



**GOVERNORS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Board of Trustees Meeting

August 18, 2025

Engbretson Hall

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TAB 1

**GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
AND
BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING
Engbretson Hall**

**August 18, 2025 – Committee of the Whole at 9:00 AM
and
August 18, 2025 – Board Meeting Immediately Following
(Lunch Scheduled for Noon)**

August 18, 2025 – Committee of the Whole

Chair James Kvedaras

9:00 am*	I.	CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL	Tab #'s
9:01 am	II.	PUBLIC COMMENT** Consistent with Public Act 91-0715 and reasonable constraints determined by the Board of Trustees, at each regular or special meeting of the Board or its committees that is open to the public, members of the public may request a brief time on the approved agenda of the meeting to address the Board on relevant matters within its jurisdiction.	
9:15 am	III.	LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT	
9:18 am	IV.	CHAIR'S COMMENTS <i>Chair James Kvedaras</i>	
9:20 am	V.	APPROVE PROPOSED AGENDA FOR AUGUST 18, 2025, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING	1
9:21 am	VI.	APPROVE MEETING MINUTES FOR THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FROM JUNE 16, 2025	2
9:22 am	VII.	INFORMATION ITEMS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Faculty Senate President, Mr. Joshua Sopiartz - Update 	3

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Service Update, Ms. Susie Morris, President • Student Senate Update, Mr. Sean O'Brien, President • Data Dashboard Overview, Dr. Robert Stanley, Executive Director, Institutional Research • Revolving Door H-List, Ms. Therese King Nohos, General Counsel and Vice President <p><i>See the Board Book for written informational reports not presented:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment Quarterly Report as of 06/30/24 • Report on Income Generating Contracts – YTD 06/30/24 • Report on Contributions – YTD 06/30/24 	
10:30 am		BREAK [If Applicable]	
10:40 am	VIII.	<p>PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS</p> <p><i>Presentation and discussion of action items proposed for Board of Trustees Meeting immediately following.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution 26-01: Election of Board Officers and Representatives <i>Presenter: Ms. Therese King Nohos, Vice President, General Counsel</i> 2. Resolution 26-02: Approve University Professionals of Illinois (UPI), Local #4100 Memorandum of Understanding (Subject to Union Approval) <i>Presenter: Mr. Joshua Allen, Vice President of Human Resources</i> 3. Resolution 26-03: Approve Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO, Local #399 Memorandum of Understanding (Subject to Union Approval) <i>Presenter: Mr. Joshua Allen, Vice President of Human Resources</i> 4. Resolution 26-04: Approve Teamsters, Local 743 Clerical Memorandum of Understanding <i>Presenter: Mr. Joshua Allen, Vice President of Human Resources</i> 	<p>4</p> <p>5</p> <p>6</p> <p>7</p>

		<p>5. Resolution 26-05: Approve Teamsters, Local 743 Maintenance Laborers Memorandum of Understanding <i>Presenter: Mr. Joshua Allen, Vice President of Human Resources</i></p>	8
		<p>6. Resolution 26-06: Approve Service Employees International Union Local No. 73, SEIU, CTW, CLC <i>Presenter: Mr. Joshua Allen, Vice President of Human Resources</i></p>	9
		<p>7. Resolution 26-07: Approve Institutional Strategic Framework, <i>Better Together 2030</i> <i>Presenter: Dr. Beverly Schneller, Provost, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer</i></p>	10
		<p>8. Resolution 26-08: Approve Contract for Enterprise Resource Planning software maintenance in excess of \$250,000 <i>Presenter: Dr. Corey S. Bradford, Sr., Vice President of Administration and Finance</i></p>	11
		<p>9. Resolution 26-09: Approve Contract for Off-Campus Student Housing in excess of \$250,000 <i>Presenter: Mr. Paul McGuinness, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management</i></p>	12
		<p>10. Resolution 26-10: Approval of Tenure Upon Hire for Christine Watt, PhD, OTR/L <i>Presenter: Dr. Beverly Schneller, Provost, Vice President and Chief Academic Officer</i></p>	13
10:50 am	IX.	CLOSED MEETING [IF APPLICABLE]	

		<p>According to Section 2(c) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120, the Board may meet in closed session to consider certain topics, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) • Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees pursuant to Section 2(c)(2) 	
11:05 am	X.	ADJOURN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING	

Notice to GSU Community and Members of the Public: Committee of the Whole

1) If you require accommodations to participate in the meeting, please contact Dr. Janelle Crowley (contact info below) to request them.

2) If you wish to watch the meeting remotely via Zoom, a link is provided below for your use. The Chair asks anyone who is attending virtually to log on and into the meeting ten (10) minutes prior to the meeting, to minimize disruption once the meeting is in session.

3) **If you wish to make a Public Comment, please register in advance by contacting Dr. Janelle Crowley by 5 pm on Wednesday August 13, 2025.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

Committee of the Whole: Monday, August 18, 2025, at 9:00 AM [Central Time – US and Canada]
Please click on the General Invitation link below to join the Committee of the Whole webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87125010022?pwd=MJaQDxdavJaZ3bRa2nBXwF2pT4wc6O.1>
Passcode: 510801
Webinar ID: 871 2501 0022

Contact Information: Dr. Janelle Crowley; jcrowley3@govst.edu; (708) 235-6807.

*All times are approximate and subject to change

**Public Comment

August 18, 2025 – Board of Trustees Meeting and Annual Retreat**Chair James Kvedaras**

12:00 pm*	I.	CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL	Tab #'s
12:03 pm	II.	PUBLIC COMMENT** Consistent with Public Act 91-0715 and reasonable constraints determined by the Board of Trustees, at each regular or special meetings of the Board or its committees that is open to the public, members of the public may request a brief time on the approved agenda of the meeting to address the Board on relevant matters within its jurisdiction.	
12:15 pm	III.	CHAIR'S COMMENTS <i>Chair James Kvedaras</i>	
12:18 pm	IV.	PRESIDENT'S REPORT <i>Dr. Joyce Ester</i>	
12:45 pm	V.	CONSENT AGENDA 1. Approval of Board of Trustee Agenda, August 18, 2025. 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2025, Board Meeting 3. Resolution 26-01: Election of Board Officers and Representatives 4. Resolution 26-02: Approve University Professionals of Illinois (UPI), Local #4100 Memorandum of Understanding (Subject to Union Approval) 5. Resolution 26-03: Approve Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO, Local #399 Memorandum of Understanding (Subject to Union Approval) 6. Resolution 26-04: Approve Teamsters, Local 743 Clerical Memorandum of Understanding 7. Resolution 26-05: Approve Teamsters, Local 743 Maintenance Laborers Memorandum of Understanding	 1 14 4 5 6 7 8

		11. Resolution 26-06: Approve Service Employees International Union Local No. 73, SEIU, CTW, CLC	9
		12. Resolution 26-07: Approve Institutional Strategic Framework, <i>Better Together 2030</i>	10
		13. Resolution 26-08: Approve Contract for Enterprise Resource Planning software maintenance in excess of \$250,000	11
		14. Resolution 26-09: Approve Contract for Off-Campus Student Housing in excess of \$250,000	12
		15. Resolution 26-10: Approval of Tenure Upon Hire for Christine Watt, PhD, OTR/L	13
1:00 pm	VI.	BOARD INFORMATIONAL SESSION – SERVES AS RETREAT Lisa Parker	
3:00 pm	VII.	OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS	
3:10 pm	VIII.	ADJOURN	

Notice to GSU Community and Members of the Public: Board of Trustee Meeting

1) If you require accommodations to participate in the meeting, please contact Dr. Janelle Crowley (contact info below) to request them.

2) If you wish to watch the meeting remotely via Zoom, a link is provided below for your use. The Chair asks anyone who is attending virtually to log on and into the meeting 10 minutes prior to the meeting, to minimize disruption once the meeting is in session.

3) **If you wish to make a public comment, please register in advance by contacting Dr. Janelle Crowley by 5 pm on Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

Board of Trustees Meeting: Monday, August 18, 2025, immediately following the Committee of the Whole meeting [Central Time - US and Canada]

*All times are approximate and subject to change

**Public Comment

COW-BOT DO NOT DISTRIBUTE AUGUST RETREAT MEETING V-3

Please click the General Invitation link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87378303300?pwd=pNQqpLC0v9bpT0pmDjweqFnkrS7jEc.1>

Passcode: 452174

Webinar ID: 873 7830 3300

Contact Information: Dr. Janelle Crowley, (708) 235-6807.

TAB 2

**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. Sopiartz 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

James Kvedaras, Chair

Karen Nunn, Secretary

TAB 3



GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

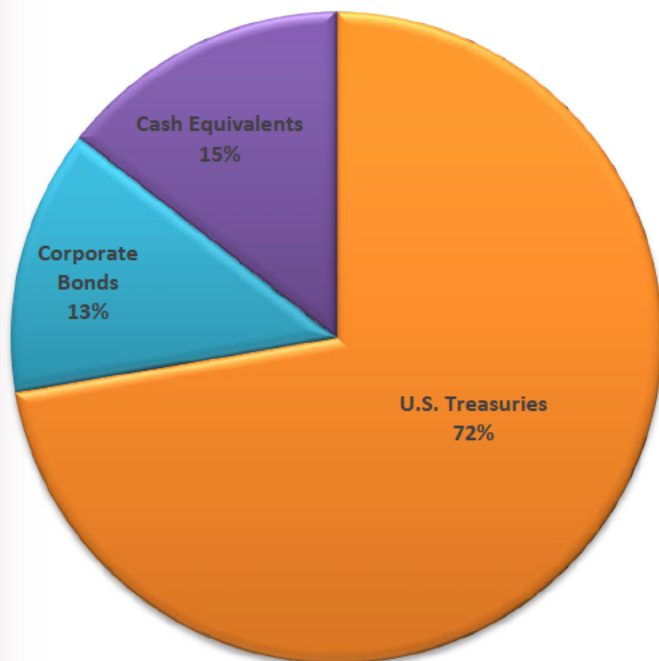
INVESTMENT REPORT JUNE 30, 2025

Prepared By: Lyn Baluga, AVP-Finance

Governors State University - Investment Strategy

- Investment in Fixed Income – U.S. Treasuries and Corporate Bonds, as authorized under the Illinois Public Funds Investment Act (30 ILCS 235).
- Advantages of U.S. Treasuries
 - Backed by the full faith and credit of the US Government.
 - Considered “the safest” investments.
 - Marketable and Liquid; they trade every day.
 - Stated coupon/interest rate is typically higher than bank accounts or CDs.
 - Typically purchased at discounts to protect principal.
 - Typically held until maturity when the maturity proceeds are paid in full.
 - Mitigates risks of increase/decrease in Fed Funds Rate.
 - NOT limited to \$250,000 for each bank CD due to FDIC insurance and NO penalties to sell.
 - Ladder the maturities to match cash flow needs of Governors State University.
- Active Investment Management
 - Investment portfolio is actively managed by a dedicated experienced Portfolio Manager in accordance with 30 ILCS 235 and the investment objectives of Governors State University.
 - Investment portfolio is laddered in maturities to meet cash flow needs.
 - Highest level of communication and client service orientation.

Governors State University - Investment Portfolio Holdings as of June 30, 2025



	Market Value	%
Fixed Income: U.S. Treasuries	\$ 21,892,222	72%
Fixed Income: Corporate Bonds	3,997,210	13%
Cash Equivalents	4,380,096	15%
Total Investments, June 30, 2025	\$30,269,528	100%

Note: Amounts shown above were obtained from the June 30, 2025 investment statement provided by Old National Bank.



