

CSU Board of Trustees  
Full Board Meeting and Board Retreat  
Open Session Minutes  
September 9, 2024  
9:08 a.m.- 1:15 p.m.

**Board Members Present**

Trustee Andrea Zopp, Chair  
Trustee Angelique David, Vice-Chair  
Trustee Allison Bolden  
Trustee Jason Quiara  
Trustee Cory Thames

**Board Members Absent**

Trustee Cheryl Watkins, Secretary

**Others Present**

President Zaldwaynaka (Z) Scott, JD  
Teresa L. Bates, Executive Director of Board Relations  
Sonya Miller, Vice President, Legal Affairs, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer  
Dr. Sonja Feist-Price, Provost & Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs  
Nicole Latimer-Williams, Vice President of Financial Operations and Chief Financial Officer  
Oscar Rodriguez, Vice President, Enrollment Management  
Melanie Sillas, Executive Director, Chicago State Foundation  
Antwone Cameron, Dean, Student Affairs

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Zopp called the meeting 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, in the following physical locations: the Student Union Building, Library, Cook Administration Building and online.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Chair Zopp moved to approve the agenda. Trustee Thames seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

**5. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

## 6. Approval of Minutes

**Chair Zopp moved to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2024, meeting. Trustee Quiara seconded the motion.**

*Trustee Bolden-Yes*  
*Trustee David -Yes*  
*Trustee Quiara-Yes*  
*Trustee Thames-Yes*  
*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 5 Nays 0**

## 7. President's Remarks

President Scott welcomed everyone to campus for the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year. She also welcomed the new student trustee, Allison Bolden to her first meeting. President Scott updated the Board on activities that happened on campus at the beginning of the fall semester.

- CSU had a wonderful week of back-to-school activities. The Welcome Back Parade had two marshals. Michael Harris, Chicago State Foundation Board Director and 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman Michelle Harris. This was the 7<sup>th</sup> Back to School Parade.
- President Scott recognized the VP of Enrollment, Oscar Rodriguez, who is celebrating two (2) years at Chicago State University. VP Rodriguez has been working to develop a strategic plan for Enrollment.
- President Scott also mentioned the final budget and the planning and work that went into finalizing the budget.
- President Scott discussed an upcoming trip to Washington D.C. for a briefing along with the Coalition of Predominantly Black Institutions and the Chicago Urban League. The Congressional Black Caucus will also hold a meeting during CSU's time in Washington D.C.
- The strategic planning committee has begun its work. The current strategic plan expires in 2025. The goal is to present a new strategic plan at the 2025 June Board meeting.

## 8. Board Reports

### *Academic Affairs*

Chair Zopp called on Dr. Sonja Feist-Price, Provost, and Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, to give the Academic Affairs report.

- Dr Feist-Price discussed a two (2)-day retreat that was held with deans and chairs to discuss goals for the upcoming academic year. The fall Faculty Institute Day had 121 faculty attend and Dr. Feist-Price listed the various topics that were discussed during the event. There were 20 new faculty members as well. Faculty is doing amazing research which in turn helps them engage students in their classrooms. Dr. Feist Price also talked

about the research dollars that the faculty receive as well as conferences where the faculty presented their work.

- Dr. Feist-Price also talked about new hires Dr. Brandle Blakely who will be the director of the CTRE and Dr. Kristy Mardis who will be the Associate Provost of Academic Innovation. She also discussed the National Search for the Dean of Health Sciences and Pharmacy. Finally, she mentioned the 2+2+2 programs in conjunction with the City Colleges of Chicago and the Chicago Public Schools.
- Dr. Feist-Price presented a Professor Emeritus resolution for Dr. Kevin Swier. She provided Dr. Swier's credentials.

**Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve the resolution for Professor Emeritus for Dr. Kevin Swier. Trustee Angelique David moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Cory Thames seconded the motion.**

*Trustee David-Yes*  
*Trustee Quiara-Yes*  
*Trustee Thames-Yes*  
*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 4 Nays 0**

Chair Zopp then called on Dr. Devi Potluri to give an update on the graduate school. Dr. Potluri discussed how the graduate admissions process works and the fall enrollment numbers. Dr. Potluri also detailed the enrollment strategies for recruitment and enrollment. These strategies included virtual open houses and information sessions, personal phone calls, and flexible deadlines. He also discussed various curriculum and policy changes.

