

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “GovState,” respectively), an Illinois body politic and corporate, meeting as a committee of the whole, was held in person and via audio-videoconference at GovState’s University Park Campus in Engbretson Hall on October 21, 2024, beginning at approximately 9:00 am. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the business described in the Agenda posted for public notice before 9:00 am on October 19, 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 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:

- Kevin Brookins, Trustee;
- Stacy Crook, Vice Chair and Trustee;
- James Kvedaras, Trustee;
- Karen Nunn, Trustee and Secretary;
- Harish Rayalapati, Student Trustee (arrived at 9:20 am);
- Anibal Taboas, Trustee.

President Cheryl Green, 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., 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.

Joshua Sopiartz (Faculty Senate President) and Susie Morris (Civil Service Senate President) were present as well.

### **III. ABSENCES**

Trustee Angela Sebastian

### **IV. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kvedaras at approximately 9:00 am.

### **V. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Dr. Joi Patterson read the University’s Land Acknowledgement Statement.

### **VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None was made.

### **VII. CHAIR COMMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Kvedaras advised the Trustees to check their email for information on how to take required training. He then called for a motion to approve the Agenda. Trustee Nunn so moved, and Trustee Taboas seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## **VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Kvedaras then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the August 19, 2024 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Trustee Taboas so moved, and Trustee Brookins seconded. Trustee Crook noted that her name was misspelled and requested that the minutes be amended accordingly. The motion to approve the minutes as amended passed unanimously.

## **IX. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Information items set forth in the Agenda were presented next.

First, Don Powell from Old National Bank presented the Quarterly Investment Report. Mr. Powell reported that the University's funds are conservatively invested primarily in U.S. Treasuries per the Illinois Public Funds Investment Act. As of September 30, 2014, the portfolio consisted of \$37,441,224. The portfolio is outperforming its benchmark.

Chair Kvedaras then summarized the last two meetings of the Executive Committee since the August 19 Board meeting. At the September 5 meeting, Trustee Crook was appointed the Chair of the Presidential Search Committee. The Executive Committee also discussed President Green's annual review. At the September 13 meeting, the Executive Committee interviewed search professionals from various search firms.

Josh Sopiarcz gave the Senate Faculty report. He noted that he was elected President of the Faculty Senate via a special election due to the prior president, Steven Wagner, joining the administration. He reported that the Senate is filling rosters for standing committees, that the Faculty Wellness Committee has been active, and that the Faculty Development Committee will meet on October 30, 2024 to discuss artificial intelligence issues.

Susie Morris gave the Civil Service report. She reported that, on October 4, 2024, Civil Service held its first retreat. The theme of the retreat was: "We lead. We serve. We are Civil Service." Ms. Morris thanked Chair Kvedaras for joining the retreat and Drs. Patterson and Major-Ford and Mr. Peter Rockey for presenting at the retreat. Civil Service is working on revising its Bylaws and looks forward to commenting on the new strategic plan.

The Student Senate President was absent.

Dr. Nicole Bing presented with Dr. Lisa Pennington and Andrew Pitts regarding the Ghana Public Health Brigade. She reported that the University has gone on nine such brigades in the past nine years. This year, 12 volunteers went to Ghana to work on a public health project and deliver donated supplies to local schools.

Dr. Corey Bradford then gave a report on the Five-Year Financial Performance of the University and on audit results. He reported that the University has been resilient despite major challenges, such as the pandemic, record inflation, and a nationwide decline in enrollment. The University's net position has increased from \$93.4 million in 2019 to \$120.1 million in 2023, with assets holding steady and liabilities declining. The University's position is comprised of 63% capital assets and 31% cash. The unrestricted cash balance, which is like a reserve, is doing extremely well. It increased from \$14.5 million in 2019 to \$36.6 million in 2023. The best practice is to have at least a 120-day reserve. The University's goal is to have a three-to-six-month reserve to provide a financial cushion for shortfalls or emergencies. Dr. Bradford reported that the major source of revenue is tuition and fees, which were not raised during the time period at issue. The largest expense is employee salaries and benefits. He noted that the University's debt would be paid down by 2030 and that there may be an opportunity to take on new debt in 2030. The University's bond rating went up from non-investment grade to investment grade.

Regarding the audit, Dr. Bradford reported that the University received a clean audit for FY2023. There were 12 compliance issues reported but none of them constituted a material weakness.

Next, while not on the Agenda, a special guest requested time to address the Board—Dr. Cylne Namuo, President of Joliet Junior College. Dr. Namuo explained that he came to celebrate President Green's impact on the Southland and to wish her well in her retirement. He noted that she has had an indelible impact on the Southland and has been a tremendous supporter of the dual degree program between the University and JJC.

Mr. Josh Allen then reported on the retention of search professionals from AGB Search, Fred

Moore and Melissa Tratta, in connection with the University's search for the next president. He reported that they were on campus to hold listening sessions today and the next day. Mr. Moore and Ms. Tratta then introduced themselves, including their experience in higher education and executive searches in higher education. They explained the search process AGB would follow. An extensive discussion regarding the process ensued.

Mr. Paul McGuinness and Mr. John Potempa then gave a report on Athletics, Intramural Sports and Student Fitness. Mr. McGuinness reported that the University currently has 15 athletic teams with 260 students, 56% of whom have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Men's volleyball will launch in the Spring. Construction on a soccer field is intended to go forward next year and likely will be presented to the Board in February 2025. They then addressed the Building A improvements, which have stalled since the contractor walked off the job. Because this is an Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) project, the University does not have the discretion to hire a substitute contractor to finish the work; the University is waiting for CDB to complete the project.

At 11:05 am, Chair Kvedaras called for a break. The meeting resumed at approximately 11:15 am.

## **X. ACTION ITEMS**

The Board then was presented with the following action items to consider consistent with the Agenda.

First, Ms. Therese King Nohos presented proposed Resolution 25-05, regarding adopting changes to Board Regulation II and adopting Board Regulation VIII. Ms. Nohos was pleased to announce that Resolution 25-05 will result in paid parental leave for all eligible workers. Chair Kvedaras emphasized the importance of compliance in passing Regulation VIII.

Second, Dr. Beverly Schneller presented proposed Resolution 25-06, regarding faculty emerita status for Dr. Lorri Glass, and Resolution 25-07, regarding tenure upon hire for Drs. Elhage and Jozwik.

Third, Dr. Bradford presented proposed Resolutions 25-08 through 25-10 regarding approval of the operating budget, the operating resource allocation management program (RAMP) appropriations request, and Fiscal Year 2026 capital RAMP requests.

Finally, Mr. Allen presented proposed Resolution 25-11 regarding President Green's annual review and bonus. At this time, Chair Kvedaras requested a motion to go into closed session. Trustee Brookins so moved, and Trustee Taboas seconded. The motion passed unanimously on roll call vote. The open session of the meeting adjourned at approximately 11:40 am. It restarted at approximately 12:45 pm with Chair Kvedaras noting that no final action took place in closed session.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Kvedaras then asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Crook so moved; Trustee Taboas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm.

**Approved this 24<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025**

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**James Kvedaras, Chair**

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**Karen Nunn, Secretary**