

**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 February 24, 2025, 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 February 22, 2025 in accordance with Section 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:

- Stacy Crook, Vice Chair and Trustee;
- James Kvedaras, Chair;
- Karen Nunn, Trustee and Secretary;
- Harish Rayalapati, Student Trustee;
- Anibal Taboas, Trustee (arrived via videoconference at 9:15 am).

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., PhD, 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.

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

III. ABSENCES

None.

IV. CALL TO ORDER

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

V. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Trustee Rayalapati read the University's Land Acknowledgement Statement.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Kvedaras called for public comment. Student Lynetta Thomas gave a public comment.

VII. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Kvedaras thanked President Green for her years of service. He then read into the record Resolution 25-21 to honor and pay tribute to President Green, who is retiring on February 28, 2025.

VIII. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Kvedaras asked for a motion to approve the meeting's Agenda. Trustee Nunn so moved, and Trustee Crook seconded. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Kvedaras then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the October 21, 2024 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Trustee Crook so moved, and Trustee Nunn seconded. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

Information items set forth in the Agenda were presented next, except for the following items that were removed from the Agenda: (i) Internal Audit Presentation; and (ii) University Park Tax Incremental Financing Changes and Opportunities.

First, Josh Sopiartz, President of the Faculty Senate, reported on the Faculty Senate. He advised that the Senate is fully rostered and that all committees are nearly fully rostered. He noted that there has been increased collaboration with the Civil Service Senate and that the Faculty Senate is holding a special meeting on March 6, 2025 to discuss the U.S. Department of Education's February 14, 2025 Dear Colleague Letter. Second, Susie Morris, Civil Service Senate President, gave the report of the Civil Service Senate. On January 10, 2025, Civil Service held the annual Civil Service Senate Day with over 150 employees in attendance. Ms. Morris thanked the Board Chair and administration for serving lunch. She reported that the Civil Service Senate is holding an annual retreat in October 2025. Third, Xavier Thompson, Student Senate President, noted that the Student Senate will be holding a Town Hall Meeting with administration.

Next, David Rhea, Dean of the Honors College, introduced the University's new Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Maria Murray Svidronova, who addressed the Board.

Next, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Beverly Schneller introduced Dr. Reena Lichtenfeld who gave an update on the status of the University's strategic planning initiative. A copy of Dr. Lichtenfeld's presentation is attached hereto. Dr. Lichtenfeld noted that the goal is to have a draft of the next strategic plan presented to the Board in June 2025 for discussion and presented to

the Board in August 2025 for action.

Associate Vice President for Facilities Development Management John Potempa then gave an update on the Facilities Master Plan, which is attached hereto. Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Paul McGuinness discussed the intersection of the Facilities Master Plan with the Athletics Master Plan, and noted that the University has completed part of a feasibility study on the A Building where the pool is currently. He also noted that the University will soon break ground on a planned soccer field. Core Construction provided additional detail regarding the construction and budget for the soccer field. An extensive discussion ensued regarding the planned soccer field and other facilities issues.

Next, Angela Szczepanik-Sanchez, Director of Student Disability Academic Resource Center, gave an overview of her department's service to and support of students with disabilities, as well as the challenges encountered by those students in transitioning from high school to college. She reported that, in Academic Year 2023-2024, the University served over 300 students with disabilities ranging from attention deficit hyperactivity disorder to mobility disabilities.

Associate Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Technology Officer Charles Pustz then presented the Technology Update Plan, which is attached hereto, with Associate Provost and Technology Advisory Co-Chair Olumide Ijose. Mr. Pustz noted that the Technology Plan aligns with the University's strategic plan, *Strategy 2025*, and also aligns with federal and state legal requirements, audit finding remediation efforts, and emerging technology research. He then gave an overview of projects that have been completed since February 2024, projects that are in progress, and planned future projects. A question and answer period ensued. Dr. Ijose provided an overview of technology resources that are planned for academic affairs.

