

MINUTES

Regular Meeting BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vernon College
April 9, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Vernon College met on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at 11:30 p.m. in the *Board Room* of the *Osborne Administration Building*, Vernon, Texas with the following present: Mr. Bob Ferguson – Chairman; and Mrs. Ann Wilson – Vice-Chairman. Other board members in attendance were Mr. Daryl Wolf, Mrs. Jamie Chapman, Mr. James Brock and Mrs. Meg Heatly. Absent was Mrs. Betsy Smith – Secretary.

Others present were Dr. Dusty Johnston, President; Mrs. Mindi Flynn, Vice President of Administration; Mrs. Shana Drury, Vice President of Instructional Services; Mrs. Jackie Polk, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Brad Beauchamp, Director of Institutional Assessment, Planning, and Effectiveness/SACSCOC Liaison; Mrs. Bettye Hutchins, Dean of Instructional Services; Mrs. Jeanne Ballard, Director of Financial Aid; Mrs. Kelly Miller, Director of Student Success; Ms. Kelli Lehman, Student Success Specialist; Mr. Kevin Holland, Director of Campus Police; and Ms. Mary King, Administrative Secretary to the President. Guests present were Mr. Rick Sims with *BYSParchitects*, and Mr. Mike Chacanaca of the *Vernon Daily Record*.

Public Comment – No one was present to make a public comment.

Mr. Ferguson called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m.

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to approve the Consent Agenda containing the *Minutes of the March 12, 2025 Regular Board Meeting* and the *President's Monthly Travel Expense Report*. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item A

Mrs. Flynn presented the *Financial and Investment Reports as of March 31, 2025*. Mr. Wolf made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item B

Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Wolf, to approve a *Tax Exemption Request by William Beam and Jamie Jimboy for Texas Historical Site Property at 2720 Paradise Street* at 50% Tax Exemption. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item C

Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to approve the consideration of *Increasing Vernon College Purchasing Policy Limit to \$10,000*. as presented by Dr. Johnston and Mrs. Flynn. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item D

Mrs. Wolf made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to table the approval of the *Revised/Updated Vernon College Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy*. Dr. Johnston stated that Dr. Roxie Hill had additional changes and they would present them at the May meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item E

Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly, to approve the *Updated Vernon College Facilities Master Plan for 2025-2029* as presented by Dr. Johnston and Mrs. Flynn. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item F

Mr. Wolf made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to approve the resale of the following *Tax Resale Deed* held in trust by the City of Vernon. The motion carried unanimously.

- Parcel 6830001, winning bidder Diffam Group, LLC, for the amount of \$500.00.

President's Report/Board Discussion Items

Board input/discussion – None

Residence Hall renovation update –

Mr. Rick Sims presented an update on the residence hall renovation. He mentioned what the contractors are doing on a monthly basis. They did an investigative demolition study in one of the suites. Mr. Sims brought samples of the upgrades for both the baseball dorm and the primary residence hall for the flooring, vanities, countertops, and blinds. The color scheme is neutral and everything is durable. He stated that everything is really going well.

Budget update – Draft 1 – Dr. Johnston and Mrs. Flynn presented Draft 1 of the Budget for the fiscal year 2025-2026. Dr. Johnston stated that Draft 1 is closer than it has been in the past. It is a wish list, but everyone has done a good job on the revenue side. We will come back with Draft 2 next month. Mrs. Flynn noted that Draft 1 is built in with a 3% step increase in the salary schedule.

Student Success Data Fact – Dr. Brad Beauchamp presented the *History of Focus on Student Success*. It is a living document that was developed about 10 years ago. We continue to add to it every year. It serves as a road map of our efforts and reminds us of all the things we try to accomplish throughout the year by all components of the college. Dr. Johnston added, the two main reasons we have this is to keep us all informed of what we have done in the past and secondly, it is a wonderful criteria document for when we write for grants and for SACS.

Student Services update – Mrs. Kelly Miller, Director of Student Success presented an update on what her team is working on. She described what each of the following programs and services provide - VA benefits, Dual Credit, Academic Advising and Coaching, Athletics Advising, Chaparral Orientation, ESSI (Emotional Support Services and Intervention), I'm First – VC (First Generation), Transfer, and AIP (Academic Improvement Program).

Student Highlight – Ms. Kelli Lehman, Student Success Specialist presented student Mr. Cooper Carmichael as the Student Highlight for this month. Cooper is from West, TX and lives on his family's ranch in Crowell, Texas. When he is not attending in-person classes, he is working on the family's 100-year-old farmhouse and runs family cattle. He had a rough first semester in Fall of 2023. As a recipient of our Academic Improvement Plan, starting in Spring of 2024, he improved his GPA. With his grit and determination, his GPA increased from a 1.40 to a 3.1563, and he will be following his dream of attending Texas Tech University.

July Board Retreat/Monthly Meeting – Dr. Johnston reported the July 9 Board Retreat will be held in the Vernon College Boardroom consisting of the morning agenda starting at 9:00 am, lunch at 12:00 noon, followed by the regular board meeting at 1:00 pm.

Dr. Johnston presented the Reminder of Upcoming Events:

- (1) Easter Eggstravaganza – photos with Easter Bunny and Chappie -Tuesday, April 15 – 4:00 pm-5:30 pm – Vernon Campus
- (2) Vernon College Foundation Board meeting – Thursday, April 17, 2025 – 10:00 a.m. – Vernon campus
- (3) Honors Convocation – Thursday, April 24, 2025 – 6:30 pm – King Gym, Vernon campus
- (4) Sports Banquet – Monday, May 1, 2025 – 6:30 pm – Calvary Baptist Church, Vernon
- (5) Vernon College Theater production – *Macbeth* – May 1-3, 2025 – Vernon College Auditorium
- (6) Commencement – Thursday, May 8, 2025 – 6:00 pm – Kay Yeager Coliseum, Wichita Falls
 - 4:30 p.m. Graduate Check-in – all students
 - 5:30 p.m. Board members, faculty, staff, and students prepare for entrance
 - 6:00 p.m. Graduation – All students
- (7) ADN Pinning – Friday, May 9, 2025 – 10:30 am – Wilbarger Auditorium
- (8) Board of Trustees meeting – Wednesday, May 14, 2025 – 11:30 a.m. Vernon campus

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

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

Reminder:

Summer hours for 2025 will begin Monday, May 12 and continue through Thursday, July 31. Operating hours will be Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Vernon College will return to the Monday through Thursday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon schedule on Monday, August 4, 2025.

Personnel

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

A. Personnel Changes

1. Employment
 - a. Earnest Newman, Maintenance Specialist – Vernon campus, effective April 7, 2025
 - b. Rosie Tays, Student Success Specialist – Century City Center, effective April 14, 2025
2. Reassignment
 - a. Stevie Williams, *from* Maintenance Specialist *to* Maintenance Supervisor – Vernon campus, effective March 24, 2025
3. Resignation
 - a. Anthony Navarrette, Grounds Technician – Vernon campus, effective March 28, 2025
4. Retirement
 - a. Richard Warren, Computer Instructor – Century City Center, effective May 15, 2025 – 25 years
 - b. Kathy Peterson, ADA Testing Specialist – Century City Center, effective May 15, 2025 – 15 years

Closed Session: Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly, to go into closed session at 1:10 pm 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.

No Action

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

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



Bob Ferguson, Chairman



Mrs. Betsy Smith, Secretary