

# MINUTES

## Regular Meeting BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vernon College  
February 8, 2023

The Board of Trustees of Vernon College met on Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 11:30 a.m. in the *Board Room* of the *Osborne Administration Building*, Vernon, Texas with the following present: Mr. Bob Ferguson – Chairman; Mrs. Ann Wilson – Vice-Chairman, and Mrs. Betsy Smith – Secretary. Other board members in attendance were Mr. Irl Holt, Mrs. Jamie Chapman, Mr. James Brock and Mrs. Meg Heatly.

Others present were Dr. Dusty Johnston, President; Mrs. Mindi Flynn, Vice President of Administration; Mrs. Bettye Hutchins, Dean of Instructional Services; Dr. Brad Beauchamp, Director of Institutional Assessment, Planning, and Effectiveness/SACSCOC Liaison; Mrs. Holly Scheller, Coordinator of Marketing and Community Relations; Mr. Kevin Holland, Director of Campus Police; and Ms. Mary King, Administrative Secretary to the President. Guests present were Mr. Bill Humphrey of the *Vernon Daily Record*, Mr. Clay Stewart, property owner, and Mrs. Scott Williams, Vice President with *Crusoe Energy*.

Chairman Ferguson called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

### Consent Agenda

Mr. Holt made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the Consent Agenda containing the *Minutes of the January 11, 2023 Regular Board Meeting* and the *President's Monthly Travel Expense Report*. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – Mr. Clay Stewart, property owner, was present to speak on behalf of Crusoe Energy's request for approval of the tax abatement application. Dr. Johnston asked that he wait and speak at the time of the Action Item.

### Action Item A

Mrs. Flynn presented the *Financial and Investment Reports as of January 31, 2023*. Mr. Brock made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, 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. Wilson, to approve *Condley and Company, LLP* to conduct the audit for Vernon College for the year ending August 31, 2023 at the price of \$54,300 plus actual travel expenses as presented by Mrs. Flynn. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item C

Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock, to approve the following *Room and Board Rates for 2023-2024*. Mrs. Flynn stated that Great Western Dining is proposing a small increase of approximately 6.0% due to inflation. A room rate increase is not proposed again this year. The motion carried unanimously.

Fall	\$500 room	\$1998 meal plan (77 days)	\$2498 total room and meal plan
Spring	\$500 room	\$2024 meal plan (78 days)	\$2524 total room and meal plan
Summer	\$200 room	no meal plan	

### Action Item D

Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the *Proposed Tuition and Fee rates for 2023-2024* with no increase in tuition and fee rates as presented by Dr. Johnston. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item E

Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly, to approve the *2023-2024 Academic Calendar* as presented by Dr. Johnston and the calendar committee. The motion carried unanimously.

### Action Item F

Dr. Johnston introduced Mr. Scott Williams, VP of Business Development, Renewables and Power with Crusoe Energy, joining via Teams to present another proposal on the consideration of the *Crusoe Energy Abatement Application*. The action item tabled last month due to a tie vote 3 to 3 with one member being absent.

Landowner, Mr. Clay Stewart was also present to propose the abatement. After questions and a lengthy discussion, Mr. Holt made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly, to approve the abatement application. The motion failed after a vote of 3 to 4. Voting for the motion were, Mr. Holt, Mrs. Heatly, and Mrs. Smith. Against the motion was Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Brock, Mrs. Chapman and Mrs. Wilson.

### Action Item G

No *Tax Resale Deeds* for consideration this month.

President's Report/Board Discussion Items – Dr. Johnston presented to the Board the 2022 President's Annual Report, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary View Book, the Honor Roll list of donors, the Institutional Profile, and a letter from the President. The envelope containing all these will be mailed out to about 320.

VC Foundation meeting update – Mr. Ferguson and Dr. Johnston reported on the Vernon College Foundation Quarterly Meeting held January 19, 2023 in the Sumner Conference Room at Century City Center in Wichita Falls, Texas. The Foundation reviewed and accepted the College Foundation annual audit and the IRS 990 as presented by Condley and Company, LLP. The Foundation approved a \$30,000 grant from the General Fund to the Catching the Future Dual Credit Scholarship program. They voted to reduce the schedule to three meetings total, to be held in January, April, and October. Discussed and approved a \$25,000 grant request from Catholic Charities. Dr. Johnston presented his report. Michelle Alexander presented the philanthropic report and Vice President Mindi Flynn reviewed the financial reports. All members were present.

Student Success Data Fact Update – Enrollment Update – Dr. Johnston presented the Enrollment and Comparison report as the Student Success Data Fact for February. The report compares Spring and Spring 1 2022 versus Spring and Spring 1 2023. Current enrollment is 1,990 compared to 2,143 last Spring, or down 7.14% across all locations.

Enrollment Discussion – Dr. Johnston shared enrollment report handouts from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and the Texas Association of Community Colleges (TACC). One data report covers a three-year period from Fall 2019 through Fall 2022 and shows an average decline of 11.57% among the 50 community colleges. We were among nine colleges with a greater than 20% decline. The second data report is for a one-year period with a result of 0% change. We hope that it turns around in the fall of 2023.

Athletic Student GPA report – Dr. Johnston presented the Fall 2022 Athletic Student GPA Report. He noted the graph shows decent GPA's for the fall semester.

Dr. Johnston presented the Reminder of upcoming events:

- (1) TCCTA Conference – Houston, TX—March 2-4, 2023
- (2) Vernon College Foundation Online Auction – March 7-9, 2023
- (3) March Board of Trustees meeting – Wednesday, March 8, 2023
- (4) Spring Break – March 13-17, 2023

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

There were no minutes from Faculty/Staff/Student Organizations.

A. Personnel –

**Motion # 1** – Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Holt, to approve the following personnel changes as detailed on the Item 6 Personnel Sheet and recommended by the president. The motion carried unanimously.

1. Employment
  - a. Stephanie Humberd, Coordinator of EMS/Instructor – Century City Center, effective February 13, 2023
2. Resignation
  - a. Justin Sanders, Coordinator of Continuing Education – Allied Health, effective January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023

B. **Motion # 2** – Mr. Holt made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the extension of the following Vice President’s and Dean’s Contracts for one year for a two-year contract dated September 1, 2023 - August 31, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Shana Drury – Vice President of Instructional Services  
Mrs. Mindi Flynn – Vice President of Administrative Services  
Dr. Criquett Scott Chapman – Vice-President of Student Services  
Mrs. Kristin Harris – Dean of Student Services  
Mrs. Bettye Hutchins – Dean of Instructional Services

Closed Session: Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly, to go into closed session at 1:00 p.m. in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act, Texas Government Code, Subchapter 551.074, to discuss personnel or other items under this section of the Texas Government Code, Texas Open Meetings Act. The motion carried unanimously.

To - Conduct Evaluation of College President and Consider Extending Contract for one additional year (September 1, 2023-August 31, 2026)

Open Session: Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to reconvene at 1:25 p.m. in open session. The motion carried unanimously.

C. **Motion # 3** – Mr. Brock made the motion, seconded by Mr. Holt, to approve the president’s contract for Dr. Dusty R. Johnston for one year for a three-year contract dated September 1, 2023 – August 31, 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business Mr. Holt made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to adjourn the meeting at 1:28 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.



Mr. Bob Ferguson, Chairman



Mrs. Betsy Smith, Secretary