

**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 16, 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 June 14, 2025, 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 is 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:

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

Interim President Corey 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; and
- 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 9:00 am.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no public comment.

VI. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Kvedaras thanked all those who participated in the May commencement proceedings. For the benefit of the newer trustees, Chair Kvedaras explained the purpose of the committee of the whole.

VII. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The land acknowledgment was read by Ms. Susie Morris.

VIII. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

Chair Kvedaras asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda as presented and meeting minutes from the April 24, 2025 meeting. Trustee Kao so moved, seconded by Trustee Taboas. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

First, Mr. Josh Sopiartz, President of the Faculty Senate, reported on the Faculty Senate. He reported that, during the Spring, the Executive Committee and Senate maintained a consistent meeting schedule, convening on the first and third Thursdays of each month. Additionally, he noted

they had a Special Session held in March to address the diversity, equity, and inclusion “Dear Colleague Letter” from the U.S. Department of Education and its implications, as well as the related Federal Executive Orders.

During the semester, he noted several people presented to the Faculty Senate, including Dr. Joi Patterson from Institutional Engagement, Dr. Phyllis West from the Social Justice Initiative, Dr. Nikki Lagrone from the Center for Teaching and Learning, and Ms. Katelyn Karstensen from the School of Extended Learning. In addition, on May 5, 2025, the Provost’s Office and the Faculty Senate hosted a well-attended town hall event at Sherman Hall. General Counsel Nohos presented information regarding the “Dear Colleague Letter” and the Executive Orders regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion. That was followed by a robust Q&A session with the faculty.

The Senate, inspired by Illinois State University’s Senate, issued a resolution supporting Senate Bill 13, House Bill 1581, regarding the Equity Funding, which was adopted May 15, 2025. The Faculty Senate also was privileged to join the naming committee, which considered renaming the Social Justice Initiative building in honor of President Cheryl Green. Also, the Faculty Authors and Creators Reception took place on May 8, 2025 in the University Library. This was co-sponsored by the Senate, the Provost’s Office, and the Library. Mr. Sopiarcz reported that the Faculty Senate held elections in the Spring and also participated in commencement.

Next, Civil Service President Sussie Morris noted that there were no new reports from the Civil Service Senate; however, planning is underway for their upcoming Civil Service Center Conference, which will be hosted on campus on October 22 through October 24, 2025. Also, she noted the Civil Service is continuing to evaluate its bylaws.

Next, Student Senate President Sean O’ Brien began his report by noting that he would be representing the Student Senate for the 2025-2026 Academic year. He previously served as the

Student Athlete Representative and is eager to continue serving all students in this new capacity. On June 6, 2025, the Student Senate hosted a successful leadership training day, which equipped new and returning senators with skills and knowledge to effectively serve and represent the student body. It was a great opportunity led by America's Student Leadership Trainer, Mr. Dave Kelly. Senators participated in a full day of team building, learning about Robert's Rules and preparing for the year ahead. Additionally, a special election was held with the help of advisor Dr. Sledge, to help elect Senators to fill the vacant executive board positions.

Mr. O'Brien noted that Inaugural Capital Connectors Day occurred on April 7, 2025 in Springfield, where some of our students met with Senate lawmakers. Similarly, a group of Political Science students attended Model Illinois Government in Springfield where they experienced how laws are passed. Continuing he noted that, here at Governors State University, we had our largest GovState research day with over 100 presentations. Eight students presented at the National Council on undergraduate research in Pittsburg. A team of student volunteers from Kaleidoscope Community Service club spent their spring break in New Orleans helping local organizations that give back to the community.

Mr. O'Brien noted we have over 30 students travelling internationally between a public health brigade in Ghana and an honor study abroad in Rome. Athletically, our Jaguars excelled on the playing field. Women's basketball were conference champions. They made it to the national NAIA Elite Eight, finishing the season with an outstanding record of 29-6. The men's volleyball team had a spectacular first season finishing the year 23-6. The track team had a phenomenal year and has seen growth with 11 athletes awarded all-conference and two athletes making it to nationals.

Next, Provost Schneller and Dr. Stephen Wagner presented the University Strategic Plan update. Dr. Schneller noted that we are still on track to meet our goal of having the final draft for

everyone's consideration in August 2025. After Dr. Ester joins the University on July 1, 2025, there will be flexibility to make any changes requested by Dr. Ester.

Next, Provost Schneller and Dr. Stephen Wagner presented new Academic Programs and Academic Program changes. Dr. Schneller noted that there were no programmatic changes. She shared the work of the Academic Master Planning Advisory Committee chaired by Dr. Wagner.

Next, Chair Kvedaras gave a Merit Board Update, with nothing impactful affecting GovState this quarter.

X. PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

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

- 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, was presented by Provost Schneller;
- Resolution 25-25, approve tenure upon hire for Dr. Meng Yu who qualifies for tenure under Article 20.4 (a) of the UPI agreement was presented by Provost Schneller;
- Resolution 25-26, approve Summary Report Academic Program Review AY 24-25 to be presented to the Illinois Board of Higher Education was presented by Provost Schneller;
- Resolution 25-27, approve Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2026, was presented by Associate Vice President for Finance Villalyn Baluga;
- Resolution 25-28, approve the Student Trustee Resolution for Harish Rayalapati, was presented by Chief of Staff and Strategic Initiatives Dr. Janelle Crowley;

- Resolution 25-29, approve the renaming the Social Justice Initiative Building in Honor of Dr. Cheryl F. Green, was presented by Interim President Dr. Corey S. Bradford, Sr.;
- Resolution 25-30, approve Award of President Emerita Status to Dr. Cheryl F. Green, was presented by Interim President Dr. Corey S. Bradford, Sr.;
- Resolution 25-31, approve salary increases for Non-Negotiated Employees, was presented by Mr. Joshua Allen, Vice President of Human Resources;
- Resolution 25-32, approve College of Education and Human Development salary adjustments to market for identified positions, was presented by Mr. Joshua Allen, Vice President of Human Resources;
- Resolution 25-33, approve Name Change from Department of Communication Disorders to Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, was presented by Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Schneller;
- Resolution 25-34, approve contract with Cybersecurity Services Provider in excess of \$250,000, was presented by Associate Vice for Finance Villalyn Baluga;
- Resolution 25-35, approve Renewal of Cash Lease Agreement regarding Farmland, was presented by Associate Vice for Finance Villalyn Baluga;
- Resolution 25-36, approve Renewal of Contracts for Architectural Services in Excess of \$250,000, was presented by Associate Vice for Finance Villalyn Baluga;
- Resolution 25-37, approve Renewal of Contracts for Engineering Services in Excess of \$250,000, was presented by Associate Vice for Finance Villalyn Baluga; and
- Resolution 25-38, approve Renewal of Contracts for Banking Services in Excess of \$250,000, was presented by Associate Vice for Finance Villalyn Baluga.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other old or new business, Chair Kvedaras then asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Mitchell so moved, and Trustee Crook seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The open session of the meeting adjourned at approximately 10:16 am.

Approved this 18th day of August 2025

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James Kvedaras", written over a horizontal line.

James Kvedaras, Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen Nunn", written over a horizontal line.

Karen Nunn, Secretary