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Governors State University - Investment Summary as of June 30, 2025

Initial Amount Invested - December 1, 2022 Inception Date	\$ 35,000,000
Net Additions (Withdrawals for Operations)	(9,000,000)
Net Earnings (net of Investment Fee)	4,269,528
Ending Market Value, June 30, 2025	\$ 30,269,528

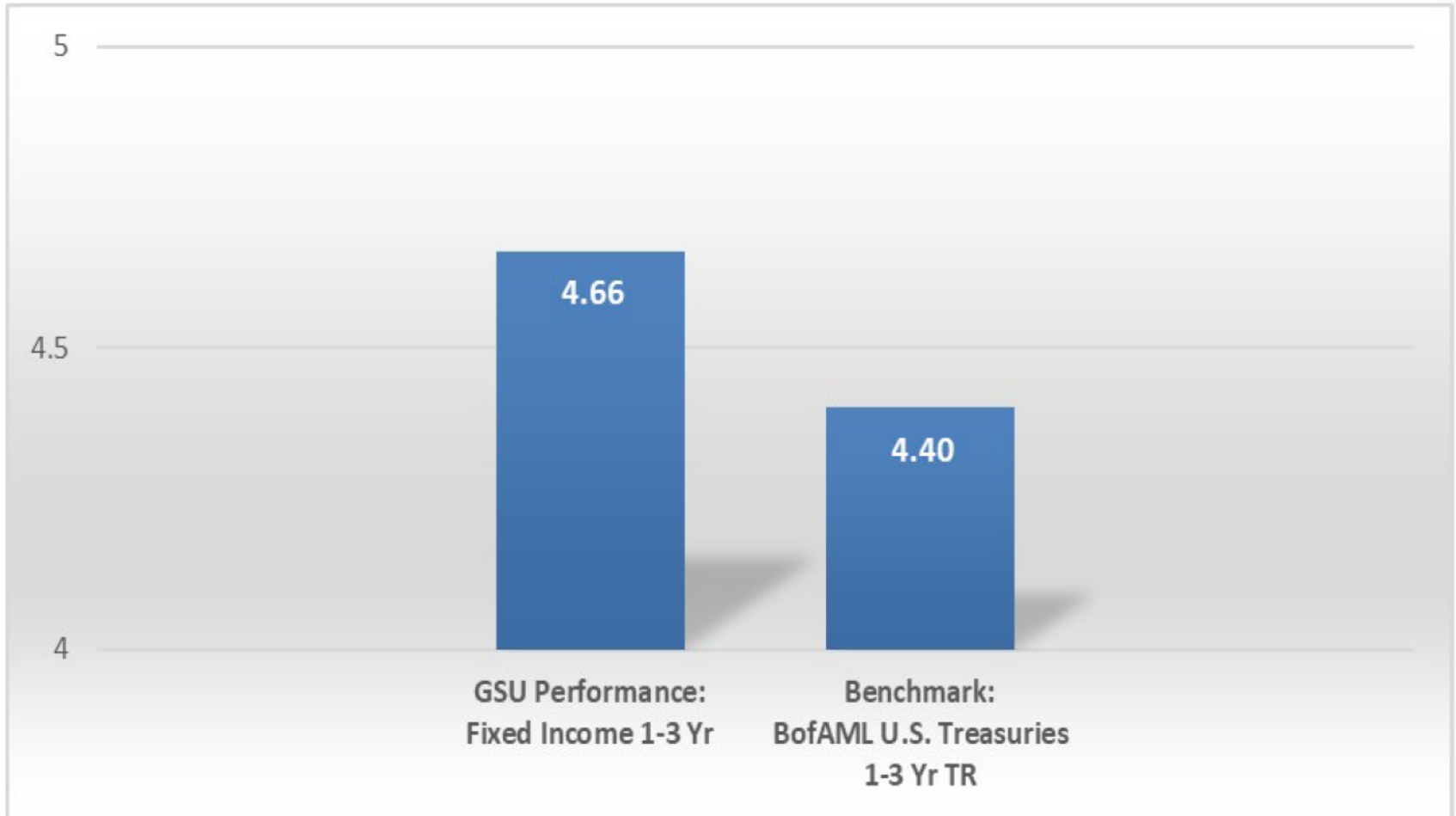
The portfolio has generated about \$4.3 million in net investment earnings since inception.

Note: Amounts shown above were obtained from the June 30, 2025 investment statement provided by Old National Bank.



Governors State
UNIVERSITY
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www.govst.edu

The University's Investment Portfolio Outperforms the Benchmark as of June 30, 2025



Note: The information shown above was obtained from the June 30, 2025 investment statement provided by Old National Bank.

Quarterly Report of Income Producing Contracts of \$100,000 or More
For the Period Ended June 30, 2025 (Q4FY25)
(With Comparative Information For the Period Ended June 30, 2024 – Q4FY24)

Federal Grants:

Provider Name	Type of Contract	Income 6.30.25	Income 6.30.24	Principal Investigator (PI)/ College/Department	Award Period and Award Amount
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services	Early Head Start Grant	\$1,167,785	\$1,310,251	Erin Soto COEHD/Family Dev Center	Period: 1/1/20 to 12/31/25 Award Amount: \$4,534,089
National Science Foundation (NSF)	NSF Engines Development Award - Advancing Smart Logistics	\$485,673	289,840	Olu Ijose Office of the Provost	Period: 5/15/23 to 4/30/26 Amount: \$1,000,000
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services	Mental and Behavioral Health Education and Training Grants	\$294,519	\$229,538	Nancy Burley CHHS/Addiction Studies and Behavioral Health	Period: 9/1/21 to 8/31/25 Amount: \$1,424,720
U.S Department of Education	TRIO Educational Opportunities Centers Project	\$239,245	\$333,612	Mushtaq Choudhary Dean of Students	Period: 10/1/21 to 9/30/26 Amount: \$1,160,250

Federal Grants (continued):

Provider Name	Type of Contract	Income 6.30.25	Income 6.30.24	Principal Investigator (PI)/ College/Department	Award Period and Award Amount
U.S Department of Education, passed through the Illinois Board of Higher Education	IL Tutoring Initiative Grant	\$122,692	\$1,222,010	Shannon Dermer COEHD	Period: 10/29/21 to 9/30/24 Amount: \$3,156,100
U.S Department of Education	Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Programs Grant	\$33,542	\$ -	Feng Tian College of Business	Period: 10/1/24 to 9/30/26 Amount: \$231,857

State Grants:

Provider Name	Type of Contract	Income 6.30.25	Income 6.30.24	Principal Investigator (PI)/ College/Department	Award Period and Award Amount
IL State Board of Education	Pre-K Grants	\$771,493	\$445,273	Erin Soto COEHD/Family Development Center	Period: 7/1/22 to 6/30/25 Award Amount: \$2,045,034
IL Department of Human Services	Certified Recovery Support Specialist Success Grant Program	\$749,318	\$684,320	Nancy Burley CHHS/Addiction Studies and Behavioral Health	Period: 7/1/22 to 6/30/25 Amount: \$2,678,132

State Grants (continued):

Provider Name	Type of Contract	Income 6.30.25	Income 6.30.24	Principal Investigator (PI)/ College/Department	Award Period and Award Amount
IL Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies	Child Care Restoration Grant	\$231,540	\$225,200	Erin Soto COEHD/Family Development Center	Period: 7/1/22 to 6/30/25 Amount: \$533,486
IL Department of Human Services	Substance Use Prevention and Recovery - Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor (CADC) Workforce Expansion Program	\$224,269	\$130,612	Nancy Burley CHHS/Addiction Studies and Behavioral Health	Period: 12/1/23 to 6/17/25 Amount: \$1,014,000
IL Board of Higher Education	Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act Grant	\$195,182	\$162,379	Mushtaq Choudhary/Dean of Students	Period: 7/1/22 to 6/30/25 Amount: \$437,120
IL Board of Higher Education	End Student Housing Insecurity (ESHI) Grant	\$173,406	\$130,516	Kim Major-Ford/Counseling & Wellness Center	Period: 1/1/23 to 6/30/25 Amount: \$376,513
IL Department of Public Health	Stroke Awareness Campaign	\$76,687	\$906,693	Tonya Roberson/CHHS	Period: 7/1/23 to 6/30/25 Amount: \$1,000,000
IL Community College Board	Jaguar Jumps Grant	\$48,323	\$ -	Michelle Sebasco/Extended Learning	Period: 1/1/25 to 3/31/26 Amount: \$261,000

Others:

Provider Name	Type of Contract	Income 6.30.25	Income 6.30.24
Various Clients - Extended Learning	Training programs for professional development/ continuing professional education to individuals, school districts, and employees of certain private organizations	\$751,753	\$850,624
Clearwire Spectrum Holdings	Broadband Lease of Excess Channels	\$321,792	\$321,792
Various Clients - Foster Pride Program	Online training curriculum	\$180,590	\$110,990

Resource/Contact: Corey S. Bradford, PhD, Vice President for Administration and Finance, cbradford2@govst.edu, 708.235.7421; Villalyn Baluga, Associate Vice President for Finance, ybaluga@govst.edu, 708.534.4039.

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**University Contributions to University-Related Organization
 For the Period Ended June 30, 2025
 (With Comparative Information For the Period Ended June 30, 2024)**

Governors State University (“*University*”) recognizes the Governors State University Foundation (“*Foundation*”) as a University-Related Organization.

The Foundation has an ongoing contract with the University, which includes provisions requiring the Foundation to comply with Section VI of the “University Guidelines 1982 (as amended 2023)” as adopted by the State of Illinois Legislative Audit Commission. The contract requires the University to provide the Foundation with personnel and operational services at no cost. The estimated value of these services, which includes all direct payroll expenses and fringe benefits, for the comparative period ended June 30, 2025 and 2024 is as follows:

June 30, 2025 (Unaudited)	June 30, 2024 (Audited)
\$ 384,137	\$ 432,485

**Contributions to the University of \$25K or more
 For the Period Ended June 30, 2025
 (With Comparative Information For the Period Ended June 30, 2024)**

The Foundation provided the University with the following support for the comparative period ended June 30, 2025 and 2024:

	June 30, 2025 (Unaudited)	June 30, 2024 (Audited)
Support given to University departments	\$ 1,133,709	\$ 1,041,624
Support given for scholarships	321,849	277,113
Total	\$ 1,455,558	\$ 1,318,737

Resource/Contact: William A. Davis, GSU Vice President for External Affairs, GSU Foundation Chief Executive Officer, wdavis3@govst.edu, 708.235.7494; Villalyn Baluga, Associate Vice President for Finance, vbalega@govst.edu, 708.534.4039.

TAB 4



Resolution No. 26-01
Election of Officers and Representatives for Academic Year 2025-2026

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “University,” respectively) was created on January 1, 1996, by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board;

WHEREAS, The Board is comprised of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor of Illinois with the advice and consent of the Senate, and one of whom is a University student selected by student peers;

WHEREAS, The Board is empowered to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University and prescribe the courses of study to be followed pursuant to Sections 15-10 and 15-45 of the Illinois Governors State University Law, 110 ILCS 670/15-1 *et seq.*;

WHEREAS, The Illinois Governors State University Law, 110 ILCS 670/15-25, requires members of the Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board”) to elect annually by secret ballot from their own number certain officer positions;

WHEREAS, Article II(2)(a) of the Board’s Bylaws, effective February 6, 2023 (“Bylaws”), provides for the annual election of officers consisting of a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary by secret ballot at the first meeting of the academic year;

WHEREAS, Article II(3) of the Board’s Bylaws provides for the election of representatives, including to the Governors State University Foundation (the “Foundation”) and State University Civil Service System Merit Board (“SUCSSMB”), by a majority of a quorum of the Board at the first meeting of the academic year in even-numbered years; and

WHEREAS, The Board held its first meeting of the Academic Year 2025- 2026 on August 18, 2025 at which it conducted an annual election of officers and representatives by secret ballot.

