

# MINUTES

## Regular Meeting BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vernon College  
October 9, 2024

The Board of Trustees of Vernon College met on Wednesday, October 9, 2024 at 11:30 a.m. in the *Board Room* of the *Osborne Administration Building*, Vernon, Texas with the following present: Mrs. Ann Wilson – Vice-Chairman, and Mrs. Betsy Smith – Secretary. Other board members in attendance were Mr. James Brock, Mrs. Jamie Chapman, Mr. Daryl Wolf, and Mrs. Meg Heatly. Absent was Mr. Bob Ferguson – Chairman.

Others present were Dr. Dusty Johnston, President; Mrs. Shana Drury, Vice President of Instructional Services; Mrs. Mindi Flynn, Vice President of Administration; Dr. Criquett Chapman, Vice President of Student Services; Dr. Roxie Hill, Vice President of Information Systems and Technology; Mrs. Kristin Harris, Dean of Student Services; Mrs. Bettye Hutchins, Dean of Instructional Services; Ms. Michelle Alexander, Director of Institutional Advancement/Executive Director, Vernon College Foundation; Dr. Brad Beauchamp, Director of Institutional Assessment, Planning, and Effectiveness/SACSCOC Liaison; Ms. Colleen Moore, Director of Enrollment Management/Registrar; Mrs. Kelly Miller, Director of Student Success; Ms. Stephanie Mescher, Student Success Specialist; Mr. Kevin Holland, Director of Campus Police; and Ms. Mary King, Administrative Secretary to the President. Guest present was Mr. Mike Chacanaca of the *Vernon Daily Record*.

Before the meeting was called to order, Vice Chairman Mrs. Ann Wilson asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of Mr. Irl Holt.

Mrs. Wilson called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

### Consent Agenda

Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to approve the Consent Agenda containing the *Minutes of the September 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting* and the *President's Monthly Travel Expense Report*. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – No one was present to make comments.

### Action Item A

Mrs. Mindi Flynn presented the *Financial and Investment Reports as of September 30, 2024*. Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock, to approve the Vernon College year to date and monthly financial and investment reports as presented by the Chief Financial Officer. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item B

Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly, to approve the *Philosophy, Vision, Values, and Mission for Vernon College Strategic Plan* as presented by Dr. Beauchamp and recommended by the College Effectiveness Committee. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item C

Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock to approve the resale of the following tax foreclosure property held in trust by the City of Vernon: Parcel R5915001, winning bidder Jim Landis, in the amount of \$15,000.00. The motion carried unanimously.

### President's Report/Board Discussion Items –

- Dr. Johnston reminded the Board that a group picture will be taken at the November meeting.
- Board members James Brock and Daryl Wolf stated they enjoyed the CCATT Conference they attended with Dr. Johnston in Amarillo, TX on September 12 -14, 2024. They stated it was a good experience in meeting board members from other colleges, attending new trustees' luncheons, a wide spread of sessions and workshops with a variety of presenters, perspectives and challenges during implementation of the House Bill (HB 8) session, Regional College Cosponsor expo, and excursions to Amarillo College.

- Dr. Johnston mentioned if any board member is interested in the THECB Conference on December 12-13, 2024 in Austin, TX to please let him know in order to make travel arrangements.

Title IX Compliance Report update – Mrs. Kristin Harris gave an update on Title IX stating it began in the 1970's and is a Federal law. The law contains many rules about all kinds of discrimination, sexual assault, and sexual violence. As Title IX Coordinators, Mrs. Harris stated that she investigates student complaints and Mrs. Jackie Polk, Director of Human Resources, investigates complaints from faculty and staff. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board requires all schools to submit an annual report. Two incidents were submitted this year. One was handled by Mrs. Harris and the other by Mrs. Polk. One was unfounded, and the other was taken care of prior to the initial investigation.

Security/Cyber Security update – Dr. Roxie Hill updated the Board on Cyber Security by stating the College is staying innovative and a step ahead of the bad actors. At Vernon College, all employees are staying up to date utilizing Safe Colleges, a higher education online training platform with lessons on cyber security, phishing scams, etc. This semester, we are focusing on making students aware of phishing emails from bad actors portraying to be staff from Vernon College requesting information like passwords or log in. We are staying one step ahead by increasing security. We are continuing to work with Texas Department of Informational Resources (DIR) on the AT&T penetration test which is called Ethical Hacking. AT&T will hack our system in every possible way. The test will take one to two weeks and that will give us a thorough analysis. The test is mandatory and reported every two years. We recently had all security cameras on one network so officers can see everything at one time. Also, there is a new feature through Teams called a Walkie Talkie app that allows all of our officers to push a button on their phone and it works as a walkie talkie.

