

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD RETREAT
November 7-8, 2024**

November 7, 2024

The Board Retreat of the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University was convened on Thursday, November 7, 2024, at 9:35 a.m., at the Hyatt Lodge, 2815 Jorie Blvd., Oak Brook, Illinois. Dr. Kathryn Bohn, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order.

Roll was called and the following trustees answered present:

Kathryn Bohn, Chair
Scott Jenkins
Julie Jones
Bob Navarro, Secretary
Darren Tillis
Ryan Russell

The following trustee(s) were absent:

Lia Merminga

Others present:

President Tarhule, Provost Yazedjian, Interim Vice President for Finance and Planning Petree, Vice President for University Advancement Pat Vickerman, Vice President for Student Affairs Levester Johnson, Chief of Staff Katy Killian, Interim AVP for Budgeting and Planning Hendrix, Associate VP Enrollment Management Jana Albrecht, Associate VP Human Resources Janice Bonneville, and Board Counsel Carrie Haas,

After confirming there was an in-person quorum, Chair Bohn asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Russell, seconded by Trustee Jones, motioned to approve the agenda. The Board vote to approve the agenda was unanimous. The motion carried.

Chair Bohn next called for public comments. Five members of the public requested to address the Board and did so.

Chair Introduction

Chair Bohn welcomed the Board and guests and moved forward with agenda items.

Chair Bohn next asked President Tarhule to lead discussion on Budget Forecast and Impacts.

President Tarhule began by addressing the meetings held with campus stakeholder groups and additional presentations/open forums scheduled for November 14th and November 18th. President Tarhule then discussed creation of the RISE (Resilience, Innovation, Sustainability, and Excellence) Task Force consisting of 34 members cross-divisional/shared governance and chaired by Interim AVP for Budgeting and Planning Amanda Hendrix and Chairperson of the Academic Senate, Martha Horst.

President Tarhule then turned the discussion over to Interim VP Dan Petree and Interim AVP for Budgeting and Planning Amanda Hendrix. Petree and Hendrix led discussion on the RISE challenges, opportunities and outcomes, informing the Board of the following RISE Action Items that have been completed: Budget holdback of \$5.6M, shifting costs where allowable, and \$2M costs shifted from general revenue to AEF for allowable projects. RISE Action Items in Progress were also identified for the Board including targeting savings from general funds, reducing

out of cycle adjustments and a reduction in hiring. Discussion was had regarding budget forecasts under various scenarios.

Discussion was next had regarding concern for faculty and staff morale, and the importance of and need for transparency and ensuring the budget and financial information is being delivered to the campus stakeholders. President Tarhule explained that no matter what the University does, the trend is downward for projected net revenue unless there is a fundamental change in the funding paradigm. Discussion was then had on possible ways to increase revenue.

Associate VP for Enrollment Management Jana Albrecht and Provost Ani Yazedjian led discussion on the budget impacts to Financial Aid including a review of enrollment and financial aid, discussion of myths, and discussion of Fall 2025 Policy. For Fall 2024, total enrollment was 21,546 (up 2.7%), FTIC was 4,825 (largest ever with 450 Honors students), and was the most diverse class in history. Questions were asked about the increase of students and the impact on housing and campus facilities and student services. AVP Albrecht explained that the transfer student market is now more competitive than FTIC. AVP Albrecht and Provost Yazedjian identified various options for cost savings and impressed that the options selected will be driven by the University's goals (i.e., enrollment, diversity, net revenue).

President Tarhule next introduced Associate VP for Human Resources Janice Bonneville to lead discussion on the budget impacts to salary competitiveness. AVP Bonneville explained that the University is generally competitive on salary with comparators, but there is a concern that if we don't pay a competitive rate, we will lose faculty, staff and administration. Discussion was had regarding the FLSA impact to the budget and minimum wage increases.

Provost Yazedjian, President Tarhule and Interim VP Petree next provided a College of Engineering update including discussion on the closing, design process, transportation needs, recruitment, website, and Builders Stage event. It was noted that Mark Lockett at Precision Planting made the Builders Stage event happen and has produced a video from the event. Discussion was held regarding the need for additional sworn police officers at the new building and how the curriculum is designed for the students (i.e., taking classes both on campus and the College of Engineering building).

Provost Yazedjian next provided a STEM Building update. She led discussion regarding renovations to the current space, the unavailability of the greenhouse, courses to be held in the new STEM Building and the impact of having an unfinished STEM Building.

Convene in Executive Session

At 2:20 p.m., Trustee Russell, seconded by Trustee Tillis, moved to convene executive session to consider: (1) the purchase or lease of property for use of the public body as permitted by Section 2(c)(5) of the Open Meetings Act; and (2) security procedures, school building safety and security, and the use of personnel and equipment to respond to an actual, a threatened, or a reasonably potential danger as permitted by Section 2(c)(8) of the Open Meetings Act.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Chair Bohn	Yes
Trustee Ebikhumi	Yes
Trustee Jenkins	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Navarro	Yes
Trustee Tillis	Yes

The motion carried.

Reconvene in Open Session

At 4:16 p.m., Trustee Russell, seconded by Trustee Jenkins, moved to reconvene to open session. The Board voted unanimously to reconvene to open session. The motion carried.

Chair Bohn next led brief discussion on the FY25 Anticipated Initiatives.

Adjourn – Day One

At 4:23 p.m., Trustee Navarro, seconded by Trustee Jones, made a motion to adjourn the meeting until 9:00 a.m., Friday, November 8, 2024. The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn. The motion carried.

November 8, 2024

Day Two of the Board Retreat of the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University was convened on Friday, November 8, 2024, at 9:03 a.m., at the Hyatt Lodge, 2815 Jorie Blvd., Oak Brook, Illinois. Dr. Kathryn Bohn, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order.

Roll was called and the following trustees answered present:

Kathryn Bohn, Chair
Scott Jenkins
Julie Jones
Lia Merminga
Bob Navarro, Secretary
Darren Tillis
Ryan Russell

The following trustee(s) were absent:

None

Chair Bohn next asked President Tarhule to lead discussion on the FY25 Anticipated Initiatives.

President Tarhule led discussion on the FY25 Anticipated Initiatives. Discussion was had regarding priority and timing of projects listed and the need to identify if already approved in the budget.

Convene in Executive Session

At 9:24 a.m., Trustee Jenkins, seconded by Trustee Russell, moved to convene executive session to consider: the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees as permitted by Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Chair Bohn	Yes
Trustee Ebikhumi	Yes
Trustee Jenkins	Yes
Trustee Jones	Yes
Trustee Merminga	Yes
Trustee Navarro	Yes
Trustee Tillis	Yes

The motion carried.

Reconvene in Open Session

At 10:55 a.m., Trustee Tillis, seconded by Trustee Jenkins, moved to reconvene to open session. The Board voted unanimously to reconvene to open session. The motion carried.

Adjourn

At 10:55 a.m., Trustee Tillis, seconded by Trustee Jenkins, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn. The motion carried.