CSU Board of Trustees
Full Board Meeting and Board Retreat
Open Session Minutes
June 22, 2026
9:37a.m.- 1:08 p.m.

Board Members Present
Trustee Andrea Zopp, Chair
Trustee Angelique David, Vice-Chair
Trustee Cheryl Watkins, Secretary
Trustee Michelle Gooze-Miller
Trustee Jason Quiara
Trustee John Robak

Board Members Absent
Trustee Dixie Adams Erwin
Student Trustee Zariah Franklin

Others Present
President Zaldwaynaka (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
Erin Steva, Senior Vice President of External Affairs and Strategic Initiatives
Michael Holmes, Senior Vice President of Administrative Services
Melanie Sillas, President, Chicago State Foundation

1. **<u>Call to Order</u>**
Chair Zopp called the meeting to order.

2. **<u>Roll Call</u>**

A quorum was verified, and a roll call was taken.

3. **<u>Verification of Meeting Notice</u>**

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. **<u>Approval of Agenda</u>**

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.

6. **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Zopp moved to approve the meeting minutes from May 18, 2026. 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

7. **President's Remarks**

President Scott provided an overview of Chicago State University's activities and accomplishments during the 2025–2026 academic and fiscal year. She highlighted several campus initiatives and engagement activities, including the launch of Chicago's only Division I football program, town halls, employee engagement activities, and community cultural programming.

The President discussed the university's continued efforts to expand its external visibility and partnerships through engagement with government officials, HBCUs and PBIs, philanthropic organizations, nonprofit partners, and corporate sponsors. She noted that these relationships have supported CSU's fundraising efforts, student internships, career readiness opportunities, and broader student success initiatives.

President Scott also highlighted CSU's growing regional and national presence, particularly its leadership in academic research and quantum science. The president mentioned the launch of CSU's Quantum Science academic program and center, led by inaugural director Dr. Valerie Goss; CSU's recognition by *Newsweek* as one of the top universities for women; and the recognition of Dr. Monique Carroll as an Athletic Director of the Year. President Scott concluded by thanking the board for their continued dedication, commitment, and support.

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. The Provost provided updates on leadership appointments, academic innovation, School of Pharmacy enrollment and recruitment, and recent University achievements.

The Provost announced several leadership appointments, including Dr. Leroy Jones II as Dean of the College of Health Sciences and Pharmacy; Dr. Harrell Jordan as Associate Dean of Nursing; Dr. Athanase Gahungu as Dean of the College of Education; and Dr. Carolyn Rodgers as Interim Associate Provost for Contract Administration.

Academic innovation efforts included the RN to BSN Completion Program, the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity and Information Assurance Studies, and the Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Health Sciences. The Provost also reported that the School of Pharmacy seated 21 students for Fall 2026 and continues to expand recruitment efforts among HBCUs, regional partner institutions, and CSU STEM departments.

The Provost highlighted several notable achievements. In FY2025, 66% of CSU's Pell-eligible students paid no tuition or fees, compared with 47% in FY2018. Dr. Nadeem Fazal received a Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award to Azerbaijan for the 2026–2027 academic year, and Dr. Sabah Hussein became the first CSU School of Pharmacy faculty member to participate in the Academic Industry Mirror Program (AIM-P).

Finally, CSU was recognized as one of America's Best Colleges for Women 2026, ranking among the Top 10 institutions nationally. The recognition considered leadership, pay and policies, safety, and opportunity and reflects the University's continued focus on access, student success, career advancement, equity, and leadership development.

After her report, Dr. Feist Price presented a resolution for the Advocate Wellness Center.

Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve the resolution for the Advocate Wellness Center. Trustee Angelique David moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Cheryl Watkins 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

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 two resolutions. Ms. Latimer-Williams provided University's FY2027 Preliminary Operating Budget and Spending Plan. The proposed preliminary operating budget totaled approximately $97.8 million. The budget includes approximately $45.1 million in state appropriations, $23.5 million in local income, $18.0 million in non-appropriated funds, and $10.6 million in grants and restricted funds.

Ms. Latimer-Williams also reported that the University's FY2026 tuition and fee revenues were projected to remain slightly ahead of expenses, largely due to increased enrollment and strong collection efforts. The FY2027 budget anticipates continued enrollment growth and includes a one percent increase in state appropriations and a projected increase in local income.

The non-appropriated fund is projected to have an approximately $650,000 deficit, which will be addressed through salary savings and prior-year carryover funds. The administration also discussed future budget management strategies, including maximizing grant support, continuing priority hiring, diversifying sustainable revenue sources, and improving procurement efficiencies to reduce duplicative spending.

Ms. Latimer Williams also presented the proposed FY2027 tuition and fee waiver allocations. She requested authorization of $4.1 million in tuition and fee waivers. The increased authorization is intended to support student access to scholarship funding, enrollment and retention, graduate education and research, and the recruitment of students in areas including music, science, humanities, teaching, and athletics.

The proposed allocation includes both mandatory and discretionary waivers. Mandatory waivers are required by state statute and include programs for veterans, ROTC participants, DCFS students, senior citizens, and other eligible populations. Discretionary waivers support employees, talent and merit programs, graduate assistants, cooperating professionals, athletics, recruitment, retention, and enrollment initiatives.

She noted that CSU's use of tuition waivers has historically been comparatively low among Illinois public universities. The proposed FY2027 allocation consists of approximately $3.58 million for undergraduate waivers and $522,000 for graduate waivers, for a total authorization of $4.1 million.

