

COSTLY CONSEQUENCES

How DePaul President Robert Manuel's strategy and leadership left UIndy in the red

By PATRICK SLOAN-TURNER
Online Managing Editor

Editor's note:

A number of sources in this story were granted anonymity, fearing that revealing identities could affect their current and future employment. The DePaulia's advisor and managing editorial staff have independently vetted each one of the sources involved in this story's reporting.

More than a decade ago, Robert Manuel used a metaphor at his presidential inauguration ceremony at the University of Indianapolis (UIndy) to convey a vision for the future of the institution, then under his helm.

To a crowd of colleagues, politicians, faculty and others at Nicoson Hall on UIndy's campus in Indianapolis, he quoted another who held the president's seat before him.

"There's a reason why our rearview mirrors are so much

smaller than our windshields," Manuel said.

When Manuel spoke to another group of new constituents nearly 10 years later, after it was announced that he would take over as DePaul's president, the same metaphor would likely have resonated with a welcoming crowd inside DePaul's Courtelyou Commons.

Much of DePaul faculty, staff and students only wanted to look forward. Few were shy of sharing their disaffection with Manuel's predecessor, A. Gabriel Esteban. It was no secret that DePaul was struggling with revenue and enrollment. Desperate for a leader who would put the university in drive, the community embraced Manuel.

In May 2022, with so much excitement in DePaul's own windshield, little focus was on the new president's rearview, whose objects might have been more troubling than it first appeared.

See **MANUEL**, page 3

