

MINUTES

Regular Meeting

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Vernon College

May 14, 2025

The Board of Trustees of Vernon College met on Wednesday, May 14, 2025 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. Daryl Wolf, Mrs. Jamie Chapman, Mr. James Brock and Mrs. Meg Heatly.

Others present were Dr. Dusty Johnston, President; Mrs. Shana Drury, Vice President of Instructional Services; Dr. Criquett Chapman, Vice President of Student Services; Mrs. Mindi Flynn, Vice President of Administration; Dr. Roxie Hill, Vice President of Information Systems and Technology/Chief Information Security Officer; Ms. Michelle A. Alexander, Director of Institutional Advancement/Executive Director, Vernon College Foundation; Dr. Brad Beauchamp, Director of Institutional Assessment, Planning, and Effectiveness/SACSCOC Liaison; Mrs. Andrea Sanchez, Director of Continuing Education; Mrs. Kristin Harris, Dean of Student Services; Ms. Colleen Moore, Director of Enrollment Management/Registrar; Mrs. Holly Scheller, Coordinator of Marketing and Community Relations; Mrs. Jeanne Ballard, Director of Financial Aid; Mrs. Kelly Miller, Director of Student Success; Ms. Lauren Loskot, Dual Credit Coordinator; Mr. Steven Underhill, Business Management Instructor/Faculty Senate President; Mr. Kevin Holland, Director of Campus Police; and Ms. Mary King, Administrative Secretary to the President.

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

Consent Agenda

Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the Consent Agenda containing the *Minutes of the April 9, 2025 Regular Board Meeting* and the *President's Monthly Travel Expense Report*. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment – No one present for public comment.

Item A

Mrs. Flynn presented the *Financial and Investment Reports as of April 30, 2025*. Mr. Brock made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to approve the report as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item B

Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith, to approve the *2025 Continuing Education and Summer Kids College Schedule* as presented by Mrs. Andrea Sanchez including proposed tuition and fees, and to authorize the Dean of Instructional Services to set tuition and fees for any additional classes that may develop during the summer term. Mrs. Heatly abstained from voting, for the reason that her son is one of the instructors. The motion carried.

Action Item C

Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mr. Wolf, to approve the updated *2025-2026 Vernon College Catalog* as presented by Dr. Johnston/Mrs. Scheller. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item D

Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Brock, to approve the *Revised/Updated Vernon College Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy* as presented by Dr. Hill. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item E

Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly, to approve the request from *Tyson Refrigerated Processed Meats, Inc.* to add \$1,647,948 for *Personal Property for 2024* as per the original tax abatement agreement. The motion carried unanimously.

Action Item F

There were no Tax Resale Deeds held in Trust by the City of Vernon to approve.

President's Report/Board Discussion Items

Board input/discussion -

Dr. Johnston reminded the Board this is the time to publicly bring up any comments, questions, or discussion from board members to the President.

Dr. Johnston mentioned he has received many good comments on the Vernon College graduation held May 8 on how impressive the ceremony was.

Dr. Johnston stated the 2025 Community College Association of Texas Trustees (CCATT) Annual Conference in Austin on September 11-13. A couple of the board members stated they were interested in attending. If anyone else would like go, please let him know.

Vernon College Foundation meeting update – Dr. Johnston presented the highlights of the Foundation Quarterly Meeting on April 17, 2025 in the Board Room at the Vernon Campus. The Directors approved the following grants: a \$20,000 renewal grant to the 2025-2026 New Beginnings Program; a new grant of \$7,500 for the Summer 2025 Chaparral Orientation: In Person Experience; a new grant of \$24,500 for the 2025-2026 I'm First-VC: A First-Generation Student Support Program; a new grant of \$6,000 to support the Dual Credit 2025 DC Compass Orientation Project. Dr. Johnston gave his updated report; Mrs. Mindi Flynn presented the Foundation's Financial Statements for the period September 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025. Ms. Michelle A. Alexander presented the Philanthropic Report for the period September 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025, and Eric Robb, Senior vice President at Stifel Nicolaus, presented an update on the Foundation's Investment Account held at Stifel Nicolaus.

Budget Update – Dr. Johnston presented Draft 2 of the 2025-2026 Budget. Every piece of potential revenue and every expense was reviewed and scrutinized. The budget was built with 5% less revenue than anticipated.

