

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

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees of Governors State University (the “Board” and “GSU,” respectively), an Illinois body politic and corporate, meeting as a committee of the whole, was held in person and via audio-videoconference at GSU’s University Park Campus in Engbretson Hall on February 3, 2023 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 February 1, 2022 in accordance with Section 120/2.02 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. 5 ILCS 120/2.02. Before the meeting, each Trustee received a book with materials corresponding to action and discussion items, a copy of which is maintained with the Board records.

**I. MEETING DETAILS**

Meeting Chair Pro Tem: James Kvedaras

Minutes Recorded By: Therese King Nohos, General Counsel, on behalf of James Kvedaras, Secretary

**II. ATTENDEES**

Chair Pro Tem Kvedaras confirmed a quorum was present given the presence of the following two (2) Trustees in attendance in person at the start of the meeting:

- Lluvia Hernandez Aguirre, Student Trustee
- James Kvedaras, Trustee, Secretary and Chair Pro Tem

and the presence of the following three (3) Trustees via Zoom:

- Kevin Brookins, Trustee and Vice Chair
- Angela M. Sebastian, Trustee and Chair

Pedro Cevallos-Candau joined the meeting shortly after its start at approximately 9:05 am. Trustee Anibal Taboas joined the meeting shortly after its start at approximately 9:20 am.

President Cheryl Green, Ph.D., *ex-officio* Board member and chief executive officer of GSU, was present as were the following members of the President's Cabinet:

- Joshua R. Allen, MPS, SHRM-SCP, Vice President of Human Resources
- Corey S. Bradford, Sr., Vice President of Administration and Finance
- Janelle A. Crowley, Ph.D., Chief of Staff, President's Office
- William A. Davis, MS, Vice President, Institutional Advancement, Marketing and Communications
- Maureen Kelly, Executive Director for Government and Community Affairs
- Paul McGuinness, MA, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management
- Therese King Nohos, JD, Vice President, General Counsel
- Joi F. Patterson, PhD, Chief Diversity Officer
- Beverly Schneller, PhD, Vice President, Provost and Chief Academic Officer

### **III. ABSENCES**

The following trustees were absent: John Brudnak.

### **IV. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Chair Pro Tem Kvedaras at approximately 9:00 am. At the start of the meeting, Chair Pro Tem Kvedaras called for a moment of silence for those students who had been the victims of off-campus gun violence recently.

### **V. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

## **VI. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The Chair Pro Tem welcomed all and explained the Board's recent transition from holding multiple committee meetings per quarter to a single committee of the whole meeting in advance of the quarterly Board meeting. He then asked for a motion to approve the meeting's proposed agenda. Chair Sebastian so moved and Vice Chair Brookins seconded. The motion passed upon unanimous roll call vote.

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Agenda's informational items were presented as indicated in the Agenda and as follows:

1. Dr. Peng gave the Faculty Senate Report, including reporting on the Senate's activities in reviewing and enhancing University academic policy. She advised the Board that Natalia Rekhter was elected as Faculty Senate Vice President, David Conrad was appointed Senate Designee to the Administrative Policy Committee, and Luther King was appointed designee for PBAC.
2. Mr. Fung gave the Civil Service Senate Report. He advised the Board that employees of the month for December and January were Althea Schamrowski and Ashley Tse, respectively. The January 13 Civil Service Day was a success. Civil Service is continuing to partner with Human Resources to enhance training and development opportunities. Civil Service will hold a fundraiser February 13-15 to support programming.
3. Dr. Rhea advised the Board on the University's participation (through its students) in the Honors Program National Collegiate Honors Council. Five students gave four presentations, and several students shared their experiences with the Board.
4. Mr. Schmidt gave an update on the School of Extended Learning, including efforts to recruit new personnel, the number of students served (including 1,200 who have enrolled in a certificate program), and its activities aside from serving as a testing center, including activities to connect local high school students with area employers, activities to engage local businesses with the University, and graduating its first class of Clinical

Medical Associates and Medical Coding and Billing Specialists. An extended discussion ensued. In response to questions, Mr. Schmidt advised that there is a lot of competition for available grant funding but that the School of Extended Learning is attempting to find a niche in sustainability grant funding, and that the School of Extended Learning does not serve prisons directly but rather works with halfway houses to provide training to residents.

5. Mr. McGuinness and Dr. Forde then gave an update on the strategic enrollment management plan, advising that the consultants previously retained, Ruffalo Noel Levitz, continue to advise the University to ensure progress against the plan's 10-point strategy.
6. Ms. Kelly then gave a legislative affairs update, advising the Board that Governor Pritzker was sworn into office of January 9, 2023 and the University sent President Green and Ms. Kelly to the event and the inaugural ball. She advised that the House Appropriations—Higher Education—Committee has a new vice-chair (Representative Kenneth Dunkin) and that the Senate Higher Education Committee also has a new vice-chair (Senator Michael Halpin). Governor Pritzker announced that the COVID-19 disaster proclamation will end as of May 11, 2023. She advised of future important dates: (i) February 15, the Governor's budget address; (ii) February 24, the Governor will visit campus for a ceremonial bill signing; and (iii) April 19, GSU will hold a lobby day in Springfield.
7. Mr. Parks then gave the Student Senate report. He advised the Board that the Senate is partnering with the Black Student Union to celebrate February as Black History Month, that there is great interest among students to run for senate seats, and that there was great participation at a recent student open forum/town hall.
8. Dr. Crowley then advised the Board of key dates regarding commencement: (i) May 11 at 6:30 pm, the doctoral hooding; (ii) May 12 at 5 pm, the honorary degree recipient dinner; and (iii) May 13 at 10 am and 4:30 pm, commencement.
9. Trustee Cevallos Candau then reported on the Civil Service Merit Board, and was pleased that no issues relating to GSU have been raised recently.
10. Ms. Zurawski then gave a report on tuition and fee planning for Academic Year 2023-2024, first explaining the guiding principles used in the planning process, including providing an affordable, value-forward educational option for students. She then gave the recent history of tuition revenue and tuition increases, which have not occurred since

2017. She then presented recommendations to the Board to: (i) charge the same in-state tuition offered to Illinois residents to all residents of the United States and its territories; (ii) increase the tuition rate by \$15 per credit hour for those charged the resident rate and \$30 per hour for those charged the non-resident rate; (iii) charge a flat technology fee; (iv) charge a flat rate facilities fee; and (v) increase housing fees at Prairie Place by 4.5%. An extended discussion ensued.

### **VIII. PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS**

After hearing the information items, the Chair Pro Tem then called for all action items to be presented for discussion but not vote at this meeting. All action items reflected in the Agenda were presented as follows:

1. Ms. Nohos recommended that the Bylaws be amended to reduce the number of mandatory meetings annually from five to four.
2. Dr. Bradford recommended that the Board adopt the tuition and fee proposals outlined by Ms. Zurawski.

### **VIII. OLD/NEW BUSINESS**

The Board expressed an interest in hearing more about the strategic plan and technology plan. Chair Sebastian noted that the strategic plan would be addressed at the June meeting. Chair Sebastian then asked for feedback regarding the new, committee-of-the-whole meeting structure.

Ms. Nohos announced that Trustees would be receiving a Statement of Economic Interest in their personal mail soon and the deadline for completing it is May 1, 2023.

There being no further new or old business, Chair Pro Tem Kvedaras entertained a motion to adjourn. It passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

Angela M. Sebastian  
Chair

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_

James Kvedaras  
Secretary