Governors State UNIVERSITY

MINUTES OF
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

A regular meeting of the Committee of the Whole 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 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 June 18, 2026, in accordance with Section 2.02 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. 5 ILCS 120/ *et seq.* Before the meeting, each Trustee received books with materials corresponding to the action items, copies of which are maintained with the Board records.

I. MEETING DETAILS

Meeting 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:

- Stacy Crook, Chair Pro Tem
- Karen Nunn, Trustee and Secretary
- Marquis Parks, Student Trustee (arrived at approximately 9:40 am)
- Judith L. Mitchell, Trustee
- Angelica Zuniga, Trustee
- Anibal Taboas, Trustee
- Frances Pao-Han Kao, Trustee

President Joyce C. 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;
- David Hermann, PhD, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management;
- 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 9:00 am.

V. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Land Acknowledgment Statement was read by Therese King Nohos, Vice President and General Counsel.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was public comment by Josh Young, Director of Digital Learning and Media Design, and Sara Tweddle, Civil Service Senate and Co-Chair of the Personnel Resolutions Committee.

VII. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Pro Tem Crook welcomed new Student Trustee, Marquis Parks, to the Board. She also welcomed Dr. Hermann, the University's new Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment

Management. Chair Pro Tem Crook noted that these are challenging days for the University community given budget constraints and corresponding employee layoffs, which are very difficult for the affected employees and their families, as well as for students and remaining employees. The Board is grateful for the contributions of every employee who has served this institution and its students.

Chair Pro Tem Crook noted that she is still optimistic about the University's future. In the short year she has been here, President Ester has implemented a plan to eliminate deficit spending from the University's operational budget for the next year and has put a plan in place to rebuild the institutions financial reserves.

VIII. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

Chair Pro Tem Crook asked for a motion to remove proposed resolutions 26-38 and 26-39 from the Agenda as they are not ready for the Board's consideration. Trustee Kao so moved, seconded by Trustee Mitchell. Chair Pro Tem Crook then asked for a motion to approve the Agenda as amended. Trustee Zuniga so moved, seconded by Trustee Mitchell. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Pro Tem Crook then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of February 23, 2026 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Trustee Nunn so moved, seconded by Trustee Zuniga. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

First, Mr. Josh Sopiarz, President of the Faculty Senate, reported on the Faculty Senate, including the Faculty Senate joint resolution with the Civil Service and Student Senate supporting adequate and equitable public university funding legislation. The Senate expanded Unit B representation from one to five senators. Elections were held earlier in the Spring. Mr. Sopiarz congratulated colleagues awaiting their tenure and emeritus votes in the afternoon for their accomplishments and dedication to the University and its students and communities. He also noted faculty concerns regarding the budget challenges facing the University. A discussion ensued.

Second, Civil Service President Susie Morris reported on the activity of the Civil Service Senate, including recent layoffs. Ms. Morris noted that, while layoffs recently began, Civil Service Senate wanted to ensure they were proactive and able to provide their fellow colleagues with pertinent information and resources. Ms. Morris noted that Civil Service invited Dr. Sandra Marak to their monthly meeting last month. Dr. Marak explained the process and procedures regarding seniority and bumping rights for Civil Service professionals. Ms. Morris thanked the administration and Board of Trustees for their continued support. Additionally, she thanked her fellow colleagues for their hard work and continued contributions.

Third, Senior Associate Vice President for Finance and Chief Financial Officer Villalyn Baluga gave an update on the University's fiscal year 2026 operating budget-to-actual results through March 31, 2026, as well as on the University's projected year-end revenues and expenditures for fiscal year 2026. She also presented on the Public Audit Results for FY 2024-2025.

Fourth, Mr. William Davis, Vice President, External Affairs and Chief Executive Officer of the Governors State University Foundation, gave an update and overview of the foundation performance, financials, trends, advancement, and fundraising. A discussion ensued.

Fifth, Dr. Beverly Schneller, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, gave an update on Academic Program Review Process and Curriculum Process.

Sixth, Dr. Beverly Schneller, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Robert Stanley, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research and Effectiveness, and Dr. Stephen Wagner, Chair, Management, Marketing and Entrepreneurship, gave an update and overview on institutional Strategic Framework 2030.

Finally, Therese King Nohos, Vice President and General Counsel, presented the Board election process for AY 2026-2027 for officers of the Board.

X. PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

As otherwise set forth in the Agenda, the following action items were presented for discussion:

- Resolution 26-32: Approve proposed candidates for Tenure;
- Resolution 26-33: Approve proposed Emeritus status;
- Resolution 26-34: Approve proposed Academic Program Review Report for Academic Year 2025-2026;
- Resolution 26-35: Approve proposed New Degree Programs;
- Resolution 26-36: Approve proposed Preliminary Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2027;
- Resolution 26-37: Approve proposed Resolution Honoring Student Trustee Brett Porter;
- Resolution 26-40: Approve Confidentiality of Closed Board Minutes; and
- Resolution 26-41: Approve proposed Procurement Contracts in Excess of $250,000.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

Chair Pro Tem Crook asked for a motion to go into closed session to discuss (i) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees or specific individual contractors pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1); (ii) collective bargaining pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(2); and (iii) ongoing litigation pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11). Trustee Nunn so moved and Trustee Zuniga seconded. On a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. The open session of the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:47 pm and reconvened at approximately 2:33 pm. No action was taken in closed session.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

After returning from closed session, Trustee Taboas addressed the Board regarding his retirement from the Board. Chair Pro Tem Crook then asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Kao so moved, and Trustee Taboas seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:37 pm.

Approved this 17th day of August 2026

James Kvedaras, Chair

Karen Nunn, Secretary