MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY REGULAR QUARTERLY MEETING

A regularly scheduled quarterly 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 June 22, 2026, beginning at approximately 2:38 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the business described in the Agenda posted for public notice before 9:00 am on June 18, 2026 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: Chair Pro Tem Stacy Crook

Minutes Recorded By: Therese King Nohos, General Counsel

II. ATTENDEES

Chair Pro Tem Crook 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, Chair Pro Tem
- Karen Nunn, Trustee and Secretary
- Marquis Parks, Student Trustee
- Frances Pao-Han Kao, Trustee
- Anibal Taboas, Trustee
- Angelica Zuniga, Trustee

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;
- Villalyn Baluga, Senior Associate VP for Finance and Chief Financial Officer;
- William Davis, Vice President, External Affairs;

- Maureen Kelly, Executive Director, Government Relations;
- Therese King Nohos, JD, Vice President, General Counsel;
- Patricia O'Neal, Executive Assistant to the President; and
- Beverly Schneller, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Mr. Joshua Sopiarz (Faculty Senate President) and Ms. Susie Morris (Civil Service President), were present as well.

III. ABSENCES

James Kvedaras, Trustee and Chair

IV. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pro Tem Crook at approximately 2:38 pm.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

VI. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Pro Tem Crook did not add to her comments from earlier in the day.

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Ester began her remarks by thanking employees for their recent efforts in working towards a balanced budget and giving suggestions for new resource development.

This spring, President Ester spent a lot of time in Springfield meeting with legislators to lobby for additional funding. She also attended her first legislative hearings to give budget testimony. She attended the investiture of the Columbia College President Bolton. She met with the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus Foundation President to explore partnership opportunities. She accepted an award on behalf of the University from the Will County Black Diamond Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction. She also attended the Higher Learning Commission Conference and thanked Trustee Kvedaras, Trustee Mitchell and Trustee Zuniga, who attended the conference as well. Dr. Ester announced that she will be assuming the role of Chair of the Higher Learning Commission Board shortly.

President Ester was a keynote speaker for a research symposium for the Graduate Students' Association of Ghana—US, which was held virtually. President Ester welcomed new inductees to the Governors State Chapter of Tau Sigma National Honor Society. The University welcomed two new Greek organizations, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.

In May, President Ester attended the Higher Education Futures Table, hosted by the Deputy

Governor's office. She also attended many end-of-year celebrations, including the doctoral hooding ceremony and commencement. President Ester thanked all the volunteers and those that participated to make commencement a success.

In June, President Ester visited Ghana and met with GovState students who were there with the Ghana Brigade and was impressed by the relationship we have formed with the community. President Ester also met with Governor Pritzker this month to discuss funding for GovState.

She advised that the Illinois General Assembly passed the Governor's recommended budget, which included a one percent (1%) across-the-board increase for higher education, which amounts to less than $1 million in additional funding for GovState. In addition, the two percent of funding that had been approved for fiscal year 2026 but held back had been released, which amounts to about $500,000 and which will be applied to reduce the budget deficit. The University continues to lobby for equitable funding legislation; however, it did not go to vote this year. The bill will likely be taken up next spring. President Ester announced we received the release of $3.5 million for capital improvements.

Regarding the University's equity plan implementation, Governors State submitted its FY2026 equity plan implementation summary to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The report highlighted measurable progress and student success initiatives.

President Ester announced that, as a result of a national search, Dr. Marlon Cummings was selected as the next Dean of the College of Education and Human Development and will start in his new role on July 1, 2026.

President Ester also reported that the University convened a summit including 80 participants representing business, government, civic leaders, and the broader community to advance a shared understanding of the region's strength and gaps aligned around strategic priorities.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

The Board then was presented with the following action items to consider consistent with the amended Agenda. Chair Pro Tem Crook advised the Board that Resolution 26-32 regarding approval of tenure will be presented under old/new business given statutory restrictions on the Student Trustee's voting privileges:

- Resolution 26-33 regarding approval of proposed Emeritus Recommendation;
- Resolution 26-34 regarding approval of Academic Program Review Report for AY 2025-2026;
- Resolution 26-35 regarding approval of New Degree Programs;

- Resolution 26-36 regarding approval of Preliminary Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2027;
- Resolution 26-37 regarding approval of resolution honoring Student Trustee Brett Porter;
- Resolution 26-40 regarding approval of confidentiality of closed Board meeting minutes; and
- Resolution 26-41 regarding approval of procurement contracts in excess of $250,000.00.

Trustee Zuniga so moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Trustee Kao seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Chair Pro Tem Crook asked if there was any old business or new business that needed to be brought to the Board. There was none.

Chair Pro Tem Crook asked for a motion to approve Resolution 26-32 regarding approval of tenure. Trustee Kao so moved, and trustee Zuniga seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Trustee Parks abstaining.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pro Tem Crook then asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Nuun so moved and Trustee Zuniga seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:54 pm.

Approved this 17th day of August 2026

James Kvedaras, Chair

Karen Nunn, Secretary