

**Chicago State University
Board of Trustees Virtual Meeting
HELD VIA GoToMeeting
Board Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2020
3:10 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.**

Board Members Present

Trustee Andrea Zopp, Chair
Trustee McDade, Vice Chair
Trustee Mark Schneider, Secretary
Trustee Louis Carr
Trustee Brian Clay
Trustee Renard Singleton
Trustee Mobley Smith

Others Present

President Zaldwaynaka (Z) Scott, Esq.
Stephanie Kelly, Esq., General Counsel and Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer
Dr. Latrice Eggleston Williams, Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management
Dr. Leslie Roundtree, Provost and Senior Vice President
Ms. Bonnie Phillips, Director of Board Relations

1. Call to Order

Trustee Andrea Zopp called the meeting to order.

Chair Zopp made the following statement: Due to circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic, and pursuant to Governor Pritzker's Executive Order 2020-07, issued on March 16, 2020, suspending the Open Meetings Act provisions relating to in-person attendance by members of a public body, the May 18, 2020 meeting of the Chicago State University Board of Trustees is being conducted virtually and is hereby called to order.

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.

4. Approval of Agenda

Roll call was held for approval of the agenda. The agenda was approved.

5. Public Comment

Chair Zopp made the following statement.

The Board will not hear presentations or entertain questions on the following topics: Issues under negotiation as part of the University's collective bargaining process, statements concerning the private

activities, lifestyles, or beliefs of individuals employed by or associated with the University, grievances of individual students or employees or any personnel matters.

Chair Zopp asked Ms. Philips to begin calling anyone who has signed up to speak.

Nick Crumrine expressed concern about the elimination of the baseball program. Obviously, all of our players are opposed to the cutting of the program and I can speak for myself and a lot of the players that we have been working hard this whole past year. This is my life and baseball is a passion and it's just not fair to players or families. I think it's disrespectful to the old head coach, Steve Joslin, who put so much into the program.

John Wheeler. (no response)

Mary Wilbur expressed concern with the elimination of the baseball program.

Ms. Wilbur talked out the cost of losing 35 student athletes to the school and asked about what the baseball program really cost the school. How much, because you're losing four, roughly, \$466K conservatively by getting rid of all 35 of these students, because none will stick around. These young baseball players have worked since they could walk and run and play baseball for this.

And I do feel like your decision has already been made, but to take it away from them and they haven't done anything wrong is heartbreaking. I just wish there was another resolution. Just know you're not taking their lives into consideration.

Judah Wilbur expressed concern with the elimination of the baseball program.

I am a student of Chicago State University and on the baseball team. I transferred in from a junior college. Mr. Wilbur expressed his love for the city of Chicago, his teammates, and the school. We got a new athletic director and he made a promise that this is going to be our championship era and we finally had somebody to back the athletic program. And now, two months later, nobody within athletics or on the baseball team know what was going on; is really not in the best interests of both. And, if we all have to transfer your messing with a lot of our degrees, and it's going to be extremely hard, to find a new school. Mr. Wilbur asked that this be taken into consideration.

Blake Kaplan expressed concern with the elimination of the baseball program.

I am a junior at Chicago State and have been here three years. As we live in uncertain times and my uncertain time is now. I put everything in and feel like we represent the University very well, both on and off campus. The team cumulative GPA every year, seems to be one of the highest in the entire athletic department. So we're really putting the student athlete first, and our coaches really put us to the test on that day in and day out. Also, Bowling Green had just cancelled their athletic baseball program, and they're honoring the player scholarship. Will Chicago State honor those scholarships if a student decides to stay just academically,

Gina Pascente expressed concern with the elimination of the baseball program.

Rocky is a junior college transfer and this was his first year. CSU has given Rocky a chance to play baseball at the highest level. He has worked, like all these voice, their hearts out, to play at this level and a place to work towards his business degree.

