Governors State UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

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 February 23, 2026, beginning at approximately 9:00 am. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct the business described in the agenda posted for public notice before 9:00 am on February 18, 2026, in accordance with Section 2.02 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. 5 ILCS 120/ *et seq.* Before the meeting, each Trustee received books with materials corresponding to the action items, copies of which are maintained with the Board records.

I. MEETING DETAILS

Meeting Chair: 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
- Karen Nunn, Trustee and Secretary
- Brett Porter, Student Trustee (arrived at approximately 9:45 am)
- Judith L. Mitchell, Trustee
- Angelica Zuniga, Trustee
- Anibal Taboas, Trustee (via teleconference)

- Frances Pao-Han Kao, Trustee

President Joyce C. Ester, Ph.D., *ex-officio* Board member and chief executive officer of GovState, was present, as were the following members of the President's Cabinet who appeared in person:

- Joshua R. Allen, MPS, SHRM-SCP, Vice President of Human Resources;
- Villalyn Baluga, Associate VP for Finance and Interim Chief Financial Officer;
- Janelle Crowley, Chief of Staff, President's Office
- William Davis, Vice President, External Affairs;
- Maureen Kelly, Executive Director, Government Relations;
- Joi F. Patterson, PhD, Chief of Institutional Engagement and Excellence;
- Therese King Nohos, JD, Vice President, General Counsel; and
- Patricia O'Neal, Executive Assistant to the President

Mr. Joshua Sopiarz (Faculty Senate President), Ms. Susie Morris (Civil Service President), and Mr. Sean O'Brien (Student Senate President) were present as well.

III. ABSENCES

None

IV. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kvedaras at approximately 9:00 am.

V. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

The Land Acknowledgment Statement was read by Dr. Joi F. Patterson.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was public comment by Lasheena Fuller, Union Steward for Teamsters Local 743 Clerical Workers.

VII. CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chair Kvedaras welcomed everyone to Spring 2026 semester and gave comments on behalf of the Chair, including noting the retirement of, and expressing gratitude for, two senior campus leaders, Mr. Paul McGuinness and Dr. Janelle Crowley. The Chair also notified the Trustees of their duty to file conflict of interest forms by May 1.

VIII. APPROVAL OF PROPOSED AGENDA AND MEETING MINUTES

Chair Kvedaras asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda. Trustee Kao so moved, seconded by Trustee Mitchell. The motion passed unanimously. Chair Kvedaras then asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 5, 2026, as presented. Trustee Crook so moved, seconded by Trustee Zuniga. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

First, Mr. Josh Sopiarz, President of the Faculty Senate, reported on the Faculty Senate, including reporting on the activities of the Academic Master Planning Committee (AMPAC)and the Spring meeting of the Council of Illinois University Senates. He shared the upcoming dates as well: the wellness committee's book club event on April 1, 2026 regarding *The Wellness Trap*; and the Faculty Professional Development Committee's annual Spring Faculty connection, collaboration and celebration event on April 29, 2026. Finally, Mr. Sopiarz noted his term will end in May and expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve in his role.

Second, Civil Service President Sussie Morris reported on the activity of the Civil Service Senate, including Civil Service Day, hosted on January 9, 2026.

Third, Student Senate President Sean O'Brien reported on behalf of the Student Senate, including that in February they were honored to have President Dr. Joyce Ester and her team present at their Student Senate meeting to explain the proposed tuition and fee increases. Mr. O'Brien noted several student concerns, including regarding cafeteria service provider Arena Services and proposed tuition, fee, and housing increases. Mr. O' Brien congratulated Coach Bates and the men's basketball team on finishing the regular season in conference with the best record and making it to the playoffs.

Fourth, Ms. Erin Gutierrez, Executive Director of the Family Development Center, and

Barbara Calibraro, Program Director of the Family Development Center, gave an update and overview of the Center. A discussion ensued.

Fifth, Dr. Kim Major-Ford, Director of the Counseling and Wellness Center, gave an update and overview of the Center. A discussion ensued.

Sixth, Associate Vice President and Interim Chief Financial Officer Villalyn Baluga gave an update on the University's fiscal year 2026 operating budget to actual results through December 31, 2025. An extended discussion ensued regarding cost savings.

Seventh, Dr. Robert Stanley, Assistant Vice President Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness. gave an update on the Alumni Dashboard. A discussion ensued.

Eighth, Ms. Kimberley Gonzalez, Associate Director Alumni Relations and Institutional Advancement, gave an update and overview of alumni relations at GovState.

Finally, Mr. Kristoffer Evangelista, Chief Internal Auditor, presented the results of internal audits. A discussion ensued.

X. PROPOSED ACTION ITEMS

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

- Resolution 26-25: Approve proposed tuition rates for Academic Year 2026-2027;
- Resolution 26-26: Approve proposed student fees for Academic Year 2026-2027;
- Resolution 26-27: Approve proposed student housing fees for Academic Year 2026-2027;
- Resolution 26-28: Approve proposed Amendment to Board of Trustee Regulation II;
- Resolution 26-29: Approve proposed Amendment to Board of Trustee Regulation III;
- Resolution 26-30: Approve proposed Amendment to Board of Trustee Regulation V—this item was tabled for discussion at a future meeting; and
- Resolution 26-31: Approve Resolution Honoring Service of Vice President Paul McGinness.

XI. CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session meeting.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no other old or new business, Chair Kvedaras then asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Nunn so moved, and Trustee Kao seconded. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:21 pm.

Approved this 22nd day of June 2026.

James Kvedaras, Chair

Karen Nunn, Secretary