

CSU Board of Trustees
Full Board Meeting
Open Session Minutes
May 19, 2025
9:08 a.m.-10:35 a.m.

Board Members Present

Trustee Andrea Zopp, Chair
Trustee Angelique David, Vice-Chair
Trustee Cheryl Watkins, Secretary
Trustee Dixie Adams
Trustee Allison Bolden
Trustee Michelle Gooze-Miller
Trustee Jason Quiara

Others Present

President Zaldwaynaka (Z) Scott, JD
Teresa L. Bates, Executive Director of Board Relations
Jason Carter, Interim Vice President, Legal Affairs, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer
Dr. Sonja Feist-Price, Provost & Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs

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 Edwin Castro-White for public comment. Mr. Castro-White talked about his company Castro Success Solutions. His company works with LGBTQ, Black and Brown youth. Ms. Bates then called Pastor Doyle Landry. Pastor Landry discussed people in poverty. He also gave kudos to President Scott for advocating for that population.

6. Approval of Minutes

Chair Zopp moved to approve the meeting minutes from March 10, 2025. Trustee David seconded the motion.

*Trustee Adams-Yes
Trustee Bolden-Yes
Trustee David -Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes*

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 7 Nays, 0

7. President's Remarks

President Zaldwaynaka "Z" Scott began her remarks by extending a warm welcome to the Board of Trustees and expressing her gratitude for their continued support following the conclusion of the 2024-2025 academic year. She also welcomed the two newest members of the Board, Dixie Lee Adams, and Michelle Gooze-Miller, both of whom were recently appointed by Governor Pritzker.

President Scott provided a comprehensive update on recent legislative and budget advocacy efforts, including her testimony before both the Illinois Senate and House of Representatives. She highlighted her meetings with lawmakers to advocate for the university and request targeted funding for student success, IT infrastructure, and inflation-related needs. Additionally, she spoke in support of a proposed equitable funding formula for Illinois public universities, underscoring its potential to provide more equitable opportunities for all students.

She also reflected on the success of the university's 372nd Commencement ceremony, which took place the previous Thursday. During the ceremony, honorary degrees were awarded to Karen Freeman-Wilson, Christine Houston, and Jim Reynolds, with Freeman-Wilson delivering the keynote address. President Scott thanked Trustee Watkins for representing the Board at the event.

In closing, President Scott invited the Board to ask any questions. Trustee Quiara inquired about the potential for further cuts to federal grants. President Scott responded by discussing proposed changes to the Pell Grant program. Noting that 89% of CSU students currently receive the Pell Grant, she explained that while the Pell Grant will continue, the federal government is considering a change to the required credit hours, increasing the minimum from 12 to 15. This could pose challenges for students who work while attending school. President Scott also mentioned proposed changes to student loan interest rates, where interest would begin accumulating immediately. CSU will continue to closely monitor these federal developments.

To further discuss potential policy changes, President Scott invited Erin Steva, Vice President of External Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, to address the Board. Ms. Steva provided an overview of a proposal allowing community colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees. She noted that CSU has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the City Colleges of Chicago and is closely monitoring developments related to this proposal.

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 presented a resolution for Professor Emeritus for Dr. Devi Potluri and Dr. Walid Al-Ghoul. She presented their credentials.

Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve the resolution for Professor Emeritus for Dr. Devi Potluri and Dr. Walid Al-Ghoul. Trustee Angelique David moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Dixie Adams seconded the motion.

Trustee Adams-Yes

Trustee David -Yes

Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes

Trustee Quiara-Yes

Trustee Watkins-Yes

Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

Dr. Feist Price presented her resolution for faculty tenure for Dr. Leifu Jiang, Dr. Shirlyn Garrett-Wilson, Dr. Nicole Lavalais, Dr. George Smith Jr., Dr. Natalie Szabo, and Dr. Michael Wannah. She presented their credentials and accomplishments.

Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve the resolution for tenure for Dr. Leifu Jiang, Dr. Shirlyn Garrett-Wilson, Dr. Nicole Lavalais, Dr. George Smith Jr., Dr. Natalie Szabo, and Dr. Michael Wannah. Trustee Angelique David moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Dixie Adams seconded the motion.

Trustee Adams-Yes

Trustee David -Yes

Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes

Trustee Quiara-Yes

Trustee Watkins-Yes

Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

9. Recess into Executive Session

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

*Trustee Adams-Yes
Trustee Bolden-Yes
Trustee David -Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes*

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 7 Nays, 0

10. Return to Open Session

Chair Zopp moved to reconvene into Open session. Trustee Angelique David seconded the motion.

*Trustee Adams-Yes
Trustee Bolden-Yes
Trustee David -Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes*

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 7 Nays, 0

The board took action in the executive session, which required action in the open session.

The Board received a resolution regarding purchasing two real estate properties.

Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding the purchase of two real estate properties. Trustee Jason Quiara moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Gooze-Miller seconded the motion.

*Trustee Adams-Yes
Trustee Bolden-Yes
Trustee David -Yes*

*Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes*

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 7 Nays, 0

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

*Trustee Adams-Yes
Trustee Bolden-Yes
Trustee David -Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes*

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 7 Nays, 0

The May 19, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.