Ms. Pascente talked about the commitment of the baseball team member to work hard on and off the field and to represent the university positively and noted their GPA is one of the highest on the campus, which I know is important to Chicago State. We ask that CSU honor the its commitment to continue to

let them play baseball and to earn their degree. She spoke about the financial, academic, and athletic hardship associated with this decision. Ms. Pascente stated that they are part of the Chicago State family and she is asking to act like their parents and honor your commitment to the baseball team.

Rocky Pascente expressed concern with the elimination of the baseball program.

Mr. Pascente expressed that baseball already is trying to make a big effort in urban communities and what cutting the program would just send another message to the urban area, especially Chicago. He talked about the negative effect cutting the program will have in urban areas. Mr. Pascente stated that he transferred to play his final year here to try to bring up the program. He asked the board to consider this before making a decision.

Chair Zopp asked if there anybody else who was present, who would like to, to make a comment that has not had a chance to speak.

Ice expressed concern with the elimination of the baseball program.

For people that were supposed to keep us in the loop, I feel like we're very out of the loop. Ice talked about unfairness of this decision and that they may not win a lot, but we win more than two games in five years in other programs.

Julie Venturi expressed concern with the elimination of the baseball program.

My son is Vinny Venturi, is a baseball player at Chicago State University. This was his second year. Ms. Venturi talked about the great coaching staff and program. She talked about the financial hardship associated to cancelling the program. Many of us have signed the lease for our children to be in Chicago next year, we live in California. So that means that we're tied to those leases. Ms. Venturi stated that it is disappointing that a couple of days ago, a new women's basketball coach was announced, and then now you want to cut baseball program. So, you chose the basketball program over the baseball program and that is quite disappointing to many of us.

Mr. Kaplan (Baseball)

Mr. Kaplan expressed concern with the elimination of the baseball program.

My son is Blake Kaplan and I been involved with baseball at all levels of baseball for 25 plus years.

I am currently an Associate Scout with the Chicago Cubs Baseball Organization. Baseball, for me and for my family it is been a way of life, ever since my son was born. They have worked hard to get to this level and I can tell you they've worked tirelessly.

My father played football at Clemson University. He was a proud member of the Clemson Football Fraternity. The new Athletic Director Dr. Charles, I am sure you are well aware of how athletics are run at Clemson University, while we are a mid-major here at Chicago State.

Baseballs is America's pastime. It is un-American to take away baseball. In my opinion, it's un-American and if somebody can tell me, otherwise, I'd like to hear it, why it's not. Mr. Kaplan talked about the scholarship allocation, and how much kids are still paying the university to play the program, where the cuts would be, and where the savings would be, if that becomes a matter. And this is all prerequisite to, obviously, if the program is being cut.

Mr. Kaplan stated that from day one, he has been a proud supporter of Chicago State athletics of the baseball program, the baseball coaches, and my son. I want to be on record to say, that if baseballs cut It's un-American, and you really need to think about that.

Chair Zopp thanked everyone for their comments.

Rocky expressed concern with the elimination of the baseball program.

Rocky spoke about being blindsided and the effect cutting the program will have on the players and coaches.

Chair Zopp thanked Christian for appreciate your additional comments.

Rocky P expressed concern with the elimination of the baseball program.

Was just looking up like the statistics of the school and the graduation rate seems to be 13.02%, and with the 35 members of our team making up about 1% graduation rate, are you really willing to risk 1% of your graduation rate to make the school look even worse than the reputation It's gotten in the past? when we do everything in the class sermon on the field to make the reputation better.

Chair Zopp called on President Scott to present her report.

6. President's Report:

President Scott reported on the following:

President Scott congratulated the class of 2020. We are proud of them and their accomplishments. Due to circumstances related to the pandemic our May 14, 2020 commencement was not held, we invited our graduates to return to campus in December for a commencement ceremony to receive their personal and professional recognition that they have earned.

