

CSU Board of Trustees
Full Board Meeting and Board Retreat
Open Session Minutes
June 23, 2025
9:38 a.m.-12:02 p.m.

Board Members Present

Trustee Andrea Zopp, Chair
Trustee Angelique David, Vice-Chair
Trustee Cheryl Watkins, Secretary-Attended Virtually
Trustee Michelle Gooze-Miller
Trustee Jason Quiara
Trustee John Robak
Trustee Cheryl Watkins

Members Absent

Trustee Dixie Adams
Trustee Allison Bolden

Others Present

President Zalwaynaka (Z) Scott, JD
Teresa L. Bates, Executive Director of Board Relations
Jason Carter, Interim Vice President, Legal Affairs, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer-Attended Virtually
Dr. Sonja Feist-Price, Provost & Senior Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs
Dr. Edmundo Garcia-Solis, Associate Vice Provost of Grants and Research
Nicole Latimer-Williams, Vice President of Financial Operations and Chief Financial Officer
Oscar Rodriguez, Vice President, Enrollment Management
Erin Steva, Vice President, External Affairs and Strategic Initiatives
Melanie Sillas, Executive Director, Chicago State Foundation

1. Call to Order

Chair Andrea Zopp called the meeting to order. Trustee Cheryl Watkins requested to attend the meeting virtually. Chair Zopp moved to allow Trustee Watkins to attend the meeting virtually. Trustee Angelique David seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

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

There was one change to the agenda and that was the addition of the Internal Audit Charter Resolution. Chair Andrea Zopp moved to approve the agenda. Trustee Jasom Quiara seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Approval of Minutes

Chair Andrea Zopp moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 19, 2025. Trustee Angelique David seconded the motion.

Trustee David -Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Robak-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

7. President's Remarks

President Scott welcomed the trustees to campus for the final meeting of the 2024–2025 academic year and introduced the newest trustee, Mr. John Robak. She provided background on Trustee Robak, highlighting his long-standing involvement with the Chicago State University Foundation.

President Scott reviewed recent campus events, including alumni meetings, faculty town halls, new employee luncheons, and *Jazz on the Grass*. She emphasized the importance of hosting and leading external events and engagements, noting how these strengthen CSU's brand and reputation while creating opportunities for funding, partnerships, and student success initiatives.

She highlighted CSU's growing partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) and other Predominantly Black Institutions (PBIs) through participation in fly-ins to Washington, D.C., congressional visits, and engagement with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund. She also shared the university's expanding nonprofit collaborations with organizations such as the National Urban League, Braven, and Hope Chicago. Corporate and business partnerships remain strong, providing valuable student internship and career readiness opportunities with sponsors such as ComEd, United Airlines, and Exelon.

President Scott further reported on her recent speaking engagements, including invitations from the Black Women's Lawyer Association of Greater Chicago, the Commercial Club of Chicago, and Chicago Women in Philanthropy, along with other keynote opportunities.

She noted that CSU has received notable media coverage. WBEZ and the *Chicago Sun-Times* featured her remarks on the impact of federal research funding cuts, and she published an op-ed in *Crain's Chicago Business* outlining CSU's readiness to contribute to Chicago's quantum future. In addition, she was interviewed on *WTTW Black Voices* alongside CSU's new football coach, Bobby Rome II, to discuss the launch of the university's football program.

In closing, President Scott expressed enthusiasm for the addition of new trustees to the Board and thanked all trustees for their continued dedication and support of Chicago State University.

8. Board Reports

Academic Affairs

Chair Andrea 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 new academic pathways and credentials including an accelerated 4+1 MBA option and streamlined dual-degree opportunities. Finally she spoke about the upcoming HLC visit in 2027. The committees are currently engaged in drafting preliminary reports to be submitted in the summer.

After her report, Dr. Edmundo Garcia-Solis presented a grants update. There are currently 73 active grants (not counting Federal Pell, Assistance, and Student Loans). Dr. Solis gave an update on grants that were cancelled. The cancelled grants and programs were related to Education, Diversity and Inclusion, Climate and Gender Studies. The university is now funding key initiatives that were previously supported by the cancelled grants. The university has not lost any research grants at this time and will maintain the Research University Carnegie Classification for 2026. The university has submitted 11 proposals since January and have been awarded six grants.

Strategic Plan Update

Chair Andrea Zopp invited Dr. Edmundo Garcia-Solis, Associate Vice Provost of Grants and Research to provide an update on the strategic plan. Dr. Garcia-Solis thanked the committee for its work and reviewed the process leading to the final plan. He outlined the implementation timeline through June 2025, noting that meetings with key stakeholders and university leadership will occur from March through June 2025. He requested Board approval of the 2025–2030 strategic plan.