Now, therefore, it is:

Resolved, That the Board has elected the following members to serve as officers and representatives for Academic Year 2025-2026:

_____ as Chair;

_____ as Vice Chair;

_____ as Secretary;

_____ as representative to the Foundation; and

_____ as representative to SUCSSMB.

This Resolution is effective at the close of the August 18, 2025 meeting.

Approved August 18, 2025

James Kvedaras, Chair

Karen Nunn, Secretary

TAB 5

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

regarding

Resolutions 26-02, -03, -04, -05, and -06

*Approval of Memoranda of Agreement with
Certain Unions (Subject to Union Approval)*

I. Action Item:

Authorize approval of a certain memoranda of agreement by and between the Board of Trustees of Governors State University (“GovState” or the “University”) and the below parties (collectively referred to as the “Unions”):

- University Professionals of Illinois, Local #4100 (“UPI”), a labor union representing University faculty and others, which is attached to proposed Resolution 26-02 as Exhibit A;
- Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO, Local #399, a labor union representing University building engineers, which is attached to proposed Resolution 26-03 as Exhibit A;
- Teamsters, Local 743 Clerical, a labor union representing University clerical workers, which is attached to proposed Resolution 26-04 as Exhibit A;
- Teamsters, Local 743 Maintenance Laborers a labor union representing University building maintenance workers, which is attached to proposed Resolution 26-05 as Exhibit A; and
- Service Employees International Union Local No. 73, SEIU, CTW, CLC (“Local 73”), a labor union representing University janitorial service workers, which is attached to proposed Resolution 26-06 as Exhibit A.

II. Background:

Certain of the University's employees are represented by the Unions. The collective bargaining agreements between the University and each of the Unions expired as of June 30, 2025 (except for UPI, which expired as of August 15, 2025). Based on a recommendation of a salary increase by the President, and subject to approval by each of the respective Unions,¹ the memoranda of understanding that are the subject of the above resolutions would extend the terms of each of the respective collective bargaining agreements by one (1) year, except that in each case, the base salaries of the represented employees for 2025-26 will increase by two percent (2%) retroactive to July 1, 2025 (or August 15, 2025 for UPI) over their 2024-25 salaries and, in the event that the University meets certain specified enrollment goals as measured after Fall census, an additional one percent (1%) retroactive to July 1, 2025 (or August 15, 2025 for UPI). In the event that a union does not ratify its respective memorandum of understanding, that memorandum of understanding would be void and the University would proceed to bargain a new collective bargaining agreement with that union. By approving these memoranda of understanding at the August board meeting, and in some cases before the Unions have voted to ratify the proposals, the Board will ensure that raises for represented employees may be processed without the delay attendant to holding a special Board meeting after each Union holds its vote or waiting until the October Board meeting for approval.

III. Proposed Resolution:

Pursuant to Board Regulation II(A)(b)(iii), the Board must approve any final collective bargaining agreement in order for it to become effective. The Board has authority to enter into contracts pursuant to the Illinois Governors State University Act, 110 ILCS 670/15-40. Proposed Resolutions 26-02, -03, -04, and -05 have been submitted herewith.

IV. Resource/Contact:

Please contact Joshua R. Allen, MPS, SHRM-SCP, Vice President, Chief Human Resources Officer, for additional information or with questions. Mr. Allen may be reached at jallen10@govst.edu, 708.235.7169 (office), or 708.510.4679 (cell).

¹ Local 73, Local 743 Clerical, and Local 743 Maintenance Laborers have ratified their Memoranda of Understanding; the other Unions have not as of August 4, 2025.



Resolution No. 26-02

*Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with
University Professionals of Illinois, Local 4100*

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “University,” respectively) was created on January 1, 1996, by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board;

WHEREAS, The Board is comprised of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor of Illinois with the advice and consent of the Senate, and one of whom is a University student selected by student peers;

WHEREAS, The University’s faculty and certain other employees are organized and represented by University Professionals of Illinois, Local 4100 (“UPI”), a labor union;

WHEREAS, The University proposes extending that Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the University and UPI, which expired as of August 15, 2025, for a term of one year, with the following modification to Article 28, which is reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) attached hereto as Exhibit A:

(e) Effective Academic Year 2025-2026 the Board shall grant each eligible Employee a 2.0% salary increase to the Employee’s AY2024-2025 base salary. If the University enrolls a net two hundred (200) additional full-time students (defined as taking 12 or more credit hours per semester) in Fall 2025 relative to Fall 2024, which will be determined after Fall 2025 census data, the Board shall grant each eligible Employee an additional 1.0% salary increase to the Employee’s AY2024-2025 base salary, which shall

be retroactive to the Employee's salary effective date under this Agreement for AY2025-2026.

WHEREAS, The MOU is subject to ratification by UPI and will be void if not ratified by UPI by October 1, 2025;

WHEREAS, President Ester recommends approval of the MOU as presented; and

WHEREAS, The Board believes the MOU has been reached in arms' length negotiations and is in the best interests of the University.

Now, therefore, it is:

Resolved, that the Board approves the MOU, which is subject to UPI approval by October 1, 2025 and which will be void absent such timely approval.

Resolved, that the Board directs the Chair to execute the MOU on behalf of the University.

Resolved, that the Board directs the University to take all reasonable and necessary steps to otherwise effectuate this Resolution.

Approved this 18th Day of August 2025

James Kvedaras
Chair

Karen Nunn
Secretary

EXHIBIT A

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Governors State University and the University Professionals of Illinois, Local #4100 (collectively “the Parties”) are parties to a collective bargaining agreement for the 2022 through 2025 academic years (the “CBA”);

WHEREAS, the Parties have agreed to extend the terms of the existing CBA for one year;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. The above recitals are incorporated herein.
2. Except as expressly set forth herein, all terms of the CBA shall remain in effect and continue during the term of this extension.
3. The term of the CBA shall be extended through the 2025-2026 academic year.
4. Article 28 of the CBA is amended to add as follows:
 - (e) Effective Academic Year 2025-2026 the Board shall grant each eligible Employee a 2.0% salary increase to the Employee’s AY2024-2025 base salary. If the University enrolls a net two hundred (200) additional full-time students (defined as taking 12 or more credit hours per semester) in Fall 2025 relative to Fall 2024, which will be determined after Fall 2025 census data, the Board shall grant each eligible Employee an additional 1.0% salary increase to the Employee’s AY2024-2025 base salary, which shall be retroactive to the Employee’s salary effective date under this Agreement for AY2025-2026.
5. This Memorandum of Agreement shall not be effective until approved by the ratification procedures of the Union and Governors State University’s Board of Trustees. If either the Union or Governors State University’s Board of Trustees fails to approve or ratify this Memorandum of Agreement, the terms of this Memorandum of Agreement shall be null and void.

Governors State University

**University Professionals of Illinois, Local
#4100**

TAB 6



Resolution No. 26-03

*Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with
Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO, Local #399*

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “University,” respectively) was created on January 1, 1996, by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board;

WHEREAS, The Board is comprised of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor of Illinois with the advice and consent of the Senate, and one of whom is a University student selected by student peers;

WHEREAS, The University’s building engineers are organized and represented by Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO, Local #399 (“Local #399”), a labor union;

WHEREAS, The University proposes extending that Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the University and Local #399, which expired as of June 30, 2025, for a term of one year, with the following modification to Article 14, Section 5(A), which is reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) attached hereto as Exhibit A:

Effective July 1, 2025, all bargaining unit employees shall receive a two (2%) increase. If the University enrolls a net two hundred (200) additional full-time students (defined as taking 12 or more credit hours per semester) in Fall 2025 relative to Fall 2024, which will be determined after Fall 2025 census data, each bargaining unit employee shall receive an additional 1.0% salary increase to their then-salary as of June 30, 2025 retroactive to July 1, 2025.
(e) Effective Academic Year 2025-2026 the Board shall grant each

eligible Employee a 2.0% salary increase to the Employee's AY2024-2025 base salary. If the University enrolls a net two hundred (200) additional full-time students (defined as taking 12 or more credit hours per semester) in Fall 2025 relative to Fall 2024, which will be determined after Fall 2025 census data, the Board shall grant each eligible Employee an additional 1.0% salary increase to the Employee's AY2024-2025 base salary, which shall be retroactive to the Employee's salary effective date under this Agreement for AY2025-2026.

WHEREAS, The MOU is subject to ratification by Local #399 and will be void if not ratified by Local #399 by October 1, 2025;

WHEREAS, President Ester recommends approval of the MOU as presented; and

WHEREAS, The Board believes the MOU has been reached in arms' length negotiations and is in the best interests of the University.

Now, therefore, it is:

Resolved, that the Board approves the MOU, which is subject to Local #399 approval by October 1, 2025 and which will be void absent such timely approval.

Resolved, that the Board directs the Chair to execute the MOU on behalf of the University.

Resolved, that the Board directs the University to take all reasonable and necessary steps to otherwise effectuate this Resolution.

Approved this 18th Day of August 2025

James Kvedaras
Chair

Karen Nunn
Secretary

EXHIBIT A

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Governors State University and certain Civil Service employees (as identified in the collective bargaining agreement identified herein) represented by Local 399, International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO hereinafter called the “Union” or “Local 399” (collectively “the Parties”) are parties to a collective bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 (the “CBA”);

WHEREAS, the Parties have agreed to extend the terms of the existing CBA for one year;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. The above recitals are incorporated herein.
2. Except as expressly set forth herein, all terms of the CBA shall remain in effect and continue during the term of this extension.
3. The term of the CBA shall be extended from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
4. Article 2, Section 1(a) of the CBA is amended to add as follows:

Effective July 1, 2025, all bargaining unit employees shall receive a two (2%) increase. If the University enrolls a net two hundred (200) additional full-time students (defined as taking 12 or more credit hours per semester) in Fall 2025 relative to Fall 2024, which will be determined after Fall 2025 census data, each bargaining unit employee shall receive an additional 1.0% salary increase to their then-salary as of June 30, 2025 retroactive to July 1, 2025.

5. This Memorandum of Agreement shall not be effective until approved by the ratification procedures of the Union and Governors State University’s Board of Trustees. If either the Union or Governors State University’s Board of Trustees fails to approve or ratify this Memorandum of Agreement, the terms of this Memorandum of Agreement shall be null and void.

James Kvedaras
Chair, Board of Trustees
Governors State University

Local No. 399

TAB 7



Resolution No. 26-04

*Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with
Teamsters, Local 743 Clerical*

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “University,” respectively) was created on January 1, 1996, by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board;

WHEREAS, The Board is comprised of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor of Illinois with the advice and consent of the Senate, and one of whom is a University student selected by student peers;

WHEREAS, The University’s clerical employees are organized and represented by Teamsters, Local 743 Clerical (“Local 743”), a labor union;

WHEREAS, The University proposes extending that Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the University and Local 743, which expired as of June 30, 2025, for a term of one year, with the following modification to Article 14, Section 5(A), which is reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) attached hereto as Exhibit A:

Effective July 1, 2025, all bargaining unit employees shall receive a two (2%) increase. If the University enrolls a net two hundred (200) additional full-time students (defined as taking 12 or more credit hours per semester) in Fall 2025 relative to Fall 2024, which will be determined after Fall 2025 census data, each bargaining unit employee shall receive an additional 1.0% salary increase to their then-salary as of June 30, 2025 retroactive to July 1, 2025.

