

CSU Board of Trustees  
Virtual Board meeting  
Full Board Open Session Minutes  
Monday, March 6, 2023  
9:10 a.m.-11:50 a.m.

**Board Members Present**

Trustee Andrea Zopp, Chair  
Trustee Mark Schneider, Vice-Chair  
Trustee Angelique David, Secretary-Via Video Conference  
Trustee Jason Quiara  
Trustee Essence Smart  
Trustee Cheryl Watkins

**Board Members Absent**

Trustee Brian Clay  
Trustee Cory Thames

**Others Present**

President Zaldwaynaka (Z) Scott, Esq.  
Teresa Bates, Executive Director of Board Relations  
Robin Hawkins, Associate Vice President & Associate General Counsel of Legal Affairs  
Dennis Stark, Interim Chief Financial Officer, and Vice President of Financial Operations  
Dr. Leslie Roundtree, Interim Provost & Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Oscar Rodriguez, Vice President, Enrollment Management  
Dr. Christine Brown, Director of Counseling

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Andrea Zopp called the meeting to order. Trustee Angelique David requested to attend the meeting remotely due to employment obligations. Chair Zopp, in accordance with the Illinois meetings act, took a vote to ensure the public body would permit Trustee Angelique David to attend virtually. The vote was unanimous, and Trustee David was allowed to attend the meeting via Zoom video conferencing.

**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**

Chair Zopp asked if there were corrections to the agenda. Chair Zopp moved to approve the agenda. Trustee Cheryl Watkins seconded the motion. Motion 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, beliefs of individuals employed by or associated with the University; grievances of individual students or employees or any personnel matters.”

Comments were limited to 2 minutes.

Chair Zopp asked Ms. Bates to call anyone who signed up to speak. Ms. Bates stated there were no public comments.

## **6. Approval of Minutes**

Chair Zopp moved to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2022, meeting. Trustee Essence Smart seconded the motion.

*Trustee David-Yes*  
*Trustee Quiara-Yes*  
*Trustee Schneider -Yes*  
*Trustee Smart-Yes*  
*Trustee Watkins-Yes*  
*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 6 Nays 0**

## **7. President’s Remarks**

President Scott gave an update on campus activities. The Black History Month programming highlighted many student organizations. Activities included a blood drive, dance workshops, community service events, a gospel concert, a conversation on human rights in Illinois, and the heritage ball.

An in-person, State of the University address was given on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. President Scott thanked Chair Zopp for providing a welcome on behalf of the Board of Trustees. President Scott also thanked student trustee Essence Smart for attending. Highlights included expansion of the Chicago State footprint.

President Scott hosted the presidential lecture series. She thanked Trustee and alumni Dr. Cheryl Watkins for moderating the alumni superintendent’s lecture. She also thanked Dean Antwone Cameron for moderating the alumni panel.

President Scott also highlighted partnerships. Feb 16<sup>th</sup> United Airlines visited campus to discuss internships and career opportunities. Students also visited United Airlines offices as well. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of partnership with Leo Barnett. Leo Burnett has committed \$25K in

scholarships.

President Scott thanked the Trustees, the Provost, Dr. Kay Dawson, and Dr. Gabrielle Toth for managing the HLC process, preparing the report and coordinating the visit. The professors received a warm round of applause.

In closing, President Scott talked about the budget hearings in the Illinois House and Senate's Higher Education appropriations committee. The team is meticulously preparing and is confident they will have an impressive set of campus accomplishments. The Governor recommended a 7% budget increase for FY2024 for each public university.

## 8. **Board Reports**

### *Academic Affairs*

Chair Zopp called on Dr. Leslie Roundtree, Interim Provost, to give the Academic Affairs report.

Dr. Roundtree gave an update on the Fall 2022 semester. There were 123 graduates (83 undergraduates and 40 graduates). For 2023, Chicago State University will move to one formal graduation in May and all students will be invited to participate in the May 2023 commencement ceremony. The focus for the Spring 2023 semester is the reaffirmation visit from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). The assurance report was successfully submitted on January 30, 2023, and the details of the February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023 visit are being finalized. Dr. Roundtree congratulated the University accreditation steering committee and the co-chairs Professor Kay Dawson and Professor Gabrielle Toth for their hard work and dedication to the process. Leadership, commitment to community and commitment to student success were strengths. Enrollment, workload, and vacancies need to be improved. She thanked the steering committee and thanked the chairs, and Professor Nancy Grim, evidence committee chair. She mentioned that the Pharmacy accreditation was on campus.

Dr. Roundtree then presented a resolution for Nikole Hannah-Jones to receive an honorary degree. Ms. Jones is the creator of the 1619 Project which commemorates the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of slavery in what would become the United States by examining slavery's modern legacy and reframing the way in which society understands this history and the contributions of Black Americans to the nation.

**Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding Nikole Hannah-Jones receiving an honorary degree. Trustee Watkins moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Quiara seconded the motion.**

*Trustee David-Yes*

*Trustee Quiara-Yes*

*Trustee Schneider -Abstained*

*Trustee Smart-Yes*

*Trustee Watkins-Yes*

*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed: Ayes 5 Abstained 1**

Dr. Roundtree moved to her next resolution. The college of pharmacy has a distinction between in-state and out-of-state tuition. Chicago State is one of the only universities to still have different tuition rates. CSU would like to eliminate out-of-state tuition in the United States. This will make the college of pharmacy more competitive. The proposed change would not apply to International Students.

**Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve the tuition adjustment for the College of Pharmacy. Trustee Smart moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Quiara seconded the motion.**

*Trustee David-Yes*

*Trustee Quiara-Yes*

*Trustee Schneider -Yes*

*Trustee Smart-Yes*

*Trustee Watkins-Yes*

*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**Motion passed unanimously Ayes 6**

Chair Zopp thanked Provost Roundtree and her team again for all the work that was put into the HLC visit. It was a tremendous effort.

### ***Student Trustee Report***

- Trustee Essence Smart gave a student activity update for Spring 2023. She highlighted the HLC visit from the student perspective.
- Welcome Week consisted of a lot of events including the CSU Resource Fair, Clubs and Orgs Fair, and student leadership retreat.
- Student Leadership Retreat had great attendance and contributed to elevation of the CSU students.
- Black History Month celebration ended with the heritage ball.
- Women's History Month, there are plenty of events planned.
- Trustee Smart was excited to be on the new CSU football exploratory committee.
- Student leaders are emerging, and it is nice to see people developing professionally.

### ***Did You Know? CSU Counseling Center***

Chair Zopp then called on Dr. Christine Brown to give an update on the Counseling Center. Dr. Brown gave a presentation which provided an overview of the mission of the Counseling Center and services the Center provides to address student mental health concerns. The Center has grown tremendously reconnecting students to Chicago State University. The Center is still providing telehealth which began during the COVID pandemic.

### **The Abilities Office**

The Abilities Office provides services all students that require some type of accommodation due to a disability so they can be successful. Examples of available accommodations include: Notetakers, scribes, sign language interpreters, additional test time.

### **Counseling Services**

Counseling services are provided for individuals and families, for short terms. Services include crisis intervention, mindfulness training, trauma treatment and life coaching and referrals. For example, the center referred students to rental assistance through the city.

In January 2023, the Women's Resource Center relaunched. There are breast feeding and lactation spaces for those that need the privacy. There is an empowerment group on Saturdays.

In Fall of 2022, 425 students participated in campus counseling events. Ninety students received services in individual counseling and 63 students received services with disabilities.

The latest survey received over 277 responses. The survey asked about five areas, staff knowledge, improvement of overall mental health, students feeling supported and understood, new information they can implement, and would they seek services again. Overall, the center did well in all areas, but would like more students to participate in the surveys.

Finally, the center received two grants. One grant requires that all staff, faculty, security, residence assistants, advisors, and all newly hired staff go through mental health first aid training. The center is entering into a contract with togetherall to provide that training. It will be electronic and should take about 45 minutes. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grant is a housing grant from IBHE. This grant is for students who are having housing and energy insecurities.

The center collaborates with everyone on campus and the staff enjoy working with everyone. The center's social media handle is Mindingmymentalhealthmatters\_csu on Instagram.

### ***Finance and Audit Report***

As Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee, Trustee Schneider called on Dennis Stark, Interim Chief Financial Officer, and Vice President of Financial Operations to present the report.

Mr. Stark presented the financial report. The report on the audit of June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022, was accepted and loaded onto the website. Second, CSU completed the first 6 months of the fiscal year. Assets have increased by \$13.6M, some is capital project money. The checking accounts are up by \$6.3M, capital assets up by \$9M. Net Income has seen a great improvement. Operating expenses saw a decline. Finished the year with a positive number of \$4.7M.

Cash flow was positive for the first 6 months and based on increased enrollment figures and state government money, expect to finish the year on the positive side.

Finally, they are working on the budget. Mr. Stark gave a detailed explanation of how the budget process works and the description of the committee.

The Finance and Audit Report ended, and the meeting was turned over to Chair Andrea Zopp.

## ***Enrollment Management Report***

Chair Zopp asked Oscar Rodriguez to present the Enrollment Report. Spring 2023 is up 1.3%, there is a slight decline in graduate students by 2%. 24 new first-time freshmen, 141 transfers students. 118 traditional transfers, the rest (23 students) are 2<sup>nd</sup> bachelor's degrees.

Fall 2023 tracking well. It is up 14% year to date. CSU has received 6600 applications, up a little over 16%. CSU is up significantly for transfers with 326 applications.

Enrollment is focusing on high-yield areas. Most students come from the south side, south suburbs, and enrollment is spending more time in those areas. They also conducted a targeted name buy. They have hired a third-party marketing company to assist with marketing messaging. They also joined the CPS College Compact. This college compact is focused on the top 12-15 institutions that are the largest receivers of city high school students but is allowing CSU to be a part of this group.

Finally, enrollment is developing partnerships with businesses with tuition benefits. For example, Guild education has 15 students currently enrolled at CSU and Amazon has 3 students. He hopes Discover will bear fruit soon.

