

CSU Board of Trustees
Full Board Meeting and Board Retreat
Open Session Minutes
March 23, 2026
9:15a.m.- 12:02 p.m.

Board Members Present

Trustee Andrea Zopp, Chair
Trustee Angelique David, Vice-Chair
Trustee Cheryl Watkins, Secretary
Trustee Jason Quiara
Trustee John Robak
Trustee Dixie Adams Erwin
Trustee Michelle Gooze-Miller-Attended by Video Conference
Student Trustee Zariah Franklin

Others Present

President Zalwaynaka (Z) Scott, JD
Teresa L. Bates, Executive Director of Board Relations
Jason Carter, Vice President, Legal Affairs, General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer
Dr. Sonja Feist-Price, Provost & Executive Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs
Nicole Latimer-Williams, Senior Vice President of Financial Operations and Chief Financial Officer
Dr. Monique Carroll, Vice President, and Director of Intercollegiate Athletics
Mr. Oscar Rodriguez, Senior Vice President, Enrollment Management
Melanie Sillas, President, Chicago State Foundation
Dr. Tekleab Gala-Associate Professor, Geography, Urban and Environmental Studies

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 Cheryl Watkins seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous consent.

5. Public Comment

Public comments were given by Pastor Doyle Landry and Jamelle Edwards.

6. Approval of Minutes

Chair Zopp moved to approve the meeting minutes from December 17, 2025. Trustee David seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 8 Nays, 0

7. President's Remarks

President Scott provided an update on recent university activities, including highlights from the February 2026 State of the University Address, where she emphasized Chicago State University's enrollment growth, leadership in quantum science, and major capital projects such as the University Village 95th Street development. She also shared details regarding her presentation to the Board of Directors of World Business Chicago, which further elevated CSU's visibility among corporate and civic leaders.

Additional updates included ongoing advocacy efforts in Springfield for the Equitable Funding Formula for Public Universities, CSU's Division I football program, and several institutional engagement activities, including partnerships with Chicago Public Schools.

8. Board Reports

Academic Affairs

Chair Zopp called on Dr. Sonja Feist-Price, Provost and Executive President of Academic and Student Affairs, to present the Academic Affairs report. Dr. Feist-Price presented academic, student success and institutional initiatives.

She presented an update regarding a new partnership between the Library and Information Science Program and Chicago Public Schools designed to educate and upskill full-time CPS teachers seeking licensure as school librarians. The initiative supports the shared goal of increasing the number of qualified school librarians and strengthening library services throughout Chicago Public Schools.

She also provided an update regarding several new academic program initiatives currently under development, including an RN-to-BSN pathway, new general education courses in Quantum Science for non-STEM majors, a joint Master of Public Health and MBA program, and a new interdisciplinary Health Sciences pathway.

She also informed the board that the CSU School of Pharmacy has confirmed 17 students for the incoming Fall 2026 P1 class. Additionally, Dr. Mohamed Rashrash was hired as Director of Assessment and Curricular Effectiveness. The Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education reaccreditation visit took place March 24–26.

She gave an update on the Department of Student Affairs and Student Success. Dr. Concetta Williams will serve as the Associate Provost of Academic Success and Student Affairs. She also talked about the CSU Quantum Education, Science and Technology Center (CQuest) which was officially established following approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education where Dr. Valerie Goss will serve as the inaugural director.

Finally, she provided an update on CSU Summer Campus which will feature 18 academic and athletic camps and programs serving K-12 students.

After her report, Dr. Feist Price presented her resolution for four (4) Honorary Degree Recipients. Brett Hart, President of United Airlines, Louis Carr, President of BET Media Group, Karen Hunter, Pulitzer Prize winning journalist and Derrick Rose, Chicago Bulls Alumnus.

Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve the resolution for the four honorary degree candidates. Trustee Angelique David moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Cheryl Watkins seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 8 Nays 0

Student Trustee Report

Trustee Zariah Franklin gave her student trustee report. She gave an overview of several recent campus events including the Black History Month Closing Ceremony, the NPHC Scholarship Gala, and discussions with Illinois State Representative Marcus Evans. She also mentioned that she gathered feedback from students during a recent student body meeting, issues including cafeteria service and professionalism and issues related to campus security. Finally she

mentioned upcoming events including a fashion show and students' participation in Leadership Academy programming.

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, Senior Vice President of Financial Operations and Chief Financial Officer, to present her report and one resolution.

Ms. Latimer-Williams provided a financial update regarding the University's current budget for FY26 covering the period of July 1 through December 31. She reported that first and second quarter expenses were favorable to budget of approximately \$3.2 million, due to delayed personnel hires, partially offset by increases in contractual expenditures and permanent improvements. Expenses through Q2 represented approximately 53% of the full-year budget. Monthly spending trends decreased from approximately \$12 million in July to approximately \$2 million by December, with current spending averaging \$2 million per month entering calendar year 2026.

