusiasm for the good things ahead for Admissions and enrollment with Ryan at the helm.
- The President expressed thanks to the Board for their support and approval of extending the Strategic Plan to 2025.
- Covid continues to be a concern, but President Johnson extended appreciation to Tony Hahn, Deborah Bedwell, and many others who serve on the contact tracing team.
- The President stated much work continues to take place regarding READI Grants, which involve various regions across the state.
- President Johnson acknowledged the following 2021 VU Peer Recognition Award recipients:
  - Lynn Alstadt – Outreach Advisor, Education Talent Search
  - Cindy Beaman (Retired) – Director of University Events and Lead Contact Tracer for 2020
  - Jennifer Compton – Secretary, College of Science, Engineering and Mathematics
  - Forrest Fairchild – Apartment Manager and Residence Hall Coordinator
  - Jamie Green – Payroll Associate
  - Mandy Haag – Associate Professor of Mathematics and Department Chair
  - Gaye Walthall – Director of Student Success Center
- The President recognized Darrel Bobe and the North Knox School Corporation for their special recognition from the Special Olympics, noting they were the only school in Indiana to receive this special designation.
- Congratulations were also extended to Kelly Clauss, who was recently honored by the Jasper Rotary Club with the Athena Award, an international leadership award.
- President Johnson acknowledged the service of student trustee, Conner McKinney, as this was the final board meeting of his term. Conner was unable to attend the meeting, but the President stated we would present the following resolution to Conner at a future date:

**RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION  
FOR  
CONNER D. McKINNEY**

*WHEREAS*, Conner D. McKinney, a resident of Sumner, Illinois 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 October, 2020; and

*WHEREAS*, Mr. McKinney has served with distinction as the Student Trustee for the Vincennes University Board of Trustees and served on the Trustee External Affairs Committee; and

*WHEREAS*, Mr. McKinney has been a full-time student at Vincennes University majoring in Business Administration and worked as a Tour Guide Manager in the Admissions Office; and

*WHEREAS*, Mr. McKinney has ably represented the students during his term 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 appreciation to Conner D. McKinney for his dedicated service as a member of the Board and expresses its gratitude for his 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 Mr. Conner D. McKinney

*DATED* at Vincennes University, Jasper Campus, Jasper, Indiana on August 25, 2021



John A. Stachura, Chair  
Vincennes University Board of Trustees



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

**Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the Trustees, the Regular Session adjourned at 12:15 p.m. (EDT).

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J.R. Gaylor, Secretary

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John Stachura, Chair

## UNIFORM CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Indiana Code 35-44.1-1-4 provides that it is a Level 6 Felony for a University employee to benefit financially from a contract or purchase connected with the University, unless the University employee files a written disclosure statement prior to the University taking final action on the contract for purchase, which discloses the employee's financial interest in the contract or purchase. The disclosure statement must be approved by the Board of Trustees and filed with the Indiana State Board of Accounts. The work performed for the University by the employee must be unrelated to the contract or purchase. In addition, a written disclosure statement is required if the employee's spouse and child may financially benefit from a purchase or contract of the University over which the University employee has some direct or indirect responsibility.

I acknowledge that it is my responsibility to be familiar with the provisions of Indiana Code 35-44.1-1-4 and with the University's Conflict of Interest Policy. In compliance with Indiana Code 35-44.1-1-4, I make the following disclosure statement:

1. My name: J. A. Mays
2. My title or position with the University: Secretary, Board of Trustees
3. This statement is submitted (check one):
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ as a "single transaction" disclosure statement, as to my financial interest in a specific contract or purchase connected with the University; or
  - b. X as an "annual" disclosure statement, as to my financial interest connected with contract or purchases of the University made on an ongoing basis.
4. Name of contractors or vendors with whom the University does business from which I may financially benefit: Associated Builders + Contractors of Indiana

5. Description of University contracts or purchases from which I, my spouse, or my children may financially benefit (describe the kind of contract or purchase and the amount of money involved in the contract or purchase): see Attachment A

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6. Description of my financial interest in the contractor or vendor (describe the amount of your ownership interest in the contractor or vendor, and the amount of financial benefit you would expect to receive from the University's contract or purchase from the contractor or vendor): See Attachment A

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7. Dates of expected contracts or purchases between the University and the contractor or vendor: See Attachment A

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I affirm under the penalties of perjury the truth and completeness of the foregoing Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. I ask the University Vice President for Financial Services to file this Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement with the Board of Trustees for their acceptance and with the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

Dated 8/9/2021

J. B. Taylor  
Signature

## Attachment A

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

This Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement is submitted to the Vincennes University (University) Board of Trustees pursuant to Indiana Code 35-44. 1-1-4.

I serve as President of the Associated Builders and Contractors of Indiana (ABC), which is a 501(c) (6) trade association. Serving as President, my salary is derived from two sources which fall under the Associated Builders & Contractors umbrella; one being the Associated Builders and Contractors of Indiana and the other being the Associated Builders & Contractors of Indiana Apprenticeship Trust.

Vincennes University has received \$4,550,000, which is for the sole purpose of providing apprenticeship training programs approved by the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training; and by which the State of Indiana is funding these training services, pursuant to IC 22-4-18-1; and University, as defined by its scope of work from the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, has entered into sub grant agreements with ABC to undertake all training responsibilities. These sub grants, at the discretion of the University and the Department of Workforce Development, shall be ongoing and renewed annually.

I will not personally benefit financially from the sub grant; however in the spirit of full disclosure, I am providing this written Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement. I will recuse myself from any Board discussions about the proposed agreement between University and ABC, and I will abstain from voting on the matter.

I am submitting this disclosure statement to the Board of Trustees prior to our August 25, 2021 meeting, and I ask that the University file this disclosure document with the Indiana State Board of Accounts.

I affirm under the penalties of perjury the truth and the completeness of the foregoing disclosure statement.