Finally, he mentioned that 75 returning student scholarships were awarded along with 12 graduate assistantships. After his presentation, he clarified further the fall enrollment numbers and his goals for new student numbers. Dr. Potluri also discussed why graduate admissions is separate from CSU's Enrollment Management department. There was also discussion about recruitment opportunities for the graduate school.

### ***Student Trustee Report***

Trustee Allison Bolden gave her Student Trustee Report. Trustee Bolden introduced herself and the activities that she is involved in on-campus. She mentioned the movie she produced for the media arts program, and she discussed the Clubs and Orgs Fair that took place on campus.

### ***Finance and Audit Committee***

Trustee Angelique David presided over the Finance and Audit Committee report. Trustee David called on Nicole Latimer-Wiliams, Vice President of Financial Operations and Chief Financial Officer, to present.

The total FY 2025 state appropriation is \$43,437,700, broken down as follows:

- \$40,130,700 from the Education Assistance Fund,
- \$3,000,000 from the CSU Education Improvement Fund, and
- \$307,000 from the General Professions Dedicated Fund for the pharmacy program.

The FY 2025 state appropriation is increased by \$786,900 or 1.84% over the FY 2024 appropriation level, or 2% increase in the Education Assistance Fund.

FY 2025 estimated spending from the Local Income Fund (LI) in the sum of \$20,754,700 is built on projected net tuition, fees, and scholarships of \$18.7 million based on enrollment projection of 53,395 credit hours, an estimated 10% increased over FY 2024, primarily due to recruitment and marketing university initiatives. The spending plan for fund LI includes \$2,052,800 in expenses that will be covered with salary savings from vacant positions carryover funds.

Revenue projections in the Non-Appropriated Funds total \$13,955,100 includes student mandatory fee income and revenues from auxiliary operations. Total operating budget from non-appropriated funds is \$15,432,900. The spending plan for non-appropriated funds shows a projected budget gap of \$1.5M, which will be covered with one-time prior-year carryover funds. The projected gaps are primarily due to the Athletics and operational support of the Childcare Development Center.

CSU estimates that it will receive \$16,665,700 in non-financial aid, non-capital funds from federal, state, and city grants in FY 2025.

The FY 2025 operating budget (spending plan) is \$96,291,000 from all sources of funds.

**Trustee David asked for a motion to approve the FY25 Final Operating Budget. Trustee Andrea Zopp moved to approve the final budget. Trustee Cory Thames seconded the motion.**

*Trustee Bolden-Yes*  
*Trustee David-Yes*  
*Trustee Quiara-Yes*  
*Trustee Thames-Yes*  
*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 5 Nays 0**

Ms. Latimer-Williams presented her next resolution regarding the FY2026 Operating and Capital Budget Requests.

1. After review of the FY 2025 state appropriation and request from Illinois Board of Higher Education for an updated Capital Project listing the university has updated the FY'2026 requests as follows:
  - Increased the operating priorities supporting students, faculty and strengthening technology on campus. The additional requests totaling \$200K will increase the operating

- budget request from \$4.3 million to \$4.5 million. Exhibit A1-A.
  - Add four (4) new Capital Projects, increasing the original request from \$23.4 million to \$34.1 million. Exhibit B1-A.
2. The amended requests will increase the operating budget priorities to include technology expansion resulting in an increase in the operating budget from \$4.3 million to \$4.5 million.
  3. The amended capital projects requests will increase the capital listing from four to seven projects and increase the capital request from \$23.4 million to \$34.1 million. The requests include updating pricing for the Media Teaching Facility and three new projects; Campus Wide Ceiling Tile replacement, replacement of the security gate arms and campus wide mechanical renovations and repair projects.

**Trustee David asked for a motion to approve the FY26 Operating and Capital Budget Request Resolution. Trustee Cory Thames moved to approve the FY26 Operating and Capital Budget requests resolution. Trustee Andrea Zopp seconded the motion.**

*Trustee Bolden-Yes*  
*Trustee David-Yes*  
*Trustee Quiara-Yes*  
*Trustee Thames-Yes*  
*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 5 Nays 0**

The Finance and Audit Committee concluded, and the meeting was turned over to Chair Zopp.