Fall 2024 Instructional Update – Mrs. Shana Drury presented the Fall 2024 Instructional update by highlighting some of the tasks they are working on: we are finalizing Spring Schedules; House Bill 8 – Bettye Hutchins and I are working on developing additional funding for our programs for 2025–2026; Faculty are working on Open Educational Resources (OER) – an inclusive access opportunity regarding textbooks for classes (cheaper for students), several classes have transitioned; A police academy class will be added on the Vernon campus; Truck driving is at 96% pass rate; Implemented on collaborating with other entities – have had a few meetings on Student Success, Student Services and Technology at coming together to see what we need to change and how that would affect the College. Mrs. Drury went over some charts on course by faculty type for 2023 -2024 compared to last year.

Student Success Data Fact – Dr. Beauchamp presented the Count Day Snapshot for Fall 2024 as the Student Success data fact for this month. He highlighted the information contained under the Student Demographics listing total student count, dual credit, and non-dual credit students. Also, by age, gender, and race. Under the Path to Vernon College, the top 10 residences are by county and city. Total course enrollments by location, students by location, and educational goals at VC.

Student Highlight – Ms. Stephanie Mescher, Student Success Specialist at Century City Center, presented Susana Arellano as this month's student highlight. Susana, a nursing student, was originally a Business Management student. She took the anatomy and physiology class as an elective when she realized she loved it and switched. She began her prerequisites slowly by taking one class a semester and was accepted in the LVN program in 2023. She had to drop out due to working full-time at night and taking classes during the day. She had a supportive husband and family but it came to be way too much. After visiting the Student Success program for advising, academic coaching and emotional support services and intervention, she started again in Fall 2023. Her biggest supporters were her family, faith, and Rita from Catholic Charities. She graduated in Summer 2024. She will work as an LVN and her plan is to further her education to get ADN or BSN.

Residence Hall update – Dr. Johnston presented a handout of a tentative timeline schedule on the residence hall upgrades he received from Rick Sims. The document shows three tables listing tasks and dates. There will be action items coming up in the next few meetings to get things rolling. As mentioned before, the estimate is \$1.4 million for both dorms.

Sports Team discussion - Dr. Johnston stated that the Board needs to propose an action item whether to add a new sports team in the next board meeting or so. We need to give each member a chance to vote yes or no on the subject. It has been a discussion item and in order to make it happen a motion needs to be added to a Board Agenda.

Dr. Johnston presented the Upcoming College Events:

- (1) Vernon College Foundation Annual Board Meeting, 10:00 am – Vernon – Thursday, October 17, 2024
- (2) Vernon College NIRA Rodeo —November 7-9, 2024—WCEC
- (3) Vernon College Regular Board Meeting, Vernon Campus – November 13, 2024

Dr. Johnston presented the Philanthropic Report/Outside Grants Report.

Dr. Johnston mentioned that the Faculty Senate did meet, but the quorum was not met, so there are no minutes to present.

Mr. Brock made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly, to approve the personnel changes as recommended by Dr. Johnston and detailed on item 6 B Personnel Information Sheet. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Employment

1. Joe Carrigo – CDL/Truck Driving Instructor, Vernon Campus, effective September 16, 2024
2. Laura Garcia - Classified II, Faculty Assistant, Nursing-Vernon Campus, effective October 1, 2024
3. Alanna Lee – Coordinator of Continuing Education – Allied Health Programs, effective October 1, 2024

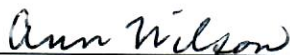
B. Reassignment

1. Jason Scheller, from History faculty to Division Chair, Century City Center, effective September 1, 2024

C. Resignation

1. Sheryl Nava, Kitchen Supervisor/Head Cook-Congregate Meals, Vernon Campus, effective September 9, 2024
2. Kevin Cisneros Classified II, Faculty Assistant, Nursing Administrative Assistant – Century City Center, effective September 19, 2024
3. Adela Sanjuan, College Access Coordinator, Century City Center, effective October 1, 2024

There being no further business Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to adjourn the meeting at 12:45 p.m.



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Mrs. Ann Wilson, Vice Chairman



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Mrs. Betsy Smith, Secretary