

**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 “GSU,” respectively), an Illinois body politic and corporate, was held in person and via audio-videoconference at GSU’s University Park Campus in Engbretson Hall on August 19, 2024, beginning at approximately 12:15 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 14, 2024 in accordance with Section 120/2.02 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. 5 ILCS 120/ *et seq.* Before the meeting, each Trustee received books with materials corresponding to the action items, a copy of which is maintained with the Board records.

I. MEETING DETAILS

Meeting Chair: Angela M. Sebastian

Minutes Recorded By: Therese King Nohos, General Counsel

II. ATTENDEES

Chair Sebastian 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:

- Kevin Brookins, Trustee and Vice Chair;
- Stacy Crook, Trustee;
- James Kvedaras, Trustee and Secretary;
- Karen Nunn, Trustee;
- Harish Rayalapati, Student Trustee;
- Angela M. Sebastian, Trustee and Chair; and
- Anibal Taboas, Trustee.

President Cheryl Green, Ph.D., *ex-officio* Board member and chief executive officer of GSU, 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., Ph.D., Vice President for Administration and Finance;
- Janelle A. Crowley, PhD, Chief of Staff, President’s Office;
- 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 Diversity Officer; and
- Beverly Schneller, PhD, Vice President, Provost and Chief Academic Officer.

Stephen Wagner, PhD (Faculty Senate President) and Susie Morris (Civil Service Senate President) were present as well.

III. ABSENCES

None

IV. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sebastian at approximately 12:15 pm.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None was made.

VI. CHAIR COMMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Sebastian noted that, this was her last Board meeting as Chair. She added that she is honored to have been able to serve in that capacity and looks forward to supporting the next Chair.

VII. PRESIDENTS REPORT

President Green noted that her report is an eleven (11) page report that was written and submitted for the Board's review. To be mindful of time, Dr. Green selected a few key highlights. President Green, started with a press conference she attended on July 30th called "paving the path to adequate and equitable higher education funding." President Green noted she attended this press conference along with Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightfoot and State Representative Carol Ammons, who are the Co-Chairs of the Illinois Commission on Equitable Public University Funding.

President Green also announced that, as of August 14, 2024, Freshmen enrollment is up by 2.5% at Governors State. Transfer student enrollment is up 29.8%. International graduate enrollment is up 11.3% and Doctoral enrollment has an unusually high increase because they changed the date of when student's start. It was changed from the summer to the fall semester. President Green noted that as a result there is a 212% increase in enrollment for Doctoral enrollment. So overall, total new student enrollment is up 15% at Governors State University. President Green announced that Prairie Place is at full capacity with a wait list.

Dr. Green congratulated Dr. Bradford for hosting the Vendor Meet and Greet. President Green recognized our new resident Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Marconi, and our incoming Professor in the Spring, Dr. Maria Murray.

In June, Dr. David Rhea was nominated for a three-year Board of Directors position for the National Collegiate Honors Council. At the GSU 55th birthday party, the Honors College Lounge was dedicated to Dr. Larry Levinson. He was the founding Director of the Honors Program.

President Green also noted that the College of Business in collaboration with the Illinois Innovation Network submitted an NSF (National Science Foundation) grant application regarding advancing smart logistics initiatives, which seeks to revolutionize fulfillment across Illinois by enhancing the safety, efficiency, sustainability and resilience of logistics systems.

President Green announced that, Dr. William Kresse received the unsung heroes of democracy award from the American Bar Association. He was one of 22 individuals and Organizations that received the award.

President Green noted that OSPR (Office of Sponsored Programs and Research) submitted 66 grant proposals. GovState received 24 new awards, totaling over 5 million dollars. OSPR manages 68 active awards totaling over 21 million dollars.

Dr. Green announced that, GovState is the recipient of the Insight into Diversity Higher Education Excellence in Diversity Award. This is an annual award that recognizes colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

The following action items were presented and passed by unanimous vote:

- The Board approved the Agenda on unanimous vote.
- Resolution 25-01, Election of Officers, was presented by Ms. Therese King Nohos, Vice President, General Counsel. Based on General Counsel Nohos' tally of a confidential vote, she recommended to Chair Sebastian to ask for a motion to approve Trustee James Kvedaras as Chair, Trustee Stacy Crook as Vice-Chair and Trustee Karen Nunn as Secretary. Chair Sebastian asked for a motion to approve the next officer/slate for the Board of Trustees. Trustee Brookins so moved; Trustee Taboas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Resolution 25-02, waive initial reading of and publish proposed Board Regulation Amendments, including Section II (Employees) and proposed Section VIII (Ethics and Compliance), was presented by Ms. Therese King Nohos, Vice President, General Counsel. Chair Sebastian asked for a motion to approve the resolution. Trustee Kvedaras so moved; Trustee Taboas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. BOARD DIALOGUE AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

President Green gave the State of the University Address. Some of the highlights included GSU's celebration of its 55th birthday. In relation to GSU's faculty and staff demographics, President Green noted that GovState's full-time faculty minority percentage is two times higher than the national

average for American post-secondary institutions. The number of African American faculty members is three times the national average and employee retention rate is at an all-time high of 90%.

Some of the academic highlights include accreditation reaffirmation by the Higher Learning Commission. The university launched the College of Graduate Studies and the Honors College, as well as hosted the grand opening of the Bartolomucci Behavioral Health Lab.

Regarding admissions, current enrollment exceeds plans.

Regarding the budget, President Green noted that we have successfully balanced our budget. All public universities in the State of Illinois received a 2% State appropriations increase. GSU's investment grade bond rating has improved to BBB. This places GSU in the group of four Illinois public universities out of 12 who have earned this distinction.

In the area of community and government affairs, President Green noted that GSU formalized its partnership with the U.S Department of Health and Human Services. In January of 2024, Dr. Green noted we had the honor of hosting Lt. Governor Stratton on our campus for the launch and celebration of the Illinois Healing Center Task Force. This event highlighted our role in supporting crucial statewide mental health initiatives. To conclude added President Green, GSU is proud to announce that we continue to serve as an early voting site from October 21 to November 3, 2024.

Next, the administration discussed the Retrospective Analysis of Becoming a Four-Year Comprehensive Institution. Dr. Beverly Schneller, Provost/Vice President Academic Affairs, provided the background of what led to Gov State changing its institutional profile to a four-year institution. Mr. Paul McGuinness, Vice President Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, discussed increased enrollment and expanded experiences. Finally, Dr. Corey S. Bradford, Sr., Vice President Administration and Finance, provided the financial impact of the decision to change GSU's institutional profile to a four-year institution, concluding that there has been a positive return on investment on the decision to move to a four-year institution. The university was able to diversify the enrollment pool and revenue streams, as well as increase access to educational opportunities in the Southland.

The remainder of the items listed for discussion were deferred to another Board session.

X. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Chair Sebastian noting there are no old/new business to discuss asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Sebastian then asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Brookins so moved; Trustee Nunn seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 3:50 pm.

Approved this 21st day of October 2024

James Kvedaras, Chair

Karen Nunn, Secretary