

CSU Board of Trustees
Full Board Meeting and Board Retreat
Open Session Minutes
March 10, 2025
9:32 a.m.- 11:38 a.m.

Board Members Present

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

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
Dr. Edmundo Garcia Solis-Associate Vice Provost, Grants and Research

1. Call to Order

Chair Zopp called the meeting to order.

2. Roll Call

A quorum was verified, and a 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 Quiara seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

5. Public Comment

Ms. Bates called Pastor Doyle Landry to present his public comment. He discussed mothers and helping them obtain a college degree.

6. Approval of Minutes

Chair Zopp moved to approve the meeting minutes from December 9, 2024. Trustee David seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

7. President's Remarks

President Scott welcomed the Board to the first meeting of the calendar year and reflected on several key highlights. She began by sharing that she recently delivered her 7th State of the University address and expressed her appreciation for the trustees' attendance. The President also highlighted the university's Black History Month programs, which included a Presidential Series focused on significant topics. Additionally, she discussed equity funding in Illinois, noting a new policy that has the potential to close funding gaps for institutions. President Scott emphasized her role in serving on the commission overseeing this initiative.

She further mentioned a recent visit to CSU's campus by State Representative Mary Beth Canty, who toured the Child Development Center, and the Science Lab. President Scott also provided an update on the meeting with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) that took place in December. Looking ahead, she announced that she will present to the House Appropriations Committee in April.

In addition to these updates, President Scott briefly discussed the recent executive orders affecting higher education and the impact of the Dear Colleague letter, highlighting their relevance and implications for CSU's policies and operations. She also informed the Board that three grants had been cancelled. In response, CSU is currently analyzing its grant portfolio, and a risk assessment committee has been created to assess and mitigate potential risks moving forward. The President emphasized her commitment to keeping the Board informed of any significant updates regarding these developments.

8. Board Reports

Academic Affairs

Chair Zopp called on Dr. Sonja Feist-Price, Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, to present the Academic Affairs report. Dr. Feist-Price provided an update on the nursing accreditation visit, which took place from March 3rd to March 5th. She also shared highlights from her recent visit to Washington D.C., where she was a guest of Congressman

Jonathan Jackson. During her trip, Dr. Feist-Price, along with student trustee Allison Bolden, attended the State of the Union address and engaged with a number of influential figures. Additionally, the Provost updated the Board on the ongoing search for the Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Pharmacy. She also mentioned the posthumous degree that will be awarded to Brenda Cunningham's family at Commencement. Lastly, Dr. Feist-Price provided the credentials of the three honorary degree candidates.

After her report, Dr. Feist Price presented her resolution for Professor Emeritus status for Professor Vincent Osaghae along with Professor Osaghae's credentials.

Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve the resolution for Professor Emeritus for Professor Vincent Osaghae. Trustee Cory Thames moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Angelique David seconded the motion.

Trustee David-Yes

Trustee Quiara-Yes

Trustee Thames-Yes

Trustee Watkins-Yes

Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 5 Nays 0

Dr. Feist Price presented her resolution for James Reynolds Jr, Christine Houston, and Karen Freeman-Wilson. as honorary degree recipients.

Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve the resolution for James Reynolds Jr, Christine Houston, and Karen Freeman-Wilson to receive the honorary doctorate degree. Trustee Angelique David moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Cory Thames seconded the motion.

Trustee Bolden-Yes

Trustee David-Yes

Trustee Quiara-Yes

Trustee Thames-Yes

Trustee Watkins-Yes

Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

Student Trustee Report

Trustee Allison Bolden gave her Student Trustee Report. She discussed events that happened during Black History Month including the Black History Month Heritage Ball. She also discussed her visit to Washington D.C. with Provost Feist-Price. She mentioned future events

including a town hall with elected representatives, CSU Advocacy Day in Springfield and CSU's career fair.