### ***Did You Know***

Chair Zopp called on Antwone Cameron, Dean of Student Affairs to report. Dean Cameron introduced himself and he introduced his staff and their responsibilities. He was very excited to be fully staffed after rebuilding the student affairs department. The students seem to be excited about the work that Student Affairs is doing and their goal is to meet students where they are. His focus is on student retention, student engagement and belonging, student wellness, and career readiness. Dean Cameron described various events and programs that have happened that are geared towards those four areas.

Dean Cameron also discussed his goals for this year. The goals included growing student leadership programs, building career development pathways, and creating holistic student well-being. He gave several examples of programs that Student Affairs implemented to achieve those goals. Dean Cameron also discussed his strategies to engage students who do not live on campus.

Dean Cameron ended his presentation with photos from events such as the Bud Biliken Parade, a mayoral visit, the career fair, the back to school parade and the reopening of the food pantry.

### ***Enrollment Management***

Chair Zopp called on Vice President Oscar Rodriguez to report on Enrollment Management. Mr. Rodriguez discussed the issues with the current year's FAFSA process. Mr. Rodriguez discussed Enrollment Management's Fall 2024 accomplishments which included an increase in applications and students admitted. Also, Chicago State University awarded approximately \$38M in Financial Aid.

Mr. Rodriguez also detailed Fall 2025 goals. These goals include increasing completed applications by 50%, increasing enrollment confirmations by 3%, increasing campus visits by 15% and increasing the diversity of the students on campus. New policies and programs for FY25 include reinstating the application fee, starting a guaranteed admission program with the City Colleges of Chicago, hiring a bilingual enrollment specialist, and expanding print marketing materials.

### ***Legal Affairs***

Chair Zopp called on Sonya Miller, General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer and Vice President of Legal Affairs to present an update on the Board Regulations and Policies. Ms. Miller presented a resolution to return the previous Section 2 which enumerates specific contracts and business operations that the President can authorize as appropriate. This is specifically to grants and contracts and will make operations more efficient for the university.

**Chair Zopp asked for a motion to accept the resolution on the Board Regulations and Policies. Trustee Angelique David moved to accept the resolution. Trustee Jason Quiara seconded the motion.**

*Trustee Bolden-Yes*  
*Trustee David-Yes*  
*Trustee Quiara-Yes*  
*Trustee Thames-Yes*  
*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 5 Nays 0**

### ***Chicago State Foundation Report***

Chair Zopp called on Melanie Sillas to present on the Chicago State Foundation. Ms. Sillas talked about the Corporate/Foundation area. The Foundation did fall just shy of their goal of \$2M. The Foundation did overperform in foundations, but fell short of corporate giving. Ms. Sillas discussed that the Board of Directors will undergo training to learn to talk about Chicago State University as a whole and not just scholarship programs.

Ms. Sillas discussed the 1<sup>st</sup> Gen Gala. The Foundation raised \$437,500 towards the gala. The hope is for the Foundation to be at \$500,000 before the gala on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Sillas discussed corporate donations which included Rivers Casino and Jacobs. Ms. Sillas has upcoming meetings with Schrieber Philanthropy and Schneider National. The Board of

Directors has increased their giving by \$191K over this year and Ms. Sillas was excited to see the increase and the Board being more engaged.

**Chair Zopp then moved that the Board convene into Executive Session to discuss Litigation, Real Estate and Employment Matters. Trustee David seconded the motion.**

*Trustee Bolden-Yes*  
*Trustee David-Yes*  
*Trustee Quiara-Yes*  
*Trustee Thames-Yes*  
*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 5 Nays 0**

### **Return to Open Session**

**Chair Zopp moved to reconvene into Open session. Trustee Thames seconded the motion.**

*Trustee Bolden-Yes*  
*Trustee David-Yes*  
*Trustee Quiara-Yes*  
*Trustee Thames-Yes*  
*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 5 Nays 0**

The meeting continued with the Board Retreat, the following departments presented:

- External Affairs
- Institutional Effectiveness and Research
- Administrative Services

**Chair Zopp moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee David seconded the motion.**

*Trustee Bolden-Yes*  
*Trustee David-Yes*  
*Trustee Quiara-Yes*  
*Trustee Thames-Yes*  
*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 5 Nays 0**

*The September 9, 2024, Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.*