Mr. Pustz then presented the Information Technology Security Plan, which is attached hereto, with David Weissbohn, Director of Information Security and Compliance. They gave an overview of projects completed since February 2024, those in progress, and those that are planned. They discussed the challenges of implementing an information technology security plan, including that universities are prime targets for cybercriminals. Trustee Nunn asked if the University had breach protocols in place and was informed that those efforts are underway.

Executive Director of Budget and Financial Planning Cheri Taylor-Lawton then gave a tuition and fees update with Executive Director of Financial Aid and Scholarship John Perry, a copy of which is attached hereto. They described the process used to arrive at the proposed tuition and fees for Academic Year 2025-26 and the resulting financial impact the proposed fees would have on revenue. They proposed a \$30 per credit hour increase in tuition rates for U.S. students and an increase to the Facilities and Technology Fees. Mr. Perry explained that the neediest students who receive both Pell Grants and MAP (Monetary Award Program) funding who take 15 credit hours will still receive a small refund after the tuition and fees increase.

Vice President for Human Resources Joshua Allen then gave an update on the presidential search. He noted that the search committee was comprised of 25 faculty, staff, students, and community members. The University retained AGB as the search firm in November 2024 and received extensive training from AGB regarding conducting a search in December 2024. January 3, 2025 was the application deadline for preferred consideration. The University received over 60 completed applications, nine of whom were advanced for interviews by the search committee. Of them, three were recommended for on-campus interviews, which are ongoing. Mr. Allen thanked Trustee Crook for her leadership as the search committee chair and the search committee members for their service. Trustee Crook thanked the committee and Mr. Allen as well for their service. Chair Kvedaras noted that the expectation was to begin negotiations with the selected candidate near March 10, 2025.

Chair Kvedaras then asked Kaitlyn Wild, Director of Compliance, to give an update on conflict-of-interest reporting requirements. Ms. Wild noted that the Trustees' Statement of Economic Interest would be sent via U.S. mail in mid-March to the Trustees and was due by May 1, 2025. A Supplemental Statement of Economic Interests will be sent to the Trustees via email and also will be due by May 1, 2025.

Chair Kvedaras then called for a break at approximately 11:10 am for ten minutes.

XI. ACTION ITEMS

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

Agenda, except that Resolution 25-19 was deferred for future action.

First, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Schneller presented Resolution 25-12 regarding tenure upon hire for Dr. Matthew Sprong with the College of Health and Human Services.

Second, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Schneller presented Resolution 25-13 regarding professor *emerita* status for each of Dr. Caryn Schranz and Dr. Catherine Tymkow.

Third, Vice President Bradford presented Resolutions 25-14, 25-15, and 25-16 regarding approval of proposed tuition and fees and of housing fees for Academic Year 2025-2026.

Fourth, Vice President and General Counsel Nohos presented Resolution 25-17 regarding maintaining certain meeting minutes as confidential pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Fifth, Vice President Allen presented Resolution 25-18 regarding approval of proposed employment contract for an interim president, noting that the contract had been posted for public comment at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Sixth, Vice President Allen presented Resolution 25-20 regarding Administrative Leave for William Davis.

Seventh, Chair Kvedaras noted that Resolution 25-21 regarding paying honor and tribute to President Cheryl Green had been presented at the top of the meeting.

XII. CLOSED SESSION

Chair Kvedaras called for a motion to go into closed session pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Trustee Crook so moved, and Trustee Nunn seconded. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote. Closed session began at approximately 12:00 pm. Open session resumed at approximately 2:20 pm with Chair Kvedaras noting that no final action had taken place during closed session.

XIII.ADJOURNMENT

There being no other old or new business, Chair Kvedaras then asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Nunn so moved; Trustee Crook seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm.

Approved this 10th day of March 2025

James Kvedaras, Chair

Karen Nunn, Secretary