

Chicago State University  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
Virtual Full Board Meeting Minutes  
Via GoToWebinar  
June 22, 2020  
3:00 P.M. - 5:30 p.m.

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, The June 22, 2020  
CSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING WAS HELD VIA GoToWebinar**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5810024357699705100>

Board Members Present

Trustee Andrea Zopp, Chair  
Trustee McDade, Vice Chair  
Trustee Mark Schneider, Secretary  
Trustee Louis Carr  
Trustee Brian Clay  
Trustee Mobley Smith  
Trustee Renard Singleton, Student Trustee

Others Present

President Zaldwaynaka (Z) Scott, Esq.  
Stephanie Kelly, Esq., General Counsel and Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer  
Bonnie Phillips, Director of Board Relations  
Dr. Leslie Roundtree, Provost and Senior Vice President  
Elliot Charles, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics

1. Call to Order

Chair Zopp called the meeting to order.

Due to circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, and pursuant to Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-07, issued on March 16, 2020, suspending the Open Meetings Act provisions relating to in-person attendance by members of a public body, the June 22, 2020 meeting of the Chicago State University Board of Trustees is being conducted virtually and is hereby called to order.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was verified and roll call was taken.

3. Verification of Meeting Notice

The meeting notice was posted as mandated by the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

4. Public and Employee Comment

The Board will not hear presentations or entertain questions on the following topics: issues under negotiation as part of the University's collective bargaining process, statements concerning the private activities, lifestyles, or beliefs of individuals employed by or associated with the University, grievances of individual students or employees or any personnel matters. Ms. Phillips, please call those who have signed up for public comment.

Zachary McCain.

Expressed concern about the elimination of the baseball program. He stated that the players are good people.

Van McCaster

Expressed concern about the elimination of the baseball program and hating to see the players leave.

Scott Daughtry

Expressed concern about the elimination of the baseball program. He stated that his son just finished his junior year and is on the baseball team. Unfortunately, he has gone through two surgeries and only played a limited amount, but he loves the school and the baseball program and hopes to remain at CSU as a student athlete. Mr. Daughtry expressed his disappointment with the communication around the elimination of the program and having to wait 30 days for the board to make a decision. He asked the board to put the best interest of the student in mind.

Reggie Brock, Sheila Taylor, Rocky Pacente, Nick C., Melissa Daughtry, Maria Almonte, Krista Kaplan, Kevin McCray (no response)

Kevin McCray.

Expressed his concern with the elimination of the baseball program. He stated that he is a former baseball coach at Chicago State and hopes that the trustees will reconsider. Mr. McCray noted that the program may be under consideration due to the amount of funds that are spent on the baseball program, and the amount of success that it has not had over the last number of years. He stated that the program can be successful as it was successful in the past. In fact, the baseball program is the only team at Chicago State that has ever won against teams from the Big 10 and ranked opponents in the United States and the country. Mr. McCray spoke about the attention this is getting in the media and the possible perception of a failed athletic program. He asked the board to consider continuing the program for at least two years especially for those players who are underclassmen.

Kendall Rogers, Joshua Hunt, Josh Friedman, Jessica Poole (no response).

Christian Koscinski

Expressed concerns about the elimination of the baseball program and the lack of communication to students and parents. He spoke of dreams being shattered. He stated that he pays tuition

Anita Holmes

Expressed concern about the elimination of the baseball program and the poor communication issues at CSU. Ms. Holmes stated that there is no reason any student at this university should be having problems communicating with teachers, professors, the administration, and coaches. She stated the Elliott Charles, Athletic Director came from Clemson University and with all the wonderful accolades that have been given to him she finds it hard to believe he has developed poor communication skill now that he is at CSU.

Ms. Holmes spoke about Chicago being a baseball town. She noted that the baseball team has a better record than the basketball team asking what was taken in consideration when it was decided to eliminate the baseball team. She stated that intention speaks to character.

Alan Walker (no response)

## 5. President's Report

President Scott acknowledged the difficult time our city, our state, our nation and the world is facing at this difficult time. Once again, we see events of racial injustice and see more clearly the structural and economic challenges faced by minority communities. Here at Chicago State, we know it is time to move beyond rhetoric. Together, we must consider the real work that will bring meaningful change. That is why we are taking action on several engagements to bring attention to the equity work that will not only support Chicago State but also support the black community. More than ever, Chicago State must continue to engage as a community anchor for the Southside of Chicago.

President Scott highlighted the following.