The Chicago State community has been directly impacted by COVID 19 in many ways. However, we are open and we are vibrant. We make sure we are making sure that we are in compliance with local, state, and federal health and safety guidelines.

We have focused on the enrollment of students, the retention of our students, and in the recruitment of permanent leaders to support our academic affairs and business operations. We have done all of this in a virtual environment.

We hosted a webinar for Chicago Public School Principals and Administrators, to discuss the college options and scholarship opportunities available for high school graduates.

This summer, Chicago State University will be offering two summer sessions fully online. It was implemented to protect the safety and well-being of our campus community.

We also know that financial assistance is very important to our students at this time. And with the generous support of the stimulus package and the Chicago State Foundation, our student applicant received about \$500.

Our food pantry continues to service our campus in a safe and especially efficient.

Additionally, we continue to work with our federal and state legislators to educate them on the needs of Chicago State University during this pandemic.

President Scott along with other public university presidents had the opportunity to participate in an important briefing with Senator Durbin regarding Chicago State's needs and the needs of other public universities. Senator Durbin continues to support education.

President Scott was asked to participate as a member of the Mayor's Committee, focused on re-opening the City and was appointed to serve on Illinois Board of Higher Education's re-opening committee.

7. Reports

a. Academic and Student Affairs

Trustee Moberly Smith presides

Trustee Moberly Smith called Dr. Roundtree to present the report.

Dr. Leslie Roundtree

We are very proud of our faculty and students for undergoing such a significant change and being able to finish strong in the remote environment. At this time, grades are posting today and we look forward to beginning the summer semester at the end of the month. The majority of our students have now left the dormitory, however there are two individuals still in the dormitory and we are looking forward to assisting them, and then being able to make the necessary renovations.

As we prepare potentially for the fall semester we have been working on wellness and other kinds of support services such as the food pantry during the academic year, tele-counseling, and tele-health with our students. We look forward to maintaining that support throughout the summer and fall.

Dr. Roundtree presented the Tenure Resolution

We currently have five faculty members who have gone through the entire process of review, according to the contract and whose demonstrated their eligibility for tenure. They have demonstrated the necessary performance in teaching, research, and service for consideration for tenure.

Melvin Daniels, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences

Noe de la Sancha, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences

Takleab Gala, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Sociology, History, Anthropology and African American Studies, College of Arts and Sciences

Leslie, Jackson, DOT, Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy, College of Health Sciences

John Archibald Peters, PhD, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry and Physics, College of Arts and Sciences

Tenure Resolution

Trustee Mobley Smith moved to approve the Tenure Resolution.

Trustee McDade seconded the motion. Roll call was taken, the motion passed as follows:

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Student Trustee does not vote on tenure.

Admissions Policy Standards Resolution

Dr. Roundtree presented the resolution.

We would also like to present a resolution for a test optional approach for undergraduate admissions.

Trustee Mobley Smith moved to approve the Admissions Policy Standards Resolution.

Trustee McDade seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

b. Enrollment Management Report

Trustee Mobley-Smith called on Dr. Eggleston Williams to present the enrollment management report

Dr. Eggleston Williams gave an overview of the enrollment numbers. We are still trending upward. In terms of our summer registration we are about 75% of where we were. Fall registration is about 12% higher than where we were last year. That's about 94 students more that were registered this time last year. It is important to remember that we have not registered our new student population, as of yet. Registration opened on April 15th and will continue through the summer for fall registration.

At the last briefing it was reported that 146 students have opted to do the pass no pass option for grades for the spring 2020. That is about 8% of our undergraduate student population and the student population for the spring was 1818 students.

We are in the process of evaluating and conferring 526 degrees. That includes 523 graduate and undergraduate students, and one of our undergraduate students is receiving two degrees. Two of our graduate students are receiving a graduate degree along with the post baccalaureate certificate. We processed 1685 transcripts as to date.

