

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

A regularly scheduled 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 16, 2025, beginning at approximately 12:30 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 14, 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 unless otherwise noted:

- Stacy Crook, Trustee and Vice Chair;
- James Kvedaras, Trustee and Chair;
- Harish Rayalapati, Student Trustee;
- Judith L Mitchell; Trustee;
- Frances Pao-Han Kao, Trustee;
- Angelica Zuniga, Trustee; and
- Anibal Taboas, Trustee.

Interim President Corey S. Bradford Sr, Ph.D., *ex-officio* Board member and interim 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;
- 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;
- 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.

IV. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kvedaras at approximately 12:30 pm.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment

VI. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Kvedaras noted this is a key time of transition for the University, having just completed a very successful presidential term and beginning a new one. Chair Kvedaras thanked Interim President Bradford for his stellar assistance guiding the institution through this transition period.

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Bradford first acknowledged two student scholarship gifts received from Earthrise, which is a solar energy company and which gave \$25,000 to our College of Arts and Science and the NATE. He also noted that the University received a \$30,000 gift from Delta Sigma Bouley Fraternity to support our students' participation in the Ghana Health Brigade. Dr. Bradford recognized the College of Business, which raised \$10,000 during their Annual Business Week.

Dr. Bradford highlighted Camp Jaguar, which offers summer programming on campus through our School of Extended Learning, as well as different Colleges across campus. He then reported that the first concert of the summer concert series will be on June 26, 2025.

Dr. Bradford then reported on enrollment for our summer bridge program, called Jaguar Leaps. The program starts July 7 and it goes through August 14. Students attend this program free of charge and live on campus while earning 7 seven credits towards their degree.

The Spring legislative session for the 104th General Assembly adjourned approximately June 1, 2025. The legislators passed a \$55.2 billion state budget. Dr. Bradford noted that we expect the General Assembly probably to come back to Springfield sometime this summer to continue working on the budget. As for higher education, the budget includes a 1% increase for all public universities, which is less than the Governor's recommendation of 3%. Proposed legislation to allow community colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs did not pass, nor did the proposal for the new higher education funding formula, known as the Equitable Funding Bill for Higher Education.

Dr. Bradford next reported on enrollment. Dr. Bradford noted that Fall enrollment is currently up about 3.5% or 96 students compared to this time last year. In terms of housing applications, we have over 318 housing applications with 238 deposits.

Finally, Dr. Bradford noted that the University is preparing for a smooth transition for Dr. Joyce Ester. Dr. Bradford will be returning to his CFO role on July 1. Dr. Bradford thanked the Board and the campus community for allowing him the opportunity to serve as the Interim President for the past four months.

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA

Regarding the minutes from the prior meeting, Chair Kvedaras noted that it was incorrectly stated during the meeting that Trustee Rayalapati was attending the last meeting of his term; however, the current June 2025 meeting is actually the last meeting of his term.

Chair Kvedaras then requested that three items be removed from the Consent Agenda: Resolution Nos. 25-24, 25-25, and 25-28. Chair Kvedaras then asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Trustee Kao so moved, and Trustee Zuniga seconded. The motion passed unanimously, thereby passing the following resolutions:

- Resolution 25-26, approve Summary Report Academic Program Review AY 24-25 to be presented to the Illinois Board of Higher Education;
- Resolution 25-27, approve Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2026;
- Resolution 25-29, approve the renaming the Social Justice Initiative Building in Honor of Dr. Cheryl F. Green;
- Resolution 25-30, approve Award of President Emerita Status to Dr. Cheryl F. Green;
- Resolution 25-31, approve salary increases for Non-Negotiated Employees;
- Resolution 25-32, approve College of Education and Human Development salary adjustments to market for identified positions;
- Resolution 25-33, approve Name Change from Department of Communication Disorders to Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders;
- Resolution 25-34, approve contract with Cybersecurity Services Provider in excess of \$250,000;
- Resolution 25-35, approve Renewal of Cash Lease Agreement regarding Farmland;
- Resolution 25-36, approve Renewal of Contracts for Architectural Services in Excess of \$250,000;
- Resolution 25-37, approve Renewal of Contracts for Engineering Services in Excess of \$250,000; and
- Resolution 25-38, approve Renewal of Contracts for Banking Services in Excess of

\$250,000.

Next, Resolution Nos. 25-24, 25-25, and 25-28 were considered together, with Trustee Rayalapati abstaining from voting. Chair Kvedaras asked for a motion to approve the three Resolutions. Trustee Zuniga so moved, and Trustee Crook seconded. The motion passed unanimously, thereby passing the following resolutions:

- Resolution 25-24, approve tenure for 12 presented candidates who meet the criteria pursuant to Article 20 “Tenure” of the UPI agreement Article 20.6;
- Resolution 25-25, approve tenure upon hire for Dr. Meng Yu who qualifies for tenure under Article 20.4 (a) of the UPI agreement; and
- Resolution 25-28, approve the Student Trustee Resolution for Harish Rayalapati.

IX. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

Chair Kvedaras noted the next meeting, which serves as the Annual Board Retreat, is scheduled for Monday August 18, 2025. Ms. Lisa Parker from Husch Blackwell will facilitate a discussion on board affairs and legal matters. Chair Kvedaras noted that the 56th birthday party for Governors State University is scheduled for Wednesday July 16, 2025, in downtown Park Forest. The Chair also noted the Fall Convocation is scheduled for September 4, 2025.

Dr. Crowley reminded everyone of the soccer field groundbreaking happening after the meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kvedaras then asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Mitchell so moved, and Trustee Crook seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:56 pm.

Approved this 18th day of August 2025


James Kvedaras, Chair


Karen Nunn, Secretary