### ***Questions:***

***Are you using in-house partnerships to increase enrollment?***

***Yes, could not do it without leveraging CSU departments. Currently working with dual credit, adult learners, transition students, surveys are out for faculty.***

***How are you leveraging students in recruitment and yield activities?***

***Try to include students early, they make phone calls to prospective students.***

***Are there still student ambassadors? Yes, there are still students on campus, doing campus tours and phone calls.***

### **Legal Affairs**

Robin Hawkins presented a resolution regarding the expansion of the Designation of Signature Resolution. The resolution permits the CSU president to delegate signatory authority of certain documents to the following administrators: the vice president of Legal Affairs & General Counsel; the CFO and vice president of Financial Affairs; the controller; the provost and senior vice president of Academic Affairs; the director of Intercollegiate Athletics; the associate provost of Grants and Research Administration.

**Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve the Trustee Smart moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Zopp seconded the motion.**

*Trustee David-Yes*

*Trustee Quiara-Yes*

*Trustee Schneider -Yes*

*Trustee Smart-Yes*  
*Trustee Watkins-Yes*  
*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**Motion passed unanimously Ayes 6**

### ***CSU Foundation***

Chair Zopp called on Melanie Sillas, Executive Director, CSU Foundation to present an update on the CSU Foundation. Ms. Sillas gave an overview of fundraising. Corporate and foundation giving remains strong. The 2022 Gala is closed out. Alumni, staff, and individual giving is not as strong, but the foundation is creating strategies, so it increases. Major gifts have a lot of work to do. This year is about laying the groundwork so it can be successful.

2023 FirstGen Gala will be October 6<sup>th</sup> at the Geraghty in Pilsen. The venue can hold 1000 people and the gala will be indoors. The fundraising goal is \$420,000. Save-the-Date announcements will go out in March and the Foundation will steward gifts throughout the year.

Successes during the quarter include:

- ComEd gifted \$100K for students in their sophomore year and above.
- \$25K scholarship gift from Leo Burnett for students who participate in the pencil project.
- \$20K prep program from the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Incorporated Education Foundation
- Molex and Nicor Gifts also donated to the Prep Program.

The Foundation has upcoming meetings with the Joyce Foundation, Crown family philanthropies, Circle of Service, and the BMO Foundation.

The Foundation Board of Directors is 100% engaged. Ms. Sillas is meeting with them individually. She would like 100% board participation before going public with the gala.

Finally, there are several board changes. John Roback is the chair of the board. Mr. Roback has been with the Foundation since 2018. Leslie Anderson is the treasurer, Joseph Cancia is secretary. Chair Zopp gave a more detailed description of Mr. Roback's philanthropic history in Chicago.

Ms. Sillas then moved to her resolution to add Michael Harris II as a new Board Director. Mr. Harris is the President of Beverly Bank, and his father is an alum of Chicago State University.

**Chair Zopp called for a motion to approve Michael Harris II as a director for the Chicago State Foundation. Trustee Quiara moved to approve the resolution. Trustee Watkins seconded the motion.**

*Trustee David-Yes*  
*Trustee Quiara-Yes*  
*Trustee Schneider -Yes*  
*Trustee Smart-Yes*  
*Trustee Watkins-Yes*

*Trustee Zopp -Yes*  
**Motion passed unanimously Ayes 6**

**Chair Zopp moved to move into Executive Session. Trustee Schneider seconded the motion.**

*Trustee David-Yes*  
*Trustee Quiara-Yes*  
*Trustee Schneider -Yes*  
*Trustee Smart-Yes*  
*Trustee Watkins-Yes*  
*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 6 Nays 0**

**Return to Open Session**

**Chair Zopp moved to move into Open session. Trustee Schneider seconded the motion.**

*Trustee David-Yes*  
*Trustee Quiara-Yes*  
*Trustee Schneider -Yes*  
*Trustee Smart-Yes*  
*Trustee Watkins-Yes*  
*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 6 Nays 0**

**The Board had items that required action in open session.**

**Chair Zopp called on Robin Hawkins, Associate Vice President and Senior Associate General Counsel to discuss the first reading of the Governing Board Rules and Regulations. Ms. Hawkins went over all the sections that were considered for removal.**

**Chair Zopp asked for a motion to approve the first reading of the Governing Board Rule and Regulations. Trustee Smart moved to approve the first reading of the Rules and Regulations. Trustee Watkins seconded the motion.**

*Trustee David-Yes*  
*Trustee Quiara-Yes*  
*Trustee Schneider -Yes*  
*Trustee Smart-Yes*  
*Trustee Watkins-Yes*  
*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 6 Nays 0**



**Chair Zopp moved to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Smart seconded the motion.**

*Trustee David -Yes*

*Trustee Quiara-Yes*

*Trustee Schneider -Yes*

*Trustee Smart – Yes*

*Trustee Watkins-Yes*

*Trustee Zopp -Yes*

**The motion passed unanimously: Ayes 6 Nays 0**

*The March 6, 2023, Board of Trustees meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.*