She then discussed her resolution which proposed a tuition increase for the 2026-2027 academic year. She mentioned that the Governor's proposed 1% increase for FY27 is insufficient to offset inflation on operational costs and collective bargaining obligations. The proposed tuition recommendations include:

- A 3.5% increase for undergraduate tuition, increasing the annual undergraduate tuition cost by approximately \$370.
- A 9.1% increase for graduate tuition, increasing annual graduate tuition costs by approximately \$838; and
- A 9.1% increase for doctoral tuition, increasing annual doctoral tuition costs by approximately \$431.

Trustee David called for a motion to approve the tuition increase resolution. Trustee Jason Quiara seconded the motion.

Trustee Adams-Yes

Trustee David-Yes

Trustee Franklin-Yes

Trustee Gooze-Miller Yes

Trustee Quiara-Yes

Trustee Robak-Yes

Trustee Watkins-Yes

Trustee Zopp-Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 8 Nays, 0

Intercollegiate Athletics

Chair Zopp called on Dr. Monique Carroll to present on Athletics. Dr. Carroll highlighted the new football coaching staff led by Head Coach Bobby Rome. Additional staff appointments include coordinators and position coaches with extensive collegiate and professional experience. She also gave an overview of football recruiting efforts for the 2026 class. There is a total of 71 students who signed with the program for 2026. Finally she presented the 2026 football schedule and announced that football games will be played at SeatGeek Stadium.

Did You Know

Chair Zopp called on Dr. Tekleab to present on CSU Climate Research. The presentation explored the impact of climate change and environmental challenges at the neighborhood level, particularly within communities on the South Side of Chicago.

Dr. Gala discussed how student experiences and personal narratives can serve as the foundation for meaningful research and community engagement. The presentation highlighted several research areas connected to environmental justice and urban inequities, including elevated blood lead levels, flooding and erosion along Lake Michigan, spatial inequality, aging in place, and African American migration patterns within Chicago.

He also gave an overview of ongoing community-based climate and urban science research initiatives, including interdisciplinary environmental data collection efforts, signature impact-focused projects, workforce development initiatives, and future goals related to climate resilience and community empowerment.

Enrollment Management

Chair Zopp called on Oscar Rodriguez, Senior Vice President of Enrollment Management, to present his report. Mr. Rodriguez gave an update on progress toward the University's 2025-20230 enrollment goals as outlined in CSU's strategic plan. The presentation included undergraduate year-over-year enrollment comparisons and highlighted several recruitment and yield strategies currently underway, including virtual recruitment events, Cougar on the Go initiatives, Admitted Student Days, behavior-triggered outreach campaigns, redesigned milestone-based new student orientation programming, and streamlined late-cycle enrollment processes.

He also reviewed graduate enrollment trends and updates related to the first year of Graduate Admissions Realignment efforts. He reported ongoing implementation of the Slate CRM platform to unify graduate and undergraduate engagement, application management, communications, enrollment tracking, and data management processes. Additional efforts include organizational alignment and resource planning, evaluation of admissions policies and business practices to reduce institutional barriers and strengthening strategic partnerships to support graduate student recruitment and enrollment.

Finally, he gave an update regarding the appointment of Luis Barahona as the new University Registrar. He stated that the Office of the Registrar has been restructured to improve service delivery, modernize operations, create operational efficiencies, and strengthen collaboration with campus partners.

Chicago State Foundation Report

Chair Zopp called on Melanie Sillas to present on the Chicago State Foundation. She highlighted fundraising progress, donor engagement efforts, and strategic partnerships aligned with the Foundation's strategic plan. She also shared updates on fundraising goals related to corporate and foundation support, the 1stGEN Scholarship Gala, alumni giving, and major gifts initiatives.

She also updated the board on the 2026 1stGEN Scholarship Gala, scheduled for September 25, 2026, and the University's Annual Giving Day campaign, "One Day for Every Cougar." Additionally, leadership reported approximately \$802,000 in Q3 partnership support for initiatives including dual enrollment, athletics expansion, Rise Academy, and student success programming.

9. Recess into Executive Session

Chair Zopp moved that the Board convene into Executive Session to discuss Employment and Real Estate Matters. Trustee Jason Quiara seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 8 Nays, 0

10. Return to Open Session

Chair Zopp moved to reconvene into Open session. Trustee Cheryl Watkins seconded the motion.

Trustee Adams-Yes
Trustee David-Yes
Trustee Franklin-Yes
Trustee Gooze-Miller Yes
Trustee Quiara-Yes
Trustee Robak-Yes

Trustee Watkins-Yes
Trustee Zopp-Yes

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 8 Nays, 0

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

Chair Zopp asked Jason Carter to discuss the Teamsters Local Union No 700 Collective Bargaining Agreement. Mr. Carter went over the agreement, which included wage increases retroactive to July 1, 2025, followed by annual 2.5% increases through July 1, 2029, as well as a \$250 sign-on bonus and a \$500 ratification bonus for eligible employees.

Chair Zopp asked for a motion to approve the collective bargaining agreement. Trustee Angelique David moved to approve the collective bargaining agreement. Trustee Jason Quiara 2nd the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 8 Nays, 0

11. Adjournment

Chair Zopp moved to adjourn the March 23rd Full Board Meeting. Trustee Cheryl Watkins seconded the motion.

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

The motion passed unanimously: Ayes, 8 Nays, 0

March 23, 2026, Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.