2024-2025 Athletic Scholarship Award report – Dr. Johnston presented this report stating it is provided annually to the Board to see what is budgeted.

Dr. Beauchamp presented the 2025-2026 Annual Planning Calendar as the Student Success Data Fact for this month. He pointed out that the annual planning calendar is laid out in columns, listing by month the activities to complete; in progress; reviews, approvals and adoptions; plus, strategic plan and long-term objectives.

Student Highlight – Ms. Lauren Loskot, Dual Credit Coordinator, presented Cooper Schiwart from Vernon, Texas as the Student Highlight of the month. Cooper is a 17-year-old homeschooled student. He is a highly driven and accomplished young leader with a strong passion for robotics, engineering, and academic excellence. He graduated high school a year early and graduated from Vernon College with an Associates of Science Degree. His story is a compelling motivation for strengthening dual-credit offerings in our communities. His cumulative GPA is 3.889 and next fall Copper will pursue a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering Technology at Tarleton State University. He hopes his academic story can serve as a call to action for local schools to strengthen their dual-credit programs.

College Insurance RFP – Dr. Johnston reported that for years, our insurance has been through TASB. RFP's have been sent out to see what else is available and checking to see what companies other universities are going with. Mrs. Flynn stated the deadline is June 12 and we will bring it to the Board at the July meeting.

Dr. Johnston pointed out the Vernon College Professional Development policy is under review by the professional development committee. It has serviced well for a number of years but is being adjusted and updated for more clarification. It will be brought to the Board in June.

TASB 49 updates will be sent out to the Board to be reviewed and brought to the June board meeting for approval.

Legislative Bills SB 37 and SB 1489 may have an impact on the Faculty Senate. Dr. Steven Underhill, Faculty Senate President and Business Management Instructor, was present and gave his concerns to the board. We will see what passes from these bills to see what we might need to do.

Residence Hall Renovation Update – Dr. Johnston stated the renovation started this week beginning with the phase of removing the fixtures, showers and such in both the residence and baseball dorms.

Dr. Johnston reminded the Board of the July Board Retreat/Monthly meeting agenda set for July 9, 2025 on the Vernon Campus from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon including lunch from 12 to 1:00 followed by a regular meeting at 1:00 p.m. for any action items.

Dr. Johnston presented the Upcoming College Events:

- (1) CE Completion Ceremony – Thursday, June 5, 2025 – 6:00 p.m. – MPEC – Wichita Falls
- (2) Board of Trustees meeting – Wednesday, June 11, 2025 – 11:30 a.m. – Vernon Campus
- (3) Law Enforcement Academy Badging Ceremony – Thursday, June 12, 2025 – 6:00 p.m. – MPEC – Wichita Falls
- (4) Law Enforcement Academy Badging Ceremony – Wednesday, July 9, 2025 – 6:00 p.m. – Osborne Auditorium – Vernon

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

Faculty Senate Minutes – The president presented the minutes from the April 11, 2025 meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Personnel – Mrs. Chapman made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Wilson, to approve the following personnel changes as detailed on Item 6 Personnel information sheet and recommended by the President. The motion carried unanimously.

A. Personnel Changes

1. Employment

- a. Tyler Arthur, Grounds Technician – Vernon campus, effective April 21, 2025
- b. Gregory Cantu, Maintenance Specialist – Vernon campus, effective May 1, 2025

2. Internal Transfer

- a. Taylor Seedig, *from* Classified II/Administrative Assistant, Student Services *to* Classified III/Administrative Assistant, Student Services, effective May 1, 2025
- b. Abbigale Cove, *from* Classified II/Administrative Assistant, Student Services *to* Classified III/ADA Testing Specialist, effective May 19, 2025
- c. Rae-Yanne Preville, *from* part-time LVN Instructor *to* full-time LVN Instructor, effective May 26, 2025

3. Resignation

- a. Thomas Brown, CDL Truck Driver Instructor, effective April 29, 2025

4. Consider Reappointment


- a. Coaches/Assistant Coaches for 2025-2026
- b. Assistant Coaches (pending completion of probation)


Closed Session: Mrs. Smith made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Chapman, to go into closed session at 12:30 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.

No Action

Open Session: Mrs. Wilson made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Heatly, to reconvene at 1:12 p.m. in open session. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business Mr. Brock made the motion, seconded by Mrs. Smith to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m.


Mr. Bob Ferguson, Chairman


Mrs. Betsy Smith, Secretary