WHEREAS, The MOU is subject to ratification by Local 743 and will be void if not ratified by Local 743 by October 1, 2025;

WHEREAS, President Ester recommends approval of the MOU as presented; and

WHEREAS, The Board believes the MOU has been reached in arms' length negotiations and is in the best interests of the University.

Now, therefore, it is:

Resolved, that the Board approves the MOU, which is subject to Local 743 approval by October 1, 2025 and which will be void absent such timely approval.

Resolved, that the Board directs the Chair to execute the MOU on behalf of the University.

Resolved, that the Board directs the University to take all reasonable and necessary steps to otherwise effectuate this Resolution.

Approved this 18th Day of August 2025

James Kvedaras
Chair

Karen Nunn
Secretary

EXHIBIT A

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Governors State University and the Health Care, Professional, Technical, Office, Warehouse and Mail Order Employees Union LOCAL NO. 743, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, and Warehousemen and Helpers of America (Clerical Workers), hereinafter called the “Union” or “Local 743” (collectively “the Parties”) are parties to a collective bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 (the “CBA”);

WHEREAS, the Parties have agreed to extend the terms of the existing CBA for one year;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. The above recitals are incorporated herein.
2. Except as expressly set forth herein, all terms of the CBA shall remain in effect and continue during the term of this extension.
3. The term of the CBA shall be extended from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
4. Article 14, Section 5(A) of the CBA is amended to add as follows:

Effective July 1, 2025, all bargaining unit employees shall receive a two (2%) increase. If the University enrolls a net two hundred (200) additional full-time students (defined as taking 12 or more credit hours per semester) in Fall 2025 relative to Fall 2024, which will be determined after Fall 2025 census data, each bargaining unit employee shall receive an additional 1.0% salary increase to their then-salary as of June 30, 2025 retroactive to July 1, 2025.

5. This Memorandum of Agreement shall not be effective until approved by the ratification procedures of the Union and Governors State University’s Board of Trustees. If either the Union or Governors State University’s Board of Trustees fails to approve or ratify this Memorandum of Agreement, the terms of this Memorandum of Agreement shall be null and void.

James Kvedaras
Chair, Board of Trustees
Governors State University

Local No. 743 (Clerical)

TAB 8



Resolution No. 26-05

*Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with
Teamsters, Local 743 Maintenance Laborers*

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “University,” respectively) was created on January 1, 1996, by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board;

WHEREAS, The Board is comprised of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor of Illinois with the advice and consent of the Senate, and one of whom is a University student selected by student peers;

WHEREAS, The University’s maintenance laborer employees are organized and represented by Health Care, Professional, Technical, Office, Warehouse and Mail Order Employees Union LOCAL NO. 743, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, and Warehousemen and Helpers of America (Maintenance Laborers)(“Local 743”), a labor union;

WHEREAS, The University proposes extending that Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the University and Local 743, which expired as of June 30, 2025, for a term of one year, with the following modification to the Wage Addendum, which is reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) attached hereto as Exhibit A:

Effective July 1, 2025, all bargaining unit employees shall receive a two (2%) increase. If the University enrolls a net two hundred (200) additional full-time students (defined as taking 12 or more credit hours per semester) in Fall 2025 relative to Fall 2024, which will be determined after Fall 2025 census data, each bargaining unit employee

shall receive an additional 1.0% salary increase to their then-salary as of June 30, 2025 retroactive to July 1, 2025.

WHEREAS, The MOU is subject to ratification by Local 743 and will be void if not ratified by Local 743 by October 1, 2025;

WHEREAS, President Ester recommends approval of the MOU as presented; and

WHEREAS, The Board believes the MOU has been reached in arms' length negotiations and is in the best interests of the University.

Now, therefore, it is:

Resolved, that the Board approves the MOU, which is subject to Local 743 approval by October 1, 2025 and which will be void absent such timely approval.

Resolved, that the Board directs the Chair to execute the MOU on behalf of the University.

Resolved, that the Board directs the University to take all reasonable and necessary steps to otherwise effectuate this Resolution.

Approved this 18th Day of August 2025

James Kvedaras
Chair

Karen Nunn
Secretary

EXHIBIT A

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Governors State University and the Health Care, Professional, Technical, Office, Warehouse and Mail Order Employees Union LOCAL NO. 743, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, and Warehousemen and Helpers of America (Maintenance Laborers), hereinafter called the “Union” or “Local 743” (collectively “the Parties”) are parties to a collective bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 (the “CBA”);

WHEREAS, the Parties have agreed to extend the terms of the existing CBA for one year;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. The above recitals are incorporated herein.
2. Except as expressly set forth herein, all terms of the CBA shall remain in effect and continue during the term of this extension.
3. The term of the CBA shall be extended from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
4. The Wage Addendum of the CBA is amended to add as follows:

Effective July 1, 2025, all bargaining unit employees shall receive a two (2%) increase. If the University enrolls a net two hundred (200) additional full-time students (defined as taking 12 or more credit hours per semester) in Fall 2025 relative to Fall 2024, which will be determined after Fall 2025 census data, each bargaining unit employee shall receive an additional 1.0% salary increase to their then-salary as of June 30, 2025 retroactive to July 1, 2025.

5. This Memorandum of Agreement shall not be effective until approved by the ratification procedures of the Union and Governors State University’s Board of Trustees. If either the Union or Governors State University’s Board of Trustees fails to approve or ratify this Memorandum of Agreement, the terms of this Memorandum of Agreement shall be null and void.

James Kvedaras
Chair, Board of Trustees
Governors State University

Local No. 743 (Maintenance Laborers)

TAB 9



Resolution No. 26-06

*Approval of Memorandum of Agreement with
Service Employees International Union Local No. 73, SEIU, CTW, CLC*

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “University,” respectively) was created on January 1, 1996, by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board;

WHEREAS, The Board is comprised of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor of Illinois with the advice and consent of the Senate, and one of whom is a University student selected by student peers;

WHEREAS, The University’s janitorial service employees are organized and represented by the Service Employees International Union Local No. 73, SEIU, CTW, CLC (“Local 73”), a labor union;

WHEREAS, The University proposes extending that Collective Bargaining Agreement by and between the University and Local 73, which expired as of June 30, 2025, for a term of one year, with the following modification to Article XXII, which is reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) attached hereto as Exhibit A:

Effective July 1, 2025, all bargaining unit employees shall receive a two (2%) increase. If the University enrolls a net two hundred (200) additional full-time students (defined as taking 12 or more credit hours per semester) in Fall 2025 relative to Fall 2024, which will be determined after Fall 2025 census data, each bargaining unit employee shall receive an additional 1.0% salary increase to their then-salary as of June 30, 2025 retroactive to July 1, 2025.

WHEREAS, The MOU has been ratified by Local 73;

WHEREAS, President Ester recommends approval of the MOU as presented; and

WHEREAS, The Board believes the MOU has been reached in arms' length negotiations and is in the best interests of the University.

Now, therefore, it is:

Resolved, that the Board approves the MOU.

Resolved, that the Board directs the Chair to execute the MOU on behalf of the University.

Resolved, that the Board directs the University to take all reasonable and necessary steps to otherwise effectuate this Resolution.

Approved this 18th Day of August 2025

James Kvedaras
Chair

Karen Nunn
Secretary

EXHIBIT A

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, Governors State University and the General Service Employees Union Local No. 73, SEIU, CTW, CLC, hereinafter called the “Union” or “Local 73” (collectively “the Parties”) are parties to a collective bargaining agreement for the period of July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2025 (the “CBA”);

WHEREAS, the Parties have agreed to extend the terms of the existing CBA for one year;

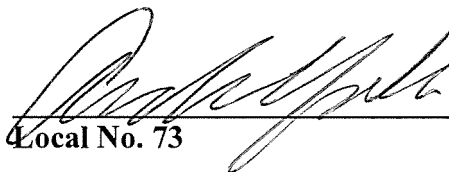
NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

1. The above recitals are incorporated herein.
2. Except as expressly set forth herein, all terms of the CBA shall remain in effect and continue during the term of this extension.
3. The term of the CBA shall be extended from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
4. Article XXII of the CBA is amended to add as follows as Section 9:

Effective July 1, 2025, all bargaining unit employees shall receive a two (2%) increase. If the University enrolls a net two hundred (200) additional full-time students (defined as taking 12 or more credit hours per semester) in Fall 2025 relative to Fall 2024, which will be determined after Fall 2025 census data, each bargaining unit employee shall receive an additional 1.0% salary increase to their then-salary as of June 30, 2025 retroactive to July 1, 2025.

5. This Memorandum of Agreement shall not be effective until approved by the ratification procedures of the Union and Governors State University’s Board of Trustees. If either the Union or Governors State University’s Board of Trustees fails to approve or ratify this Memorandum of Agreement, the terms of this Memorandum of Agreement shall be null and void.

James Kvedaras
Chair, Board of Trustees
Governors State University



Local No. 73

TAB 10

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY***Regarding***
Resolution No. 26-07***Adoption of Better Together 2030: Institutional Strategic Framework***

- I. **ACTION ITEM:** The Board of Trustees is asked to formally adopt the **Better Together 2030 Institutional Strategic Framework (ISF)**, as presented by the Strategy 2030 Leadership Team and endorsed by the President and Provost. This plan provides a roadmap for institutional transformation through 2030 and is structured around four strategic pillars focused on: student success, community engagement, institutional culture, and academic innovation.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** Following an extensive, inclusive process that began in Fall 2024, the Better Together 2030 plan was developed through environmental scans, stakeholder engagement (including focus groups, charettes, surveys, sustained efforts of working groups), and iterative review by the Leadership Team and Steering Committee. The framework was previewed at the June 2025 Board and subsequently refined based on stakeholder feedback.

The four strategic pillars are:

- 1. Thriving Students, Lasting Impact** – Aligning student learning, personal development, and career readiness for stronger persistence and graduation outcomes.
- 2. Expanding Our Reach, Deepening Our Roots** – Enhancing regional and global partnerships while strengthening institutional reputation and visibility.
- 3. Bridging Voices and Vision** – Building a unified campus culture through transparent communication and collaborative practices.
- 4. Future-Focused Academic Excellence** – Creating innovative, market-relevant programs with strong ROI, supported by industry partnerships and rigorous assessment.

Each pillar includes aspirational statements and measures of aspirational success, along with implementation goals with proposed actions and achievement metrics. Milestones for Years 1, 3, and 5 are described with targets for performance. Ownership of actions will be distributed among academic and administrative units, with responsible leaders identified for coordination and accountability. A dedicated communication strategy and ongoing evaluation process will ensure

transparency, continuous feedback, and mid-cycle recalibration.

This resolution authorizes the full implementation of the Better Together 2030 Institutional Strategic Framework effective Fall 2025 and affirms the University's commitment to strategic transformation, inclusive excellence, and long-term sustainability.

III. PROPOSED RESOLUTION: Please see proposed resolution submitted herewith.

IV. CONTACT INFORMATION: President Joyce C. Ester, PhD; jester@govst.edu; 708.534.4132; and Provost Beverly Schneller, PhD; bschneller@govst.edu; 708.534.7295.