- On July 8th, we are co-hosting an event focused on supporting small businesses impacted by the pandemic and the violence brought on by racial injustices co-sponsoring with World Business Chicago and other partners.
- Chicago State is hosting a seminar on rebuilding small business. This symposium will help our community members to access capital and other resources to accelerate the rebuilding process for the west and south sides of Chicago.
- Alongside other higher education institutions and through partners such as the Illinois Board of Higher Education, Chicago State University is working on a working group for equity and Black student access in Illinois higher education. This body will not only pull together important data that examines inequity but, will also issue actionable recommendations that are designed for state public policy, higher education institutions, the business community, and the not-for-profit philanthropic sector.

President Scott stated that the university's operational next steps continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Chicago State is conducting all instruction remotely for the summer 2020. For the fall 2020 semester operations, we have begun to engage an inclusive process to develop a return to campus plan.

Faculty and staff from across the campus formed working groups to develop preliminary plans or recommendations for fall re-opening. As our State has moved into phase three of the restore Illinois plan and began a cautious re-opening, these working groups closely adhere to CDC and Preliminary State of Illinois Guidance for Higher Education Institutions in developing their recommendations. The working groups have wrapped up their reports. We have received recommendations from many stakeholders, detailing the necessary operations that will allow for a safe and effective return to campus. These recommendations concern areas such as health and well-being, expectations for students and employees, methods of instructional delivery, and campus space usage. We will publicly release our plans for the fall semester.

President Scott stated that Chicago State University remains open, vibrant, and continuing to educate our students in partnership with the Chicago State Foundation and with support from the Federal Cares Act.

We have served students through the Chicago State University Students Scholar Emergency Fund and are exploring additional opportunities to quickly deliver direct financial support to our students enrolled in summer courses.

As we remain focused on strengthening our relationship with national, state, and local partners, we continue to make the case to our federal public officials and representatives with the US. Department of

Education, regarding Chicago States continued need for support as we recover from the pandemic impact.

Our Rise Academy, which focuses on providing all incoming freshmen with the holistic academic supports they need for academic success during their first year. The centerpiece of our Rise Academy is that the first year tuition and fees are covered by the university. Our launch has been covered in local news outlets.

We are planning a signing ceremony for a new two plus two academic articulation agreement with Olive Harvey on a supply chain management and logistics degree. This program allows Olive Harvey students to complete their lower division requirements before transferring into a seamless pathway to CSU as they complete their bachelor's degree. One of the first students participating in our new program is the Olive Harvey Class of 2020 Valedictorian.

## 6. Reports

### Academic Affairs

Trustee Mobley Smith presides.

Dr. Roundtree stated that we are excited about the Rise Academy, launches next week. We have three opportunities for freshmen to join us during the summer with a full programming that will support success in class.

Dr. Roundtree presented the Tenure Resolution.

Trustee Mobley Smith stated that she had reviewed the documents that Dr. Roundtree spoke of and has asked questions about the process. Just to ensure the inclusive nature, as well as following the policies of the university as it pertains to our promotion of tenure.

### Action Item

#### **a. Tenure Resolution**

Carolyn Theard-Griggs, Associate Professor, Department of Graduate Programs, College of Education

**Trustee Mobley Smith moved to approve the Tenure Resolution. Trustee McDade seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows: Ayes: 6 Nays: 0 (Student Trustee does not vote)**

### Finance and Audit Committee

Trustee Carr presides.

Larry Owens presented the FY 2021 Preliminary Operating Budget Resolution.

In regards to FY 2021 Preliminary Operating Budget proposal, we are required to have a Preliminary FY 2021 budget approved by the board prior to July, 1<sup>st</sup> of each year and the final budget approval by October 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, which is submitted to the IBHE no later than October 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. We developed a preliminary budget in the amount of \$83,066,507 spending amount.

Chair Zopp stated that the Finance and Audit Committee is recommending approval and all the trustees have been briefed on the budgets. She noted that the board recognize and are aware that there is some work that has to be done on the FY2021 preliminary operating budget and we will be working with the President Scott and her team to finalize the budget. Also, we have been advised that the FY2021

preliminary operating budget can be approved by the board because it is a preliminary budget. We know that there is work that has to be done on the budget before it is in a position for final approval by the board.

**Action Items**

**a. FY 2021 Preliminary Operating Budget Resolution**

**Trustee Carr moved to approve the FY 2021 Preliminary Operating Budget Resolution. Trustee Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows:**

**Ayes: 6 Nays: 1 (Student Trustee Singleton)**

Larry Owens presented the **FY 2022 Operating and Capital Budget Request Resolution.**

**b. FY 2022 Operating and Capital Budget Request Resolution**

**Trustee Carr moved to approve the FY 2022 Operating and Capital Budget Request Resolution. Trustee Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows:**

**Ayes: 7 Nays: 0**

NCAA Sport Sponsorship for FY21 Resolution

Elliot Charles, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics presented the NCAA Sports Sponsorship for FY 21 Resolution.

All 15 of CSU intercollegiate athletic programs were examined.