Trustee David called for a motion to approve the tuition and waiver resolution. Trustee Jason Quiara moved to approve the motion. Trustee 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 called for a motion to approve the FY2027 Preliminary Operating Budget. Trustee Michelle Gooze Miller moved to approve the motion. Trustee 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

Legal Affairs

Chair Zopp called on Jason Carter to present a Legal Affair update. Mr. Carter presented on proposed changes to the University's Governing Board Regulations and Procedures. The proposed revisions were developed in comparison with practices at other Illinois public universities and focused primarily on professional services contracts and mandatory student fees**.**

Mr. Carter recommended increasing the President's authority to approve professional services contracts from the current threshold of $100,000 to $250,000, bringing CSU's approval level in line with the threshold used by other Illinois public universities. The existing $250,000 approval thresholds for the acquisition of real property and capital projects would remain unchanged.

Mr. Carter also recommended revisions related to mandatory student fees. The proposed changes would clarify that Board authorization is required to establish or change mandatory fees while removing the specific listing of individual mandatory fees from the regulations. The presentation also noted that withholding student transcripts is prohibited under Illinois law and reflected proposed changes to the University's regulations accordingly.

The proposed revisions would maintain Board oversight of mandatory fees and waivers while updating the regulations to better align CSU's governance practices with current requirements and practices among other Illinois public universities.

Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve the amendment to the Board Regulations. Trustee Angelique David moved to approve the amendement. Trustee Cheryl Watkins 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 Zopp called on Erin Steva to present on External Affairs. SVP Steva provided an update on federal government affairs activities affecting Chicago State University. At the state level, Illinois public universities received a 1% increase in appropriations for FY2027, resulting in an approximately $413,350 increase for CSU and a total appropriation of $41.7 million. CSU also received an additional $1.5 million for road and parking improvements and $2 million for campus IT and physical security upgrades.

SVP Steva updated the Board on HB1581/SB13, legislation proposing an adequate and equitable funding formula for Illinois public universities. The legislation advanced out of committee but was not called for a vote. CSU continued its advocacy efforts through student participation at Illinois Board of Higher Education meetings and a legislative committee hearing, two advocacy days involving more than 90 CSU constituents, and meetings in Springfield involving President Scott, Board Chair Zopp, and other higher education and community leaders.

At the federal level, SVP Steva reported $3.4 million in congressionally directed spending requests to support CSU's quantum and cyberinfrastructure initiatives. The requests included $1.2 million through Congressman Jonathan Jackson, $1.2 million through Senator Tammy Duckworth, and $1 million through Senator Dick Durbin. The proposed projects would support faster broadband, improved research equipment, and quantum education initiatives through CSU's Quantum Education, Science and Technology Center.

Administrative Services

Chair Zopp called on Mr. Michael Holmes, Senior Vice President of Administrative Services to present on Administrative Services. SVP Holmes provided the Board with an update on FY2026 capital projects and campus improvements, including projects funded through the Capital Development Board (CDB) as well as CSU-funded capital projects.

SVP Holmes reported approximately $116.2 million in FY2026 CDB capital projects. Major projects in progress include upgrades to the Physical Plant electrical system and campus fire alarm systems; construction and renovation of the Nursing Simulation Lab in Douglas Hall; renovations to the Jacoby Dickens Center pool, HVAC system, and locker rooms; replacement of the Jones Convocation Center roof; chiller system replacement; and interior demolition of the Robinson Center. Completed projects include the Robinson Center exterior renovation, renovation of all 19 elevators, and underground high-pressure pipe repairs.

He also updated the board on the new Metra Station project, which will include a new underground campus entrance, parking, and a new roadway along 95th Street between St.

Lawrence and Cottage Grove. Additional campus improvements planned for FY2027 include restroom restorations, walkway and stair repairs, enhanced student spaces, and additional classroom renovations.

Chicago State Foundation Report

Chair Zopp called on Melanie Sillas to present on the Chicago State Foundation. President Sillas updated the board on the Chicago State Foundation's FY2026 fundraising and development activities. The Foundation reported projected revenue of approximately $5.76 million, exceeding its $3.3 million goal, with strong support from corporate and foundation partners, the 1stGEN Scholarship Gala, alumni and individual donors, and major gifts.

President Sillas also highlighted planning for the 2026 1stGEN Scholarship Gala, giving day fundraising, and continued growth of the foundation board.

The foundation board currently has 20 directors and reported a 75% giving rate, along with increased support for the annual gala.

President Sillas then presented three individuals for Board of Director positions. Mark Miller, President, Advocate Christ Medical Center and South Chicagoland Area, Mike Jackson of Walgreens and Bernard Williams of Fidelity Print Communications.

Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve Mark Miller, Mike Jackson and Bernard Williams as Board of Directors for the Foundation. Trustee John Robake moved to approve the resolution. 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

9. <u>Recess into Executive Session</u>

Chair Zopp moved that the Board convene into Executive Session to discuss Employment and Real Estate Matters. 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

10. Return to Open Session

Chair Zopp moved to reconvene into Open session. Trustee Cheryl Watkins 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 took action in the executive session, which required action in the open session.

Chair Zopp asked for a motion to approve the resolution authorizing the President to initiate a public-private partnership pre-development process and enter into related agreements to construct the University Village 95th Street Housing and Commercial Project. Trustee John Robak moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Jason Quiara 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

The board discussed President Scott's self assessment and felt she and her team are doing a great job with student success metrics as well as faculty negotiations.

Chair Zopp asked for a motion to approve the bonus for President Scott along with the 2% salary increase. Trustee David moved to approve the bonus and salary increase. Trustee Quiara 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 Zopp moved to adjourn the June 22nd Full Board 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 22, 2026, Full Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 1:08 p.m.