Resolution No. 26-07***Adoption of Better Together 2030: Institutional Strategic Framework***

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “University,” respectively) was created on January 1, 1996, by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board; and

WHEREAS, The Board is currently comprised of seven members, six of whom are appointed by the Governor of Illinois with the advice and consent of the Senate, and one of whom is a University student selected by student peers; and

WHEREAS, The Board is empowered to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University and prescribe the courses of study to be followed pursuant to Sections 15-10 and 15-45 of the Illinois Governors State University Law, 110 ILCS 670/15-1 *et seq.*;

WHEREAS, The University undertook a year-long, campus-wide planning process led by the Institutional Strategic Planning Steering Committee to develop the Better Together 2020 Institutional Strategic Framework, rooted in the institution’s mission, values, and long-term goals for access, equity, innovation, and regional impact;

WHEREAS, The framework is organized around four strategic pillars—Thriving Students, Lasting Impact; Expanding Our Reach Deepening Our Roots; Bridging Voices and Vision; and Future-Focused Academic Excellence; and

WHEREAS, President Ester recommends approval of the adoption of the Better Together 2030: Institutional Strategic Framework.

Now, therefore, it is:

Resolved, that the Board approves the adoption of the **Better Together 2030: Institutional Strategic Framework**, effective Academic Year 2025–2026.

Approved August 18, 2025

James Kvedaras, Chair
Board of Trustees

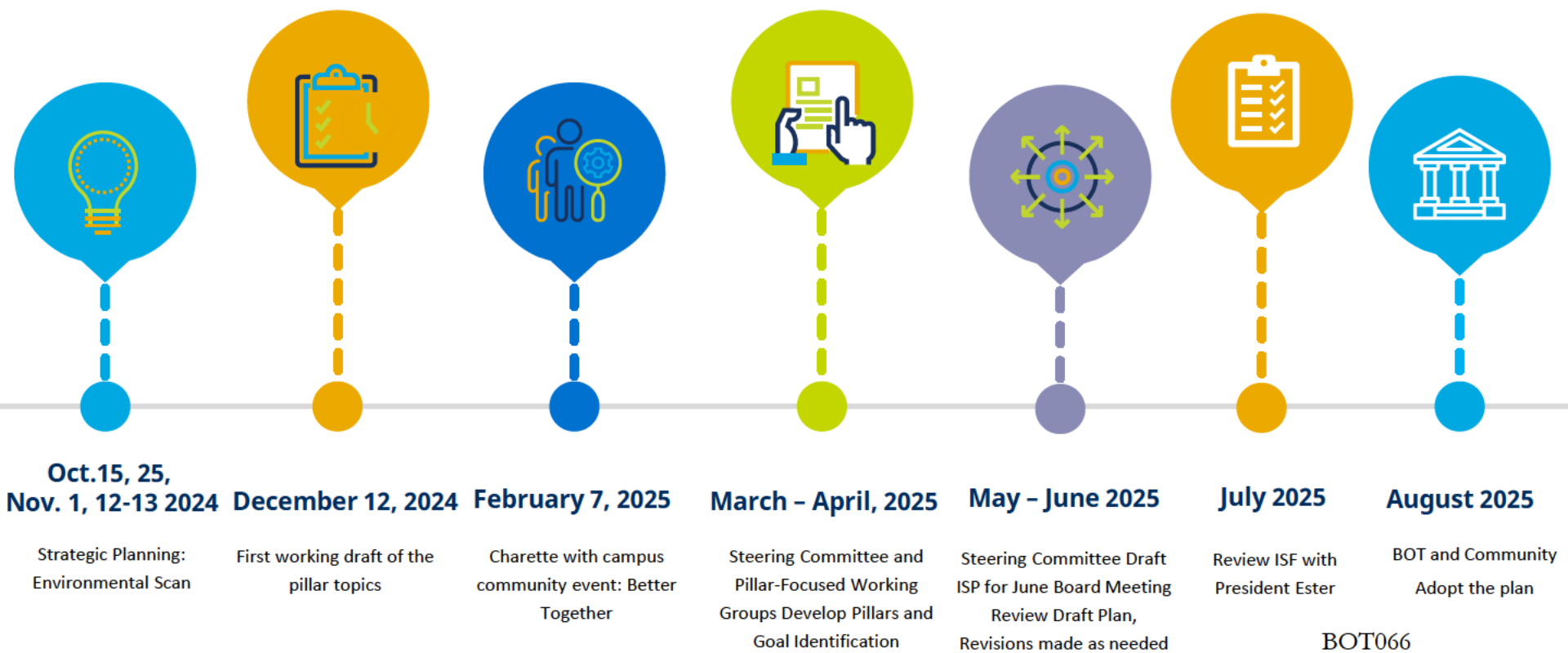
Karen Nunn, Secretary
Board of Trustees



Institutional Strategic Framework Update

July/August, 2025

Timeline to August 2025 BOT



BOT066

Better Together 2030: Institutional Strategic Framework - Background

"Better Together" reflects the foundational belief that the University's greatest strength lies in its collective spirit where collaboration, shared purpose, and a deep commitment to student success, institutional excellence, and community engagement drive progress. This Strategic Framework is the result of inclusive dialogue, shaped by cross-campus working groups and the leadership of the ISP 2030 Steering Committee.

Rooted in our mission, vision, and values, this framework affirms our identity as a public institution dedicated to access, equity, and innovation. It reflects our responsibility to the Southland region of Chicago and the State of Illinois, while preparing students to thrive as globally minded citizens in a rapidly evolving world shaped by economic shifts, technological advancement, and societal change.

The four strategic pillars outlined in the following pages are distinct in focus yet unified in purpose. Together, they chart a course for the next five years defining our priorities, guiding our actions, and positioning the University for enduring impact.

BOT067

Catalysts of Change

1. A Shifting Higher Education Landscape	2. Disruption and Innovation in the Global Economy	3. Rising Demand for Trust, Transparency, and Belonging
Public confidence in higher education is evolving, shaped by questions of value, access, and relevance. Institutions must demonstrate their impact more clearly, especially in serving historically underserved communities. As a regional anchor, GovState is called to reaffirm its public mission: expanding opportunity, closing equity gaps, and preparing students for meaningful lives and careers.	Rapid technological advancement, automation, and the rise of AI are transforming the workforce and redefining the skills students need to succeed. Institutions must be agile in designing academic programs that are future-focused, interdisciplinary, and career-relevant while also cultivating critical thinking, adaptability, and ethical leadership.	In an era of institutional skepticism and social fragmentation, universities must foster cultures of trust, inclusion, and shared purpose. Clear communication, authentic engagement, and a commitment to equity are essential to building a resilient and unified campus community.
Related Pillars: <i>Thriving Students, Lasting Impact Expanding Our Reach, Deepening Our Roots</i>	Related Pillars: <i>Future-Focused Academic Excellence Thriving Students, Lasting Impact</i>	Related Pillars: <i>Bridging Voices and Vision Expanding Our Reach, Deepening Our Roots</i>

BOT068

Pillar 1

Thriving Students, Lasting Impact

GovState is committed to cultivating an inclusive, empowering, and supportive educational environment where every student, regardless of background, has access to the resources they need to thrive academically, personally, and professionally.

* Nascent KPIs and Actions have also been articulated for each strategic goal listed

Aspiration

The intention of this pillar is to focus on the intersections between student performance in and out of the classroom. This includes increasing course completion and pass rates, improving persistence and graduation outcomes, and strengthening connections between academic learning, campus involvement, and career readiness. By 2030, students should experience a seamless educational journey in which learning, living, and career preparation are interconnected and meaningful.

Pillar 2

Expanding our Reach, Deepening Our Roots

GovState will strengthen its role as a regional anchor and global collaborator through unified internal communication, expanded partnerships, and enhanced visibility.

Aspiration

This pillar focuses on extending GovState's civic and global engagement. The university will invest in study abroad, philanthropy, community partnerships, and co-curricular experiences that enrich learning and build institutional reputation and resilience.

Pillar 3

Bridging Voices and Vision

Through unified messaging, professional growth, and grassroots collaboration, GovState will build trust, transparency, and shared purpose to strengthen institutional culture.

Aspiration

This pillar seeks to streamline communication across campus and with the external community to build a unified institutional voice. The intent is to eliminate conflicting messaging, assess the impact of marketing and outreach, and invest in tools that strengthen transparency and connection.

Pillar 4

Future-Focused Academic Excellence

GovState is committed to delivering innovative, accessible, and career-relevant academic experiences that anticipate evolving societal needs and position students for long-term success.

Aspiration

This pillar is focused on building timely, responsive, and meaningful educational experiences. It emphasizes understanding instructional costs, fostering innovation, and developing future-focused skills and academic programs. The university will define and assess the ROI of innovations and ensure that industry partnerships strengthen both curriculum and student outcomes.

Next Steps

As we move toward implementation, the following steps will help transition the GovState ISP 2030 from planning to action:

- 1. Finalize aspirational statements and articulate clear aspirational measures at the five-year mark and goals for implementation**

- 2. Detailed Actions and Measures for Year 1**

Each working group will identify 3–5 key actions and measures aligned with their respective pillar goals and aspirations. These actions will be prioritized based on feasibility, impact, and alignment with institutional resources.

- 3. Identify Responsible Units and Lead Champions**

Strategic goal ownership will be distributed across academic and administrative units. Each goal will have a designated lead to support coordination, accountability, and reporting.

Next Steps Cont'd

5. Communication Plan

A targeted communication strategy will be developed to share the GovState ISP 2030 vision with internal and external stakeholders. Regular updates will promote transparency and invite community feedback. Webpage is already in development.

6. Build on Pillar Detail Matrix – ensure the ongoing and new efforts are threaded into the ISF work

7. Build in Ongoing Evaluation and Feedback Loops

Progress will be reviewed annually through a campus-wide assessment process. Mid-cycle adjustments will be made as needed to reflect new opportunities, challenges, or resource shifts. Years 2-3 and 4 – 5 actions and measures tbd based on this evaluation process.

Through these next steps, GovState University affirms its commitment to being ^{BOT074} Better Together, as one institution united in purpose and action.

Strategic Pillars (where we were in Feb)

I. Student Success and Support

- Building on strengths in diversity, inclusion, belonging, and social justice
- Prioritizing student success, retention, and support for staff and faculty development
- Meeting the unique needs of a diverse student body

II. Future-Focused Academic Excellence

- Adapting to the rapidly changing environment in the Southland area, Illinois, the country, and the world
- Focusing on program innovation and exploration to meet emerging needs
- Emphasizing flexibility and adaptability in program design

III. Community & Global Engagement

- Leveraging strengths in experiential learning to foster deeper community and global engagement
- Providing students with more opportunities for international experiences and partnerships
- Emphasizing the importance of global citizenship and cultural competence

IV. One Institution, Many Voices, One Message: Better Together

- Implementing a unified messaging strategy to address communication and transparency issues
- Fostering better alumni engagement and a stronger sense of community
- Emphasizing the importance of a unified voice and brand

BOT075

TAB 11

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*regarding***Resolution 26-08****Maintenance Contract for Ellucian Inc.**

- I. **ACTION ITEM:** Authorization to enter into a five-year contract with Ellucian Inc. of Fairfax, Virginia, for maintenance, updates, and service of the existing enterprise resource planning (ERP) system in an amount not to exceed \$1,781,905.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** Ellucian offers an ERP software specifically designed for higher education called Colleague. The University relies on Colleague for all operations, including but not limited to student payments, grades, financial aid, payroll, accounts receivable, accounts payable, human resources, procurement, advancement operations, student recruitment, and enrollment. The contract at issue includes software maintenance, updates, and services for Colleague. Since the software is proprietary and has source code that others cannot work on or troubleshoot, approval for a sole-source contract with Ellucian for the Colleague product was obtained from the State procurement office to provide system compliance, usability, and stability for all operations.