We understand that the timing is very difficult regarding the recommendation and decision and we will strive to continue to improve how we communicate with our student athletes. We recognize the frustration and impact that this decision will have on our student athletes. We are committed to providing a quality student athlete experience across all sports that we sponsor.

We look to discontinue sponsorship of the sport of baseball, and look to sponsor men's soccer for the 2020-21 year and continue to meet any remaining requirements for the sponsorship of men's soccer in subsequent years.

My priority when coming in as an athletic director six months ago was to revitalizing CSU athletics into a competitive NCAA Division One Intercollegiate Athletic Program.

After working with the Office of the President and a consultant to conduct an intensive strategic planning process that resulted in a multi-phase plan, I made a recommendation to discontinue sports sponsorship for the sport of baseball and assess the addition of the sport of men's soccer.

This recommendation will improve the overall quality and competitiveness of all of our athletic programs. Allowing for our institution to devise a sustainable revenue model for CSU athletics.

The Championship Era Plan was developed with the phase and emphasis on the student first approach, personal investment, innovation, and focuses on the athletics student support services needed across all 15 athletic programs. A key element of the plan focuses on the development of the men's and women's basketball programs While considering the optimal strategy for all sport programs that will improve the overall strategic position of CSU athletics.

While decisions that impact educational and athletic opportunities are extremely difficult. CSU athletics is committed to ensuring that student athletes will receive opportunities to continue their undergraduate educational pursuits as Chicago State University.

CSU athletics will continue to shape a strategic approach that provides all student athletes with the foundational level of support that is necessary to garner success in both the academic and intercollegiate athletic settings. We are working diligently to support our student athletes during this time. This change and will continue to support baseball student athletes that intend to continue full-time enrollment in the undergraduate and their undergraduate studies at Chicago State University.

Further, we will work with those students during the scholarship renewal process to provide communication regarding their intent to re-enroll, if they choose to do so and we will continue to assist them with transfer portal registration. Any other material needs related to transferring and our waivers for eligibility at their subsequent institution.

We will continue to support student athlete request and facilitate facility access for students that need to access any equipment and or property. While this decision is very difficult, we want to ensure the athletics can shape a strategic approach that provides all student athletes with the foundational level support necessary to garner success in both the academic and intercollegiate athletic settings. Chicago State athletics evaluated the overall competitiveness and program structure of the baseball program which began in 1965, and began competition at the NCAA Division one level in 1989. In the past six seasons of competition Chicago State baseball has not won more than 13 games. The performance coupled with the cost to run the program, and the other competing needs within the department contributed to our decision to close the program.

We look to begin sponsoring men's soccer for the 2020/21 academic year. Out of the 160 plus high schools in Chicago Public Schools, there are 73 boys' soccer programs. There are 464 high schools that sponsored boys' soccer program statewide.

Chicago State will continue to focus on providing competitive NCAA Division one athletic opportunities to diverse array of perspective.

Lastly, discontinuation of NCAA division one sports sponsorship for the sport of baseball will result in an annual projected expense reduction of more than \$500,000 for Chicago State University. Reduction and operational expenses will result in the allocation of resources or to central student athletes support services, and critical operational needs to maintain NCAA Division one membership and developed competitive sport programs.

This concludes the director of athletics reports on the on the CSU athletics, Sports Sponsorship proposal, and recommendation for fiscal year 2021.

Trustee Mobley Smith commented that she is totally sensitive to and understand the financial implications and long range implications of making decisions like this. She is concern with listening to how this process unfolded in particular whether or whether not it was inclusive. Whether this evaluation process of program evaluation occurred in a vacuum and void, or whether it occurred within listening to our constituencies and given due consideration. Trustee Mobley Smith expressed concern with how the elimination of the baseball program was communicated.

Trustee Singleton stated that he has been receiving email regarding the elimination of the baseball team and the effect it will have on the student athlete and their families. He raised concern about action

being taken before students were made aware. He stated that from the board regulations that under Section I of our procedures subsection E. Adoption amendment repealed. Number 3 says:

Board action on a proposal for adoption, amendment, or repeal shall not be taken before the President distributes copies of the proposal to appropriate faculty, staff, and student groups. Up to ten days prior to the Board meeting at which action is to be taken, members of the faculty, staff, and student body may submit their views and comments in writing to the President for distribution to the Board together with the President's recommendation for action on the proposal.

General Counsel Kelly responded that the rules and regulations, that Trustee Singleton quoted do not apply to this resolution.

Chair Zopp stated that we have heard a lot from players, and player's families, and coaches, around how this process was handled. We could have done and should have done a better job in communicating to the families that were affected, both at the decision, when the decision was being considered, and when the recommendation is going to be made in a timely fashion. And, we did not do that. For those failure to communicate, I will apologize to the parents impacted. Chair Zopp noted that she was distressed to learn that an e-mail went out, terminating scholarships before we made our decision. The fact of the matter is that this is a difficult decision. There's no good answer here. People have committed time to working on, have come to the school, and contributed to the school, and want to continue to play here.

