Governors State UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees
For Review

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY REGULAR MEETING

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the "Board" and "GovState," respectively), an Illinois body politic and corporate, was held in person and via audio-videoconference at GovState's University Park Campus in Engbretson Hall on August 18, 2025, beginning at approximately 12:00 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the business described in the Agenda posted for public notice before 9:00 am on August 13, 2025 in accordance with Section 120/2.02 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. 5 ILCS 120/ *et seq.* Before the meeting, each Trustee received materials corresponding to the action items in the Agenda, copies of which are maintained with the Board records.

I. MEETING DETAILS

Meeting Chair: James Kvedaras

Minutes Recorded By: Therese King Nohos, General Counsel

II. ATTENDEES

Chair Kvedaras confirmed a quorum was present given the presence of the following Trustees in attendance in person at the start of the meeting unless otherwise noted:

- James Kvedaras, Chair
- Frances Pao-Han Kao, Trustee
- Karen Nunn, Trustee and Secretary
- Judith L Mitchell; Trustee
- Angelica Zuniga, Trustee
- Anibal Taboas, Trustee

President Joyce Ester Ph.D., *ex-officio* Board member and chief executive officer of GovState, was present, as were the following members of the President's Cabinet who appeared in person:

- Joshua R. Allen, MPS, SHRM-SCP, Vice President of Human Resources;
- Corey S. Bradford, Sr., Vice President for Administration and Finance;
- Janelle A. Crowley, PhD, Chief of Staff, President's Office;
- William Davis, Vice President, External Affairs
- Maureen Kelly, Executive Director, Government Relations;
- Paul McGuinness, MA, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management;
- Therese King Nohos, JD, Vice President, General Counsel;
- Patricia O'Neal, Executive Assistant to the President;
- Joi F. Patterson, PhD, Chief of Institutional Engagement and Excellence; and
- Beverly Schneller, PhD, Vice President, Provost and Chief Academic Officer.

Mr. Joshua Sopiarz (Faculty Senate President), Ms. Susie Morris (Civil Service President), and Mr. Sean O' Brien (Student Senate President) were present as well.

III. ABSENCES

Stacy Crook, Trustee and Vice-Chair.

IV. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kvedaras at approximately 12:00 pm.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VI. VI. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Kvedaras noted that Lisa Parker would be present as a guest speaker for the Board's retreat this afternoon.

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ester gave the President's Report, including highlights of her first weeks on campus. President Ester noted that, as she encounters new people, she will be asking the following four questions:

1. What do you like about Governors State?
2. What don't you like?
3. What do you hope I will do as the new President?
4. What are you concerned I will do as the new President?

Regarding Enrollment Management, President Ester reported that enrollment was largely flat year-over-year and that retention was at 60%.

Regarding the Strategic Framework, President Ester noted that the University is working on its strategic plan and ensuring the framework aligns with other planning documents.

Regarding the Office of General Counsel, President Ester reported that General Counsel Nohos had provided an update on federal updates via memo and that the University is actively monitoring legal developments coming out of Washington.

Regarding the Office of Institutional Engagement, President Ester reported that the University is considering its employer resource assistance initiatives, and that that University was one of only ten institutions to win a recent grant regarding pluralism. President Ester noted that the University will be hosting an International Restorative Justice Conference from September 30-October 1.

Regarding financial affairs, President Ester noted that a priority is enhancing student affordability and flexibility by helping students with outstanding balances so that they can continue their education and offering more payment options.

Regarding Academic Affairs, President Ester reported that the University is now a member of the University Center at the College of Lake County.

Regarding External Affairs, on July 16, the University hosted 173 elected officials for its 56th birthday celebration. Trustees and Alumni attended to help mark the celebration.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

The Board then was presented with the following action items to consider consistent with the agenda, except that Resolution 26-01 was removed from the Consent Agenda because the vote for officers takes place via secret ballot.

- Resolution 26-02 regarding approval of University Professionals of Illinois, Local #4100 Memorandum of Understanding;

- Resolution 26-03 regarding approval of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO, Local #399 Memorandum of Understanding;
- Resolution 26-04 regarding approval of Teamsters, Local 743 Clerical;
- Resolution 26-05 regarding approval of Teamsters, Local743 Maintenance Laborers;
- Resolution 26-06 regarding approval of Service Employees International Union Local No. 73;
- Resolution 26-07 regarding approval of Institutional Strategic Framework: *Better Together 2030*;
- Resolution 26-08 regarding approval of Contract for Enterprise Resource Planning software maintenance in excess of $250,000;
- Resolution 26-09 regarding approval of Contract for Off-Campus Student Housing in excess of $250,000; and
- Resolution 26-10 regarding approval of Tenure Upon Hire for Christine Watt, PhD, OTR/L.

Trustee Mitchell so moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Trustee Kao seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

General Counsel Nohos then advised the Board on how to conduct a vote on Resolution 26-01 regarding election of officers and delegates. The Trustees then submitted their ballots to General Counsel Nohos, who tallied the results and announced that Chair Kvedaras will continue as Chair, Vice Chair Stacy Crook will continue as Vice Chair, and Secretary Nunn will continue as Secretary. Trustee Zuniga will be the Foundation delegate and Chair Kvedaras will continue to be the delegate to the State Civil Service Merit Board.

IX. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Chair Kvedaras asked if there was any old business or new business that needed to be brought to the Board. There was none.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kvedaras then asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Nunn so moved; Trustee Zuniga seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:19 pm.

Approved this 27th day of October 2025

James Kvedaras

James Kvedaras, Chair

Karen Nunn, Secretary