The current ERP system applications, inclusive of student records, registration, financial aid, financials, business analytics, human resources, portal, and budget, were competitively solicited (D1020TMS) and awarded by the Board of Trustees to Datatel Inc. in June 2010. During the initial contract period, the vendor changed its name to Ellucian Inc. This initial contract, which included maintenance, was for a five-year term in the amount of \$1,067,788. In May of 2015, the Board of Trustees approved a five-year renewal in the amount not to exceed \$1,421,012, which expired June 30, 2020. In May of 2020, the University initiated and was awarded a sole-source procurement for a five-year period. The Board of Trustees approved this five-year renewal in an amount not to exceed \$2,093,262, which expired June 30, 2025.

Governors State University has initiated a sole-source procurement for approval of a maintenance, update, and service contract for an additional, non-renewable, five-year period.

- III. **ANALYSIS:** The recommended contract includes annual licensing and maintenance for a five-year term to include all existing modules. The University requests a 10% contingency for potential changes during the contract award as follows:

FISCAL YEAR	AMOUNT
2026	\$315,638
2027	\$293,760
2028	\$314,323
2029	\$336,325
2030	\$359,868
Subtotal	\$1,619,914
10% contingency	\$161,991
Total	\$1,781,905

- V. PROPOSED RESOLUTION:** Please see the proposed resolution submitted herewith.
- VI. CONTACT INFORMATION:** Charles Pustz, Associate Vice President for Information Technology Services and Chief Information Officer, cpustz@govst.edu, 708.235.2107; and Lannie Brown-Simon, Assistant Vice President for Procurement & Business Services, obrown-simon@govst.edu, 708.235.7426.

Resolution 26-08***Approval of Maintenance Contract for Ellucian Inc.***

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “University,” respectively) was created on January 1, 1996, by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board;

WHEREAS, The Board is comprised of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor of Illinois with the advice and consent of the Senate, and one of whom is a University student selected by student peers;

WHEREAS, The Board is empowered to enter into contracts pursuant to the Illinois Governors State University Act, 110 ILCS 670/15-40;

WHEREAS, In accordance with Section V(C)(1)(a) of the Board Regulations, transactions involving purchases of \$250,000 or more require Board approval;

WHEREAS, The University seeks to renew a certain sole source agreement for maintenance and upgrades for the enterprise resource planning (ERP) system by and between the University and Ellucian Inc.;

WHEREAS, President Ester recommends the approval of this sole source contract; and

WHEREAS, The Board finds that approving the sole source contract that is the subject of this resolution is in the best interests of the University.

Now, therefore, it is:

Resolved, that the Board approves and authorizes the University to enter into a certain agreement by and between the University and Ellucian Inc. for a 59-month term, effective August 1st, 2025.

Resolved, that the Board directs the University to take all reasonable and necessary steps to otherwise effectuate this Resolution.

Approved this 18th day of August 2025

James Kvedaras, Chair

Karen Nunn, Secretary

TAB 12

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*regarding***Resolution 26-09****Off-Campus Student Housing via Fourstay Inc.**

- I. **ACTION ITEM:** Authorization to enter into a one-year contract with Fourstay Inc. (“Fourstay”) to facilitate off-campus housing for students in an amount not to exceed \$737,000.
- II. **BACKGROUND:** The University requires additional student housing because Prairie Place currently has a waitlist of over 50 students for Fall 2025. Fourstay offers student housing services off campus, including locating, leasing, furnishing, and maintaining apartments appropriate for student use. Fourstay can accommodate approximately 50 students in a single location just a few miles from campus. A resident assistant (“RA”) would be housed with the students, and no freshmen students would be housed off-campus. The State Chief Procurement Office has approved the procurement of student housing via Fourstay on an emergency basis to (i) ensure a safe and reliable location for student housing with safe and reliable transportation by the University to and from campus and (ii) avoid a potential of significant revenue loss if the students who cannot find local housing decide not to come to Governors State University.

Students living in off-campus housing would be subject to the same rules and regulations as those living on campus but would enter into a lease with Fourstay. In order to provide a seamless financial transaction to students, the University will collect rent from students on behalf of Fourstay at a rate of \$12,172 per year and remit one hundred percent (100%) of the rent collected to Fourstay. The University will not be liable for any unpaid rent, late fees, apartment damages, or the early termination of any lease by a student. Therefore, the contract presents little financial risk to the University but will provide a much-needed solution for additional housing.
- III. **ANALYSIS:** The recommended contract limit of \$737,000 assumes 55 students at a rate of \$12,172 per year will be housed by Fourstay, plus an approximately 10% contingency. The actual amount of the contract will depend on how many students choose to lease from Fourstay. The term of the contract is for one (1) year only.
- IV. **PROPOSED RESOLUTION:** Please see the proposed resolution submitted herewith.
- V. **CONTACT INFORMATION:** Paul McGuinness, Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, pmcguinness@govst.edu, 708.235.7308.

Resolution 26-09***Approval of Off-Campus Student Housing Agreement with Fourstay Inc.***

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “University,” respectively) was created on January 1, 1996, by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board;

WHEREAS, The Board is comprised of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor of Illinois with the advice and consent of the Senate, and one of whom is a University student selected by student peers;

WHEREAS, The Board is empowered to enter into contracts pursuant to the Illinois Governors State University Act, 110 ILCS 670/15-40;

WHEREAS, In accordance with Section V(C)(1)(a) of the Board Regulations, transactions involving purchases of \$250,000 or more require Board approval;

WHEREAS, The University seeks to enter into a certain agreement to procure, furnish, and maintain off-campus student housing with Fourstay Inc. for a term of one year, with a cost of \$12,172 per student per year and a cumulative cost not to exceed \$737,000;

WHEREAS, The contract will be funded entirely by student housing fees paid by students;

WHEREAS, President Ester recommends the approval of this contract; and

WHEREAS, The Board finds that approving the contract that is the subject of this resolution is in the best interests of the University.

Now, therefore, it is:

Resolved, that the Board approves and authorizes the University to enter into a certain agreement by and between the University and Fourstay Inc. for a one-year term, effective August 18, 2025 in an amount not to exceed \$737,000.

Resolved, that the Board directs the University to take all reasonable and necessary steps to otherwise effectuate this Resolution.

Approved this 18th day of August 2025

James Kvedaras, Chair

Karen Nunn, Secretary

TAB 13

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Regarding

Resolution 26-10: Tenure Upon Hire for Christine Watt, PhD, OTR/L

I. ACTION ITEM: To approve the award of tenure upon hire to Dr. Christine Watt as a Department Chair and Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy within the College of Health and Human Services.

II. BACKGROUND: Pursuant to Board Regulation Section II(A)(4)(d), the award of tenure must be approved by the Board of Trustees. Pursuant to the operative collective bargaining agreement by and between the University and the faculty union, University Professionals of Illinois (“UPI”), “[t]enure is a status awarded by the Board upon the positive recommendation of the University President following an extensive evaluation process.” Collective Bargaining Agreement, § 20.1.

Dr. Christine Watt has been hired to serve as Department Chair for Occupational Therapy in the College of Health and Human Services. Dr. Watt comes to this position with 25 years of professional experience related to occupational therapy, and over 13 years of faculty experience at regionally accredited, bachelor’s degree-granting institutions of higher education. Dr. Watt holds a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation from Southern Illinois University; a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from Southern Illinois University; a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from University of Southern Indiana; a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management from Southern Illinois University; and is a Registered Occupational Therapist with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy, and is thus educationally and professionally qualified in the Department of Occupational Therapy. She meets the criteria for education and prior experience to qualify for tenure on hire under Section 20.4.b. of the operative collective bargaining agreement.

Section 20.4. AWARD OF TENURE FOR NEW EMPLOYEES AND NONMEMBERS OF THE BARGAINING UNIT, stipulates in b. Award of Tenure for Nonmembers of the Unit that “Tenure may be granted to an individual not a member of the bargaining unit ... upon initial appointment ... only after consultation with the Division/Department, and upon recommendation of the University President and approval by the Board.”

As set forth in the accompanying proposed Resolution, Dr. Watt is eligible for tenure within the College of Health and Human Services pursuant to Section 20.4, and is recommended for tenure by President Ester. Her application and curriculum vitae accompany the proposed Resolution.

III. PROPOSED RESOLUTION: Please see proposed Resolution submitted herewith.

IV. RESOURCE/CONTACT: Provost Beverly Schneller, PhD; bschneller@govst.edu; 708.534.7295.

Resolution 26-10***Approval of Tenure upon Hire for Dr. Christine Watt***

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “University,” respectively) was created on January 1, 1996, by Public Act 89-4 to operate, manage, control, and maintain the University in accordance with the rights, powers, and duties vested by law in the Board;

WHEREAS, The Board is comprised of eight members, seven of whom are appointed by the Governor of Illinois with the advice and consent of the Senate, and one of whom is a University student selected by student peers;

WHEREAS, Board approval is required for the award of tenure pursuant to Board Regulation II(A)(4)(d);

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Article 20.4(a) of the collective bargaining agreement by and between the University and the faculty union, University Professionals of Illinois, Local #4100, (the “CBA”) tenure upon hire may be granted “only after consultation with the Division/Department, and upon recommendation of the University President and approval by the Board”;

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Article 20.4(d) of the CBA, a tenure-upon-hire recommendation may be awarded where “in the opinion of the Provost, a candidate for a Unit A Faculty position who is tenured at an accredited, Bachelors degree granting institution meets the tenure requirements as set forth in the relevant Division Criteria”;

WHEREAS, Provost Schneller recommends the award of tenure upon hire to Dr. Watt, as does President Ester; and

WHEREAS, Having considered the foregoing recommendations and the candidate's qualifications, including those reflected in the attached *curriculum vitae*, the Board finds that Dr. Watt's background demonstrates excellence in education, research, and service and fully meets the criteria for tenure at hire under section 20.4(a) and (d) of the CBA.

Now, therefore, it is:

Resolved, that the Board approves the award of tenure upon hire to Dr. Christine Watt in the College of Health and Human Services within the Department of Occupational Therapy, with all the rights and privileges pertaining thereto.

Resolved, that the Board directs the University to take all reasonable and necessary steps to otherwise effectuate this Resolution.


Approved this 18th day of August 2025

James Kvedaras, Chair

Karen Nunn, Secretary



Office of the Provost
1 University Parkway
University Park, IL 60484
708.534.4980 FAX: 708.534.8399
www.govst.edu

Date: August 4, 2025
To: President Joyce Ester
From: Provost Beverly Schneller 
Subject: Tenure on Hire for Dr. Christine Watt

Dr. Christine Watt has been appointed as the Chair of the Department of Occupational Therapy, effective August 16, 2025. I am pleased to have an experienced, energetic leader for the department, to generate continued growth of the Doctor of Occupational Therapy and Master of Occupational Therapy programs. Dr. Watt comes to this position with 25 years of professional experience related to occupational therapy, and over 13 years of faculty experience at regionally accredited bachelor's degree granting institutions, as well as a history of leadership and administrative experience spanning 40 years.

The 2022-2025 GSU-UPI Collective Bargaining Agreement Section 20.4. AWARD OF TENURE FOR NEW EMPLOYEES AND NONMEMBERS OF THE BARGAINING UNIT, stipulates in b. Award of Tenure for Nonmembers of the Unit that "Tenure may be granted to an individual not a member of the bargaining unit ... upon initial appointment ... only after consultation with the Division/Department, and upon recommendation of the University President and approval by the Board."

Dr. Watt has requested that we award her tenure upon hire at the rank of Associate Professor. Dr. Watt holds a Ph.D. in Rehabilitation from Southern Illinois University; a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from Southern Illinois University; a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from University of Southern Indiana; a Bachelor of Science in Healthcare Management from Southern Illinois University; and is a Registered Occupational Therapist with the National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy; and is thus educationally and professionally qualified in the Department of Occupational Therapy. She meets the criteria for education and prior experience to qualify for tenure on hire under Section 20.4.b. of the operative collective bargaining agreement.

