

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Final – Approved
10-29-21

Minutes of the Friday, August 13, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting and Retreat

Call to Order and Roll Call

The Governors State University Board of Trustees regular meeting and annual retreat for Friday, August 13, 2021 was called to order by Chair Harrell at 9:06 am. Roll call was taken and Trustees Kevin Brookins, Pedro Cevallos-Candau, Lisa Harrell, Janine Latrice Koger, Jim Kvedaras, Angela Sebastian, and Anibal Taboas were in attendance. Trustee John Brudnak was absent.

Also in attendance:

Cheryl Green, President

W. Paul Bylaska, Vice President for Administration and Finance

Elizabeth A. Cada, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Therese King Nohos, Vice President, General Counsel and Interim Vice President of Human Resources

Penny Perdue, Chief of Administrative Operations and Liaison to the Board

Percy Amarteifio, Paralegal, Office of the General Counsel

Villalyn Baluga, Associate Vice President for Finance

Mushtaq Choudhary, Director of Auxiliary Services and Housing

Will Davis, Vice President, Institutional Advancement, Marketing and Communications

Jose De La Paz, Director of Human Resources

Mike Hart, Faculty, College of Arts and Sciences, UPI President

Rosemary Johnsen, Associate Vice Provost, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs

Marco Krcatovich, Director, Institutional Research and Effectiveness

Andrae Marak, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences

Paul McGuinness, Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions

John Potempa, Associate Vice President, Facilities Development and Management

David Rhea, Director, Center for the Junior Year

Colleen Sexton, Associate Vice Provost, Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs

Sandra Zurawski, Director of Budget and Financial Planning

Other members of the general public were in attendance, and the meeting was live streamed.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Chair Harrell asked for a motion to approve the agenda for the August 13, 2021 board meeting and retreat. Trustee Cevallos-Candau motioned. Trustee Brookins seconded. The motion was approved via a unanimous roll call vote.

Chair Remarks

Chair Harrell thanked the GSU community, under the leadership of Dr. Green, for how members are working together, dealing with the ongoing impacts of COVID. The Board will be focusing this year on creating framework and structure in how it works. She looks forward to a great year.

Public Comment

Michael Hart, President, UPI

Professor Hart introduced himself as the new UPI president.

President's Report

Dr. Green began her report by welcoming everyone back to campus. She updated the Board on a number of issues including: GSU's plans for a safe return to campus; the July 1 final Strategic Enrollment Planning Town Hall, which outlined eleven strategies developed during the process; the July 29 Town Hall which addressed return to work issues; the Campus Operations Plan for Fall, 2021; GSU's recent testimony before the Illinois House's Higher Education and Higher Education Appropriations Committees; and, the Economic Impact Study, which is in the final phase and will be reported on at a future Board meeting. She announced that GSU will participate in the newly formed Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity, which is an agreement between all Illinois public universities and community colleges to improve access to degrees and certificates for the early childhood workforce. The Illinois General Assembly provided funding for this consortium through the FY22 budget. GSU's School of Extended Learning has been selected to participate in the Amazon Career Choice Program, which provides training for Amazon employees for in-demand careers.

Per Board Regulations, Dr. Green reported on the Emergency Repair Contract she authorized for emergency repairs to the D-Wing ceiling tiles. After notifying the Trustees, she approved moving ahead with an emergency procurement, which was documented and processed as required by the Illinois Procurement Code. The low bidder was selected for a contract amount of \$173,500. The work in the main entrance and the library is ongoing and should be complete by mid-September.

Dr. Green announced a donation from the Manilow family in the amount of \$252,000 for the operations, collection, and facilities of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park.

Action Items

Chair Harrell requested a motion to hold the election process for Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary of the Board. Trustee Brookins motioned. Trustee Sebastian seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote.

General Counsel King Nohos explained that, pursuant to the Illinois statute that governs Governors State University, the vote for Chair and Secretary shall take place by secret ballot.

Further, the Board Bylaws state that the vote for Vice-Chair shall also be by secret ballot. Trustee Brookins stated that the Governance and Nominations Committee has recommended a slate of officers for the next academic year: Lisa Harrell, Chair; Angela Sebastian, Vice-Chair; and, Jim Kvedaras, Secretary. General Counsel King Nohos conducted the secret ballot process and reported that based on a quorum of voting members who were present, there is a majority of votes for the proposed slate.

Chair Harrell requested a motion to approve the proposed slate of committee chairs and committee members. Trustee Brookins motioned. Trustee Sebastian seconded. Trustee Brookins presented the proposed slate of committee chairs for the upcoming academic year: Angela Sebastian, Budget and Finance Committee; Anibal Taboas, Academic Affairs; Kevin Brookins, Governance and Nominations; and, Jim Kvedaras, Human Resources. Trustee Brookins stated that the committee members of each committee would otherwise remain the same. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Chair Harrell requested a motion to approve Resolution 22-01, Approval of GSU Board Authority – Series 2021 Bonds. Trustee Kvedaras motioned. Trustee Cevallos-Candau seconded. Dr. Bylaska presented the resolution. Discussion ensued. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Chair Harrell requested a motion to approve Resolution 22-02, Approval of Second Supplemental Revenue Bonds. Trustee Sebastian motioned. Trustee Kvedaras seconded. Dr. Bylaska presented the resolution. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Chair Harrell requested a motion to approve Resolution 22-03, Approval of GSU Board Authority – Certificates of Participation. Trustee Koger motioned. Trustee Cevallos-Candau seconded. Dr. Bylaska presented the resolution. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.

Strategic Plan – Strategy 2025 – Study Session

Chair Harrell called upon Provost Beth Cada, Associate Provost Colleen Sexton, Associate Provost Rosemary Johnsen, and Director of Institutional Research Marco Krcatovich to conduct the study session for Strategy 2025, GSU’s new strategic plan. A robust discussion ensued.

Open Meetings Act – Study Session

Chair Harrell introduced Timothy Elliott, Attorney with Rathje Woodward, who conducted a study session with the trustees regarding the requirements of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Discussion ensued.

Old/New Business

There was no old business. Under new business, Trustee Sebastian offered thanks for the service of Dr. Sandi Estep and Dr. David Golland, who are completing their terms as President of the UPI and President of the Faculty Senate, respectively.

The meeting adjourned at 11:43 am with a motion from Trustee Koger and a second from Trustee Cevallos-Candau. The motion was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,
Penny Perdue
Recording Secretary