In terms of our admissions outreach, and upcoming virtual activities throughout the summer our first virtual activity was our undergraduate and graduate virtual open house. An upcoming virtual undergraduate open house is scheduled for July 14th. We will make sure that the board get more information about that virtual open house.

The Office of Admissions under the leadership of Dr. Carlos Goodell along with our Communications and Marketing Team, have created a start your journey webpage that provides all important information to prospective students. And created a blog that will be providing additional information to perspective

students. There are actually three post already, which include, Greetings from the new Admissions Director, the open house recap from the first virtual open house, and then navigating financial aid.

158 students who have committed to CSU encore in the fall and summer terms. The priority deadline for these students to commit to CSU is July 1st., so we are still collecting that information.

Specialists are continuing to connect with new students to encourage them to commit to the University.

Our first orientation for new students will be on July 7th and that orientation will be virtual.

Financial aid is planning a virtual financial literacy series for the summer.

Chair Zopp: First, congratulations on overall increase in admissions per year. However, the graduate admission is significantly behind. What is the status, what are we doing about that, and do we think that is going to change? Dr. Eggleston Williams stated that there will be an increase in those numbers, however she will not have the current number until tomorrow morning and can definitely update the committee on where we are in terms of the new graduate numbers.

Chair Zopp asked about a program from last year that was basically a college prep, college readiness program aimed at retention and having a strong first year.

President Scott stated that it is the Rise Academy, which is our summer Bridge Program and we intend to offer the program. President Scott spoke about the success of the program.

Trustee Mobley-Smith:

Thinking about the criticality around enrollment management or do you feel, the greatest difficulties have been in terms of shifting enrollment management to the type of operational processes that are in place now. And with that said, what strategies have been put in place to help ensure that nothing falls through? Dr. Eggleston Williams stated that by hiring of our new director of admissions, that has critically changed our operations in terms of strengthening the team with best practices in the field. The other piece is our marketing strategy that has helped us keep engaged to our community and constituents. This is an opportunity for the enrollment management to grow and to make size changes in terms of our processing and processes that we have in terms of communicating with our students. We are developing a new communications plan that will be very, very important for us in terms of getting students. We meet weekly regarding enrollment management.

Due to the constant interruption and profanity the meeting was adjourned to closed session.

Recess into Executive Session Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Trustee Zopp moved to recess into Executive Session. Trustee Mobley Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows: Ayes 7 Nays 0

Chair Zopp stated the we have adjourned to closed session due to the constant interruptions.

8. Reconvene into Open Session

Trustee Zopp moved to reconvene into Open Session. Trustee McDade seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows: Ayes 7 Nays 0

Chair Zopp stated that the board took action on a number of items in executive session, which requires action in open session.

- **Trustee Carr presented the Tuition Fees and Waiver Resolution, the Internal Audit Charter Resolution, the Campus Building Automation System Service Contract Resolution, and the Chicago State Foundation Board Members Resolution.**

Trustee McDade moved to approve the Tuition Fees and Waiver Resolution, the Internal Audit Charter Resolution, the Campus Building Automation System Service Contract Resolution, and the Chicago State Foundation Board Members Resolution. Trustee Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows:

Chair Zopp asked for a roll call.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

- **Election of Board of Trustees Officers.**

Board Attorney Stephanie Kelly facilitated the election.

During closed session, the board nominated the following and the slate is Trustee Zopp to retain the chair position, Trustee McDade to retain the vice-chair position, Trustee Schneider to retain the secretary position.

Trustee Mobley Smith moved to approve the slate of officers as follows; Trustee Zopp to retain the chair position, Trustee McDade to retain the vice-chair position, Trustee Schneider to retain the secretary position. Trustee Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Chair Zopp thanked the trustees for their willingness to serve.

Chair Zopp stated that the board would table the discussion on the baseball program until the next board meeting.

Adjournment

The May 18, 2020 meeting of the Chicago State University Board of Trustees was adjourned.