The Occupational Therapy Department Criteria for rank and tenure require evidence of superior teaching, highly significant research/scholarship, and effective service. Dr. Watt was recommended for tenure at Tennessee State University in 2019 but relocated prior to the board approval step, having accepted a new opportunity in at a different institution. She has provided a current portfolio which demonstrates her performance in teaching, research and service, and includes endorsements from her prior tenure track position. Dr. Watt's documentation supports her qualifications at the level of Associate Professor as described in the Department Criteria for the Department of Occupational Therapy. Her portfolio material has been reviewed by the Department Personnel Committee and the Dean of the College of Health and Human Services. I have reviewed Dr. Watt's qualifications, experience, and accomplishments in comparison to the Department Criteria for Tenure and Promotion, and have conferred with the Dean, Dr. Catherine Balthazar. All have indicated that Dr. Watt meets the criteria for tenure and rank of Associate Professor.

In accordance with Section 20.4 of the 2022-2025 GSU-UPI Collective Bargaining Agreement, I recommend that Dr. Christine Watt be awarded tenure upon hire and rank of Associate Professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy at Governors State University.

Beverly, Schneller
Provost

Christine A. Watt, PhD, OTR/L

EDUCATION

- 2019 PhD Rehabilitation, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
2007 MS Rehabilitation Counseling, Southern Illinois University- Carbondale
 [Specialization in Substance Abuse Treatment]
2004 BS Occupational Therapy, University of Southern Indiana
2003 MSOT Candidate for Master of Science, Occupational Therapy, Barry University
[Candidate] [Completed 29 hours of graduate work with GPA of 4.0. Transferred
 hours and graduated from BSOT program]
2000 BS Healthcare Management, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
1999 AAS Occupational Therapy Assistant Program, John A. Logan College

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

- 2023-present Assistant Professor of Practice & OTD Capstone Coordinator,
 Southern Illinois University, Carbondale
2021-2022 Assistant Professor & OTD Capstone Coordinator
 Lincoln Memorial University
2020 Fall Adjunct Professor
 Tennessee State University
2019-2020 Assistant Professor & Academic Fieldwork Coordinator
 Murray State University
2012-2019 Assistant Professor [supported for tenure & promotion-left before awarded]
 Tennessee State University

PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 Sprong, M.E.; Brewer, M. Formigoni, M. & **Watt, C.** (2025). Depressants. In M. E. Sprong, H. Hollender, Z. Sneed, M. Formigoni, & L. Parker- Barnes (Eds.), *The substance related disorder: Treatment & rehabilitation* (1st ed., pp. 181–192). Kendall Hunt.
- Sprong, M.E.; Formigoni, M. **Watt, C.**; Brewer, M. & Deo, P. (2025). Hallucinogens & dissociative anesthetics. In M. E. Sprong, H. Hollender, Z. Sneed, M. Formigoni, & L. Parker-Barnes (Eds.), *The substance related disorder: Treatment & rehabilitation* (1st ed., pp. 199–210). Kendall Hunt.
- Sprong, M.E.; **Watt, C.**; & Vootukuri, V.R. (2025). Neurobiology, genetics, & epidemiology of addictive disorders. In M. E. Sprong, H. Hollender, Z. Sneed, M. Formigoni, & L. Parker-Barnes (Eds.), *The substance related disorder: Treatment & rehabilitation* (1st ed., pp. 151–166). Kendall Hunt.
- Sprong, M. E., **Watt, C.**, Wheeler, A., & Vootukuri, V. R. (2025). Psychopharmacology. In M. E. Sprong, H. Hollender, Z. Sneed, M. Formigoni, & L. Parker-Barnes (Eds.), *The substance related disorder: Treatment & rehabilitation* (1st ed., pp. 167–180). Kendall Hunt.
- 2018 Troxtel, R. E., Coker, K. and **Watt, C A.** (2018) Effectiveness of student interdisciplinary collaboration project: Case study coupled with dog wheelchair competition, *International Journal of Social Health Information Management* 10, (18),

pp. 125-133

- 2016 **Watt, C. A.**, and Troxtel, R.E. "Local, Regional, and Systemic Disorders." *Preparing for the Occupational Therapy National Board Exam: 45 Days and Counting*, 2nd ed. Sudbury: Jones & Bartlett Learning, 2016. 291-310
- 2011 **Watt, C.**, Sprong, M. E., & Upton, T. D. (2011). Functional Capacity Evaluations: A Guide for Rehabilitation Professionals. In T. D. Upton (Eds.), *Private Rehabilitation: Evolving Opportunities*. Ed. T. D. Upton. Linn Creek, MO: Aspen Professional Services.

GRANTS/FUNDING

Funded

- 2024 Cruz, Y. & **Watt, C.** (Co-PI). CADC Workforce Expansion Grant. *Illinois Certification Board & Illinois Department of Human Services*. Total award: **\$186,000.**
- 2015 **Watt, C.**, Troxtel, R., Bennett, G., St. Dennis, C. National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity: Faculty Success Program. *Tennessee State University, Office of Institutional Effectiveness. Title III development funds* Total award: **\$14,400.**
- 2014 Lehman, D., **Watt, C.**, Johnson, I., Brooks, D. (July 2014-June 2015). Project IMPACT: Increasing Minority Participation in Allied/Health Care Tracks. *Tennessee Board of Regents, Student Engagement and Retention Grant*. Total award: **\$39,825.**

Unfunded

- 2025 (pending) **Watt, C.** and Childs, J. Transition 2 Hope of Perry County Emergency Shelter Project. *T-Mobile Hometown Grant Proposal*. Amount sought: **\$50,000. (awaiting decision)**
- 2024 Summers, C., Jeong, E.R., Groves, A., Howell, E. **Watt, C.** Seeds & Praise Grant Proposal. *Nurturing Children Through Worship and Prayer Initiative [The Lily Foundation]*. Amount sought: **\$1,250,000.**
- 2017 **Watt, C.**, Johnson-Arnold, I., Kanu, M., Boussau, K. I.M.P.A.C.T. Mobilization - Increasing Inter & Multidisciplinary Programming Across Health Care Tracks. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC's Collaboration with Academia to Strengthen Public Health Workforce Capacity*. Amount sought: **\$249,999.**
- 2015 **Watt, C.**, Johnson-Arnold, I. Measuring the IMPACT of Early Health Science Orientation and Information. *Tennessee State University, Faculty and Staff Mini Grant*. Amount sought: **\$10,000.**

INVITED TALKS

- 2020 Patient-Driven Payment Model and Level II Supervision, Kentucky Occupational Therapy Association Educational Series [Virtual]
- 2014, 2012 Functional Capacity Evaluations – What Rehab Counselors Need to Know.
- 2008/2009 Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. Spinal Cord Injuries University of Southern Indiana.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

- 2023 Parr, K., **Watt, C.** (2023). Educational integration of interprofessional learning within fieldwork and capstone experiences [poster]. Illinois Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference, Naperville, IL (virtual). (November 2023).
- 2021 **Watt, C.**, Beard, L., Jackson, M., Troxtel, R. (2021). Shaping student attitudes toward older adults through professional socialization [presentation]. Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Nashville, TN (September 2021).
- 2018 Troxtel, R.E., Coker, K., **Watt, C. A.**, (2018). Effectiveness of student interdisciplinary collaboration project: Case study coupled with a dog wheelchair competition [round table discussion]. Round Tables Engaging an Alliance for Collaborative Healthcare (R.E.A.C.H.) Interprofessional Education Conference, Conway, AR (April 2018).
- 2017 Lewis, T., Taylor, K., **Watt, C.** (2017). Culture and aging: Myths, assumptions & realities of the emerging workforce. [presentation]. National Council of Rehabilitation Educators Spring Conference, Anaheim, CA (April 2017).
- 2016 **Watt, C. A.**, Johnson-Arnold, I., Lehman, D. (2016) Project Impact: Increasing minority participation in allied-health care tracks [poster session]. Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Nashville, TN (September 2016).
- 2013 Snyder, L. R., **Watt, C. A.** (2013). Establishing collaborative research between clinicians and educators [presentation]. Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association Conference, Nashville, TN (September 2013).

HONORS

- 2019 Invited Keynote Speaker – (2019). College of Health Sciences Research Day
Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN
Factors Affecting Discharge Recommendations from Inpatient Rehabilitation

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Southern Illinois University, Carbondale

Graduate

- Doctoral Capstone Experience 2025 to present
- Doctoral Capstone Experience and Project Development 2024 to present
- Doctoral Capstone Experience and Project Defense 2024 to present
- Doctoral Capstone Experience Planning II 2024 to present
- Doctoral Capstone Experience Planning I 2024 to present
- Implementing Research 2024 - present
- Introduction to Substance Use Disorders 2024 – 2025
- Individual Service Planning 2024

Communities & Population II 2024
Management 2024
Advocating for OT 2024
Research Proposal II 2024
Qualitative Research 2024
Foundations of Occupational Therapy
2023 Analyzing Occupation 2023
Introduction to Research and Scholarly Practice 2023

Lincoln Memorial University

Graduate

OTD Capstone I 2022
Mental Health Evaluation & Intervention 2022
Client Care Management I 2021
Research Process
2021 Teaching &
Learning 2021

Murray State University

Graduate

Occupational Science 2019-
2020, Clinical Practicum I
2019-2020 Clinical
Practicum II 2020 Clinical
Practicum III 2019-2020 OT
Evidence Based Practice 2020
OT Media and Modalities II 2019-2020
Clinical Research I 2019

Tennessee State University

Graduate

School-Based Occupational Therapy 2020
Occupational Analysis 2012- 2016, 2018, 2020
Physical Dysfunction I Lecture 2012- 2018
Physical Dysfunction I Lab 2012- 2017
Physical Dysfunction I Practicum 2012- 2014
Analysis of Research 2012- 2018
Research I 2012- 2018
Research II 2012- 2018
Physical Dysfunction II Lecture 2012- 2017
Physical Dysfunction II Lab 2012- 2017
Physical Dysfunction II Practicum 2012- 2014
General Diagnosis 2012- 2015
Clinical Practice 2012-2014, 2016
Modalities in Occupational Therapy 2013- 2016
Foundations of Occupational Therapy - 2018

Undergraduate

Physics – Principles of Motion - 2016

Southern Illinois University (Teaching Assistant)

Graduate

Private Section Rehabilitation (TA) - Summer 2011

Medical & Psychosocial Aspects of Disability (TA) – Fall 2010

Introduction to Skills Development in Rehab Counseling (TA) – Summer 2010

Undergraduate

Nursing Home Administration (Instructor of Record) - Spring 2011

University of Southern Indiana (Teaching Assistant)**Undergraduate**

Orientation to Occupational Therapy (TA) – Spring 2003

MENTORED STUDENT RESEARCH

- 2024 Bartnicki, M. (2024). Practitioner and parent perspective of occupational therapy in the NICU. Creative Activities and Research Presentations Symposium. Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Edgecomb, K. (2024). Gender theory: Exploration of occupational therapy practitioners' knowledge and opinions. Creative Activities and Research Presentations Symposium. Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Evans, H. (2024). Attitudes and perceptions of 3D printing in occupational therapy practice. Creative Activities and Research Presentations Symposium. Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Soto, M. (2024). Parental care and developmental milestones: Education for bilingual mothers, Creative Activities and Research Presentations Symposium. Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Tanner, K. (2024). Virtual reality use in occupational therapy practice. Creative Activities and Research Presentations Symposium. Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- 2018 Barhite, M., Sager, M., Levi, K., McDermott, M., Tucci, A. (2018). Classical music and its effect on memory and cognitive function [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2018).
- Evoy, K., Larson, J., Lyles, T., Parenteau, L., Parrish, M., Webb, A. (2018) The effects of occupational therapy intervention related to self- efficacy with formerly homeless individuals in supported housing [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2018).
- Garner, D. (2018). Nature-based therapeutic media [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2018).
- Holmes, S.K., Garland, S., Campos, J., Collins, J. (2018). Mindfulness-based on stress management training and its effect on factory workers' well- being [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2018).
- Lieberman, A., Daugherty, K., Thigpen, D. (2018). Short-term memory recall: The effectiveness of handwritten repetition compared to