Chair Zopp talked about the financial challenges and that CSU does not have the kind of resources that we've had in the past. But we want to continue to support student athletics. We want to continue to support it as high level as possible with the resources the university has available and that requires us to make a difficult decision to switch to a sport where we think we can be competitive. All using less resources, which enables us to provide more for other students and other assets.

Chair Zopp stated that the Board understand how challenging this is and that the timing is very difficult. So, what I directly asked President Scott to do is to ensure that those of you receive as much information as possible, in terms of providing the resources and supports that you need to be able to make decisions about your transition.

Trustee Carr stated as a former division one student athlete he went to college on a scholarship and I have tremendous empathy for the student athletes and Chicago State. Also, as a board member of the United States Track Appeal Association, I have tremendous empathy for student athletes. Clearly, we could have done a better job in communicating this process, especially to student athletes that are affected.

Trustee Clay stated that it is always imperative to be fully transparent with both the student body. In holding true to our processes that are put in place to protect the students in our institution. I hesitate to say that things could have been done in a better manner, but a different manner I think would be more appropriate. I myself personally have had to deal with this pandemic on many levels and I have seen numerous institutions make very difficult decisions and I think that we should consider that in terms of why this decision was made. And in terms of how we define our processes moving forward and I would personally apologize to any of the students who were abruptly affected.

Trustee Singleton stated that the majority of the students on the team are paying 100% of their tuition out of pocket. He questioned if the process was followed according to the board regulations.

GC Kelly stated that the authority for board to make this decision comes from an Article IV Section M of the Board Regulation subsection one, which provides that the president shall inform the board in

advance of any action or proposal which significantly affects the Intercollegiate athletics program, including proposals to change conferences, athletic associations, or divisions, or to add or drop sports.

GC Kelly stated that the section that Trustee Singleton was referring to has to deal with adding or deleting programs, which would require a full publication of that throughout the university community.

### **Action Item**

#### **a. NCAA Sport Sponsorship for FY21 Resolution**

Trustee Carr moved to approve the NCAA Sport Sponsorship for FY21 Resolution.

Trustee McDade seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: 5 Nays: 2 (Trustee Mobley Smith and Student Trustee Singleton)

Darrious Hilmon presented the Chicago State University Foundation Update.

On behalf of the Foundation and our Foundation board thanked Trustee Carr for his generous gift of support.

The Joyce Foundation has approved a \$150,000 grant proposal, and the foundation that wishes to remain anonymous did a fast track proposal for \$50,000 in support of the Foundation. We are waiting for a response now from Crown Family Philanthropy.

Mr. Hilmon gave an update on the various proposal and partnerships, including a proposal to the Equity Education, the Illinois Science and Innovation Fund, and the Jack and Jill Foundation, both renewed grants.

The 1st GEN Scholarship Gala. The gala was an in person event that was originally planned for May 9<sup>th</sup>, we very quickly moved to make it, not just a virtual event but a live to tape produced from CSU's High Definition Studio. We have put together a program that will link to interviews performances

We continue to work with our alumni community champions. That is part of our commitment as a partner to the University.

On May 27th, Foundation hosted its first virtual experience. The Balancing Act Black women in the C Suite Bias and we had more than 200 guests attend the virtual experience from around the country.

The Chicago State Foundation Present Series, this series bring a coffee table or kitchen table conversations on relevant topics.

On Saturday, May, 30th we hosted a virtual visioning session with a select group of CSU alum to discuss ways to improve the quality and quantity of alumni engagement in FY 21 and beyond.

Despite the postponement of our gala into the next fiscal year. More than a \$500K in scholarships has been given to our student scholars.

A discussion was held regarding the unrest in the country.

### **Action Items**

#### **a. Appointment of Directors to CSU Foundation Resolution**

**Trustee Zopp moved to approve Appointment of Directors to CSU Foundation Resolution**

**Trustee Clay seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows: Ayes: 7 Nays: 0**

b. **Approval of Previous Minutes**

**Trustee Zopp moved to approve February 20, 2020, March 30, 2020, and May 18, 2020 meeting minutes. Trustee McDade seconded the motion. Ayes: 7 Nays: 0**

7. Recess into Executive Session Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Trustee Zopp moved to recess into Executive Session. Trustee Mobley Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows: Ayes 7 Nays 0

8. Reconvene into Open Session

Trustee Zopp moved to reconvene into Open Session. Trustee McDade seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows: Ayes 7 Nays 0

9. Adjournment

The June 22, 2020 special meeting of the Chicago State University Board of Trustees was adjourned