Strategic Plan Update

Chair Zopp called on Dr. Edmundo Garcia-Solis to provide an update on the strategic plan. Dr. Garcia expressed his gratitude to the committee for their dedicated efforts and proceeded to review each of the goals outlined in the plan. He also shared the timeline and implementation strategy for the upcoming phases. In response to a question about the relationship between the existing strategic plan and the new one, Dr. Garcia-Solis was asked to prepare a summary for a future board meeting. This summary will highlight the starting point of the current plan, and the achievements made under its framework.

Finance and Audit Committee

Chair Zopp handed the meeting over to Trustee David, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee. Trustee David then called on Nicole Latimer Williams, Vice President of Financial Operations and Chief Financial Officer, to present her report and resolutions. Ms. Latimer-Williams provided an overview of CSU's recent technology investments and highlighted the vulnerability of funding from sponsored awards and grants. She also discussed a proposed 5% increase in undergraduate tuition, set to take effect in Fall 2025. This increase would result in an annual rise of \$510 per credit hour, bringing the total tuition to \$10,560.

Trustee David called for a motion to approve the resolution for a 5% increase in undergraduate tuition. Trustee Andrea Zopp moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Jason Quiara seconded the motion.

Trustee Bolden-Yes

Trustee David-Yes

Trustee Quiara-Yes

Trustee Thames-Yes

Trustee Watkins-Yes

Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

Trustee David asked Ms. Latimer Williams to continue with her next resolution. Ms. Latimer Williams presented a resolution to increase the mandatory fees by 3%. This would bring the mandatory fee from \$117 to \$121 per credit hour.

Trustee David called for a motion to approve the resolution for a 3% increase in mandatory fees. Trustee Andrea Zopp moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Jason Quiara seconded the motion.

Trustee Bolden-Yes

Trustee David-Yes

Trustee Quiara-Yes

Trustee Thames-Yes

Trustee Watkins-Yes

Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

Did You Know

Chair Zopp called on Dr. Steven Rowe to provide an update on the Honors College. Dean Rowe outlined the key characteristics of the Honors College, noting that there are currently 71 students enrolled. He explained the benefits of participating in the Honors College, detailing the application process and the minimum academic criteria required for admission. Additionally, Dean Rowe highlighted several notable alumni from the Honors College

Enrollment Management

Chair Zopp called on Oscar Rodriguez, Vice President of Enrollment Management, to present on Enrollment Management. Mr. Rodriguez began by sharing key facts about the Spring 2025 undergraduate student enrollment. He then reviewed the results of the Fall 2024 decline survey, which highlighted several reasons why students chose not to accept their admission offers. Moving on to the Fall 2025 applications, he reported a significant increase in confirmed attendance, from 28 students in Fall 2024 to 190 students for Fall 2025. Lastly, Mr. Rodriguez outlined the plans for outreach efforts and financial aid for Fall 2025.

Chicago State Foundation Report

Chair Zopp called on Melanie Sillas to present on the Chicago State Foundation. Ms. Sillas gave an update on her FY25 Strategic Plan. Ms. Sillas identified the honorary chairs for the 1st Gen Gala and the Cougar Servant Leader awardee Robin Steans. The fundraising goal is \$700K.

9. Recess into Executive Session

Chair Zopp moved that the Board convene into Executive Session to discuss Litigation Matters. Trustee Jason Quiara seconded the motion.

Trustee Bolden-Yes

Trustee David-Yes

Trustee Quiara-Yes

Trustee Thames-Yes

Trustee Watkins-Yes

Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

10. Return to Open Session

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

Trustee Bolden-Yes

Trustee David-Yes

Trustee Quiara-Yes

Trustee Thames-Yes

Trustee Watkins-Yes

Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

The board took no action in the executive session, which required action in the open session.

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

Trustee Bolden-Yes

Trustee David-Yes

Trustee Quiara-Yes

Trustee Thames-Yes

Trustee Watkins-Yes

Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

The March 10, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.