- verbal recall [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2018).
- 2017 Wade, B., Schryver, G., Nabors, T., Meek, A., Hendon, L. (2018). The influence of weighted items on challenging behaviors in adults with developmental disorders [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2018).
- Alexander, A., Stavola, C., Dionne, C., Strickland, C., Barnett, E. (2017). The effect of information presentation format on short-term recall of graduate students [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2017).
- Bouquet, S., DaRif, M., Johnson, M., Staves, C., Wilson, M. (2017). The effects of walking on short term memory in graduate students [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2017).
- Davidson, K., Willis, T., Slater, C., Worth, R. (2017). A study of interdisciplinary knowledge between occupational therapy and physical therapy students [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2017).
- DeKock, B., Katsantonis, A., Nelson, K., Russell, R. (2017). Experts, caregivers, and the need for occupational justice in sexuality education for adults with Down Syndrome [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2017).
- Salpekar, A., Barmann, K., Brownbridge, E., LaFollette, Er., Tanner, D. (2017). Multivariable assessment for standing workstations – pilot study [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2017).
- Wallach, A., Dunleavy, E., Ragan, T., Ogunmala, L., Scott, S. (2017). How do sensory-based therapeutic activities affect short term memory in young adults? [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2017).
- 2016 Aames, H., Demetros, N., Ekvall, E., Feachen, C., & Wharton, D. (2016). How does education on individuals with disabilities and sexuality impact perception: Fact-based versus personal account [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2016).
- Staed, C., Bushee, M., Day, A., Kadeg, E., Rose, L., & Wallace, E. (2016). The effects of educational methods on perceived self-efficacy of students in occupational therapy graduate programs [poster presentation]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2016).
- Kearns, A., Burns, A., Carter, E., Gillispie, M.K., Malick, B. (2016). Backpack weight influence on body functions in college students [poster presentation]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2016).

- 2015 Markin, A.D., Counce, W., Farmosa, R., and Patterson, A. (2015) The effects of physical activity on problem solving performance [poster session]. Tennessee State University College of Health Science Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2015).
- Sordello, L., Borman, G., MacLeod, W., and Simon, M. (2015) Correlation between manual dexterity and the use of a mobile communication device in a well-elderly population [poster session]. Tennessee State University College of Health Science Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2015).
- Smith, J., Aguilar, T., Alexander, R., and Hollway, T. (2015) How does sound delivery method affect the reading comprehension of graduate students listening to music? [poster session]. Tennessee State University College of Health Science Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2015).
- 2014 Trimble, M., Brown, M.A., d'Aquino, C., and Sprunger, H. (2014) The effects of handwriting versus typing on short term memory [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2014).
- Lowery, F., Sneed, T., Sutton, N., Roney, O., Watt, C.A. (2014) How does sound delivery method affect the reading comprehension of graduate students listening to music? [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2014).
- Whatley, C., Rocco, C., Sellers, K., Ellison, T., Watt, C.A. (2014) Does one's propensity to type versus write have an effect on grip or pinch strength? [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2014).
- 2013 Marple, C., Brown, O., Haley, A., Watt, C.A. (2013) The attitude and knowledge base regarding cardiopulmonary resuscitation in occupational therapy professionals in middle Tennessee. [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2013).
- Ross, M., McGinn, A., Richardson, D., Watt, C.A. (2013) Animal interaction and its effects on vital signs within the geriatric population. [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2013).
- Klope, A., Richmond, P., Wirtala, A., Watt, C.A. (2013) The effects of contextual priming and cueing on occupational performance. [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2013).
- Speelman, C., Wilfong, R., Williams, L., Watt, C.A. (2013) Attitudes of occupational therapy students towards working with persons with HIV/AIDS: A comparison study. [poster session]. Tennessee State University Research Symposium, Nashville, TN (April 2013).

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

Treasurer, Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association Executive Board, current
Communications Chair, Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association Executive Board,
2017 Member, Advisory Board, Occupational Therapy Program, TSU, 2019

DEPARTMENTAL/UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Chair, OTD Admissions Committee

Member, Computer Advisory Committee, College of Health & Human Sciences, 2023 to present

Participant, SIU Day at the Du Quoin State Fair, 2024

Participant, SIU Day – Admissions Showcase, 2023

Murray State University

Member, Paducah Campus Improvement Committee, 2020

Member, Occupational Therapy Program Curriculum Revision Committee,

2020 Member, Occupational Therapy Program, Initial Accreditation Committee, 2019

Tennessee State University

Chair, University Curriculum Committee, 2018

Member, Faculty Senate, 2018

Member, Faculty Senate Information Technology Committee, 2017-2019

Admissions Chair, OT Program, 2016 - 2019

Chair, OT Faculty Search Committee, 2013, 2018

Committee Member, OT Faculty Search Committee, 2013, 2014, 2017

Co-Chair, Graduate School Curriculum Committee, 2016 -2019

Committee Member, Graduate School Curriculum Committee, 2013-2016

Committee Member, Graduate Council, 2013- 2019

Volunteer, Dr. Glover's Inaugural Scholarship Gala, 2013

Faculty Advisor, Student Occupational Therapy, 2012- 2018

COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITIES

Board Member (invited-pending start of term), So. Illinois Center for Independent Living

Board Member, Transition 2 Hope of Perry County, 2023 to present

Chair – Gratitude Committee, NubAbility Athletic Foundation, 2023 to present

Vendor, Western Kentucky L.A.U.N.C.H. Middle School Fair, 2019

Volunteer, Mary's Magical Place fundraiser, Hendersonville, 2017

Volunteer, TSU Day of Service, Nashville, 2012

CLINICAL OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY EXPERIENCE

2022-2024 Co-Owner & Managing Partner

Oak Leaf Consulting Group, LLC

- Served attorneys as record reviewer and manager for forensic vocational rehabilitation consulting business

- 2013 – 2017 Occupational Therapist – PRN
Lifecare Centers of America – Antioch, TN
- Performed evaluations and treatments in short-term rehabilitation facility
- 2009 – 2012 Occupational Therapist - PRN
Professional Therapy Services, Inc. - Belleville, IL
- Served as primary evaluating occupational therapist in multiple rural long-term care facilities through contract company
 - Provided evaluation and intervention to older adults to address cognitive, ADL, functional mobility, and psychosocial challenges
 - Supervised clinical activities of multiple occupational therapy assistants
- 2009-2012 Occupational Therapist - PRN
Ultimate Therapeutic Solutions, LLC - Christopher, IL
- Provided OT evaluation and intervention in long term care, outpatient clinic, and home health settings through contract company
 - Addressed physical, cognitive, and psychosocial challenges for adult clients
- 2007 – 2012 Occupational Therapist
Marshall Browning Hospital – Du Quoin, IL
- Assisted Rehabilitation Director in development of in-house OT program for critical access hospital
 - Evaluated provided intervention to adult and pediatric patients in inpatient, outpatient, and home health settings
 - Hired and provided clinical supervision to certified occupational therapy assistants
- 2004 -2007 Occupational Therapist
Southern Illinois Healthcare – Multiple Locations
- Fit For Work, Herrin Hospital***
- Treated patients in Industrial Rehabilitation and Outpatient settings.
 - Developed and implemented plan of care for occupational injuries.
 - Performed Functional Capacity Evaluations for return to work and disability claims.
 - Developed and supervised individualized work conditioning programs. Performed evaluations and developed care plan for chronic pain patients.
 - Provided clinical supervision to Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants as needed.
- Rehab Unlimited, St. Joseph Hospital***
- Provided occupational therapy services to adult and pediatric patients in inpatient and outpatient settings.
 - Developed and implemented care plans for patients with

- orthopedic and neurological disabilities.
 - Educated patients in adaptive techniques for activities of daily living.
- 2003 – 2004 Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant-prn
Legacy Healthcare – McLeansboro, Illinois
 - Provided occupational therapy services to elderly patients in several rural long-term care facilities under a contract-for-service arrangement
- 2003 – 2004 Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant – prn
Pinckneyville Community Hospital – Pinckneyville, Illinois
 - Provided occupational therapy services to adults in home health, outpatient, and skilled nursing settings.
- 2003 Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant-prn
Center for Comprehensive Services - Carbondale, Illinois
 - Provided OT services to persons with traumatic brain or spinal cord injury. Emphasis on NDT techniques, neuromuscular re-education and retraining of activities of daily living.
- 2003 – 2004 Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant-prn RehabCare – Herrin, Illinois
 - Performed OT services of retraining of activities of daily living, strengthening, and safety awareness training in long-term care settings for contract provider.
- 1999 – 2004 Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant - prn Rehab and Care Center – Murphysboro, Illinois
 - Provided occupational therapy services of self-care retraining and strengthening to adults in a long-term care setting under the supervision of an occupational therapist.
- 1999 – 2003 Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant Parkway Manor – Marion, Illinois
 - Provided occupational therapy services to elderly adults in a long-term care setting under the supervision of an occupational therapist.
- 2000 – 2001 Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant – prn Union County Hospital District – Anna, Illinois
 - Performed occupational therapy treatment with pediatric and adult patients in an outpatient setting.
- 1999 – 2000 Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant
Tri-County Special Education District – Murphysboro, Illinois
 - Provided occupational therapy services to students age 3-10 in a school setting. Developed and implemented treatment plans under the direction of an occupational therapist to meet the goals of the

- Individual Education Plan. Declined permanent position to attend graduate school.
- 1999 – 2000 Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant – part time St. Francis Medical Center – Cape Girardeau, Missouri
- Performed occupational therapy services under the supervision of a registered occupational therapist. Facilitated groups in a day treatment for persons with acquired brain injuries. Developed group and individual treatment plans.

RELATED HEALTHCARE EXPERIENCE

- 1996 – 1998 Personal Intervention Residential Facilitator / Shift Mentor Center for Comprehensive Services - Carbondale, Illinois
- Assisted in supervision of approximately twenty-five employees. Performed scheduling, staff hiring, training, and staff performance intervention according to established policies. Wrote goals and provided intervention for clients regarding activities of daily living.
- 1991 – 1994 Child Care Worker / Life Skills Therapist
- Provided direct care to individuals with acquired brain and spinal cord injuries in a post-acute setting. Participated in treatment planning with clinical staff. Complied with all documentation necessary for funders.

LICENSURE/CERTIFICATION

State of Tennessee –2012 to 2023 – Occupational Therapist, license #4572
State of Tennessee – 2012 to 2023 Thermal and Electrical Modalities Certificate
State of Illinois –2004 to present - Occupational Therapist, license #056-007315
State of Illinois –1999 to 2005 - Occupational Therapy Assistant, license #057-001951
National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy – 2004 to present, OTR#1039709
National Board for Certification in Occupational Therapy – 1999 to 2004, COTA #1039709

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Illinois Occupational Therapy Association 2023 to present, member
Kentucky Occupational Therapy Association 2019 to 2022, member
Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association 2012 to present, member
American Occupational Therapy Association 1997 to present, member #04061900

TAB 14

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