Chair Andrea Zopp called for a motion to approve the 2025-2030 Chicago State University strategic plan. Trustee Jason Quiara moved to approve the strategic plan. Trustee Michelle Gooze-Miller 2nd the motion.

Trustee David -Yes

Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes

Trustee Quiara-Yes

Trustee Robak-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

Finance and Audit Committee

Chair Andrea Zopp turned the meeting over to Trustee Angelique David, Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee. Trustee David called on Nicole Latimer Williams, Vice President of Financial Operations and Chief Financial Officer to present her report and resolutions. Ms. Latimer-Williams presented the preliminary FY2026 Operating Budget. She explained the difference between State Appropriated, Local Income, Non-Appropriated and Grant funds. The total funds for FY 26=\$93.2M. \$44.6M State Appropriations, \$20.7M Local Income, \$13.9M in Non-Appropriated Funds and \$14.7M estimated in Grants and Restricted Funds.

Trustee David called for a motion to approve the FY26 Preliminary Operating Budget. Trustee John Robak moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Andrea Zopp seconded the motion.

Trustee David -Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Robak-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 the FY2027 Operating Capital Requests. The University Budget Committee (UBC) created five (5) subcommittees, namely: President's area, Academic and Student Affairs, Financial Operations, Enrollment Management, and Administrative Services. The subcommittee members attended budget hearings for the areas assigned to them and submitted subcommittee recommendations to the UBC Chair. The subcommittee reports were discussed at the full committee meetings. The UBC submitted the budget recommendations to the University President.

There are twelve (12) FY2027 operating budget priorities totaling \$4.5 million being submitted to the BOT for approval.

Trustee David called for a motion to approve the FY27 Operating and Capital Budget. Trustee John Robak moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Andrea Zopp seconded the motion.

Trustee David -Yes

Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Robak-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 her FY2026 tuition and fee waiver allocation. The grand totals in tuition and fee waiver allocations were \$1,396, 700.

Trustee David called for a motion to approve the FY26 Tuition and Fee Waiver Allocation. Trustee John Robak moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Andrea Zopp seconded the motion.

Trustee David -Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Robak-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

The internal audit charter was discussed. **Trustee David called for a motion to approve the Internal Audit Charter Resolution. Trustee Andrea Zopp moved to approve the resolution. Trustee John Robak seconded the motion.**

Trustee David -Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Robak-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

External Affairs

Chair Andrea Zopp called on Erin Steva, Vice President of External Affairs to present a Legislative Update. Ms. Steva discussed the appropriations that were given to universities. CSU's operating budget will increase by \$401,300 depending on revenue availability and federal policies and budgets. Legislation to create a funding formula for public universities was heard in two committees but was not voted on. President Scott is the convener for the public universities, CSU spoke at two hearings on equitable funding for public universities and a hearing on mental health. Finally, CSU held its first advocacy day with 30 students, faculty, and alumni.

Chicago State Foundation Report

Chair Andrea Zopp invited Melanie Sillas to provide an update on the Chicago State Foundation. Ms. Sillas reviewed the Foundation's Strategic Plan and announced the honorary chairs for the First-Generation Gala, as well as the Cougar Servant Leader award recipients: Robin Steans, President Toni Preckwinkle, and Jose Munoz. She reported that the fundraising goal is \$750,000, with a stretch goal of \$1 million. Ms. Sillas also highlighted corporate and foundation partnerships, noting that \$615,000 was awarded during the third and fourth quarters.

Chair Andrea Zopp moved that the Board convene into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining Agreements, Litigation Updates, and the President's Evaluation. Trustee Angelique David seconded the motion.

Trustee David -Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Robak-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

Return to Open Session

Chair Andrea Zopp moved to reconvene into Open session. Trustee Jason Quiara seconded the motion.

Trustee David -Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Robak-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

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

Chair Andrea Zopp called on Jason Carter, General Counsel and Vice President of Legal Affairs to discuss the Collective Bargaining agreements. Mr. Carter discussed the MAP 144 and MAP 297 collective bargaining agreements.

Chair Andrea Zopp called for a motion to approve the Metropolitan Alliance of Police (MAP) MAP 144 and MAP 297 collective bargaining agreements. Trustee Jason Quiara moved to approve the MAP 144 and MAP 297 collective bargaining agreements. Trustee Angelique David seconded the motion.

Trustee David -Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Robak-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

Chair Andrea Zopp discussed the President's Evaluation. President Scott will receive a 3% raise as well as a bonus of \$25K. Chair Andrea Zopp called for a motion to approve the bonus and raise for President Scott. Trustee Jason Quiara moved to approve the bonus and raise for President Scott. Trustee Angelique David 2nd the motion.

Trustee David -Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Robak-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

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

Trustee David -Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller-Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Robak-Yes
Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp -Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 6 Nays, 0

The June 23, 2025, Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.