

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY SPECIAL MEETING**

A special 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 December 5, 2025, beginning at approximately 11:30 am. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the business described in the Agenda posted for public notice before 9:00 am on December 3, 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:

- James Kvedaras, Chair;
- Frances Pao-Han Kao, Trustee;
- Judith L Mitchell, Trustee;
- Angelica Zuniga, Trustee;
- Brett Porter, Student Trustee; and
- Stacy Crook, Trustee and Vice-Chair.

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;

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- William Davis, Vice President, External Affairs
- 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 Sopiartz (Faculty Senate President), Ms. Susie Morris (Civil Service President), and Mr. Sean O’ Brien (Student Senate President) were present as well.

III. ABSENCES

Karen Nunn, Trustee and Secretary
Anibal Taboas, Trustee

IV. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kvedaras at approximately 11:30 am.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VI. CHAIR’S COMMENTS

Chair Kvedaras wished everyone a happy and merry holiday season

VII. PRESIDENT’S REPORT

President Ester gave the President’s Report, first noting the upcoming retirement of Vice President Paul McGuinness and formation of a search committee to be chaired by Dr. Joi Patterson.

Regarding Enrollment Management, President Ester reported that projected enrollment for Spring 2026 was down slightly year-over-year.

President Ester announced new hires: Mr. Keith Brown, Director Office of Sponsored

Programs and Research who started on November 17, 2025; and Joel Mota, Unit B Faculty, Public Service Librarian who will start January 2026.

Regarding the Strategic Framework, President Ester noted that it is still moving forward. There were two charettes, outlining measures, targets and KPIs.

Regarding Human Resources, President Ester reported that GSU is celebrating another year of 100% completed performance reviews.

President Ester thanked the Board for their participation in her investiture, and noted that \$32,000 had been raised and discussed other recent events, including the Distinguished Alumni Awards.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Kvedaras noted that no Trustee had requested removal of any item on the Consent Agenda and, therefore, the Board considered it as presented:

- Approval of Proposed Agenda for December 5, 2025 meeting;
- Approval of Meeting Minutes from October 27, 2025 meeting;
- Approval of Resolution 26-22 regarding approval of Contract for Cybersecurity in Excess of \$250,000 dollars;
- Approval of Resolution 26-23 regarding approval of Easement Affecting University Real Property; and
- Approval of Resolution 26-24 regarding approval of Associate Professor Emeritus Status for Timothy W. Pedigo.

The Consent Agenda passed unanimously after a roll call vote.

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 Mitchell so moved; Trustee Crook seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:42 am.

Approved this 23rd day of February 2026


James Kvedaras, Chair


Karen Nunn, Secretary