

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY
BOARD RETREAT
November 6-7, 2025**

November 6, 2025

The Board Retreat of the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University was convened on Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 9:16 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
Julie Hoeniges
Bob Navarro, Secretary
Ryan Russell
Doug Peterson

The following trustee(s) were absent:

Lia Merminga
Kris Lutt
Darren Tillis

Others present:

President Aondover Tarhule, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Ani Yazedjian, Vice President for Finance and Planning Glen Nelson, Vice President for University Advancement Pat Vickerman, Vice President for Student Affairs Lester Johnson, Chief of Staff Katy Killian, General Counsel Jeannie Barrett, Director of Emergency Management Eric Hedges, Chief of Police Aaron Woodruff, Interim Equity and Inclusion Officer Byron Craig 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 Hoeniges, motioned to approve the agenda. The Board vote to approve the agenda was unanimous. The motion carried.

Chair Bohn next called for public comments. No members of the public signed up for or otherwise appeared to provide public comment.

Chair Introduction

Chair Bohn welcomed the Board and guests. She noted a recent article by NACUBO identifying five key business issues for 2025 including managing unreliable funding sources, supporting and maintaining the workforce, and meeting rising operational costs. Chair Bohn reminded the Board that while the headwinds are significant, she is deeply optimistic about ISU's future and that "we have a dedicated board, a visionary president, excellent reputation and brand recognition, talented faculty and staff, supportive alumni and donors, and a passionate student body – all committed to a shared purpose."

Chair Bohn next asked President Tarhule to introduce his cabinet members and staff joining the Board Retreat, and to then move on with introductory comments.

After President Tarhule provided introductory comments, including discussion of board retreat goals and board input needed, Chair Bohn asked for a motion to move into Closed Session for the purpose of discussing 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 to the safety of employees, students, staff, the public, or public property pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).

Convene in Executive Session

At 9:26 a.m., Trustee Hoeniges, seconded by Trustee Peterson, moved to convene executive session pursuant to 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(8).

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Chair Bohn	Yes
Trustee Russell	Yes
Trustee Peterson	Yes
Trustee Hoeniges	Yes
Trustee Navarro	Yes

The motion carried.

Reconvene in Open Session

At 10:31 a.m., Trustee Navarro, seconded by Trustee Peterson, moved to reconvene to open session. The Board voted unanimously to reconvene to open session. The motion carried.

Chair Bohn asked Board Counsel to lead a discussion of Trustee Roles and Duties including discussion of the obligations and requirements under FOIA and OMA.

Chair Bohn next asked President Tarhule to proceed with the agenda items: Housing, STEM building, CEFCU arena roof and GE Road property updates.

Provost Yazedjian led discussion on the GE Road building update, including discussion regarding personnel and programming for the College of Engineering. Discussion was had regarding the cost of renovation, potential candidates for relocation of programs, and bus routes and the associated costs.

VP Nelson next led discussion on a proposed solar roof project at the GE Road property, including identifying the expected cost, anticipated cost savings, the environmental benefit and the expiration of the federal tax credit next year.

Trustee Lutt joins.

VP Johnson next provided an update on student housing. VP Johnson first highlighted the history and the need for additional student housing. VP Johnson then discussed the cost of a new building including the cost for the dining operations, and the pros and cons of a design build. There was discussion on the impact on enrollment growth if new housing is not built and the existing housing stock.

Next, President Tarhule provided an update on the STEM Building, and funds allocated by the Capital Development Board indicating that Fall 2028 is the latest completion date possible.

President Tarhule next led discussion regarding the need to replace the CEFCU Arena roof which opened in 1989 and is beyond its expected lifespan. VP Nelson discussed the replacement cost, the limited number of manufacturers and installers qualified to work on the project, and stressed that it is critical the University be proactive in addressing the replacement need.

President Tarhule and VP Nelson next led discussion on the budget, including information about the budget model implementation; budget forecast; and tuition, fees, room and board. Discussion of the remaining Day 1 agenda items (FY27 anticipated projects and resolutions; and the possibility of a special board meeting in December 2025) was tabled until Day 2 of the Board Retreat after a motion to table was made by Trustee Navarro, seconded by Trustee Lutt, and passed unanimously by the Board.

Trustee Hoeniges, seconded by Trustee Navarro, made a motion to adjourn the meeting until 8:15 a.m., Friday, November 7, 2025. The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn. The motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

November 7, 2025

Day Two of the Board Retreat of the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University was convened on Friday, November 7, 2025, at 8:18 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
Trustee Hoeniges
Trustee Lutt
Trustee Navarro
Trustee Peterson
Trustee Russell

The following trustee(s) were absent:

Trustee Mermanga
Trustee Tillis

Others Present:

President Aondover Tarhule
Chief of Staff Katy Killian
VP Glen Nelson (via telephone)

After confirming there was an in-person quorum for Day 2, Chair Bohn asked President Tarhule to lead continued discussion on the budget, including FY27 anticipated projects and resolutions, and the possibility of a special board meeting in December 2025.

At 8:20 a.m. Trustee Mermanga arrived.

President Tarhule discussed the fiscal impact of tuition increases, increased compensation costs, and the long-term fiscal problems impacting all public universities/colleges in Illinois. President Tarhule identified actions being taken by other state universities including staff reductions, sale of assets, and cutting programs.

There was discussion on anticipated resolutions for a special board meeting in December, including for student housing, the solar project for the GE Road property, and degree audit software.

President Tarhule concluded the discussion by discussing challenges to higher education generally, and ISU specifically. There was discussion regarding block scheduling, shared governance and which projects the trustees could support bringing for consideration and vote in December 2025.

Convene in Executive Session

At 10:15 a.m., Trustee Russell, seconded by Trustee Hoeniges, moved to convene executive session to consider: the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees as permitted by 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1).

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Chair Bohn	Yes
Trustee Hoeniges	Yes
Trustee Lutt	Yes
Trustee Peterson	Yes
Trustee Mermanga	Yes
Trustee Navarro	Yes
Trustee Russell	Yes

The motion carried.

Reconvene in Open Session

At 12:12 p.m., Trustee Mermanga, seconded by Trustee Navarro, moved to reconvene to open session. The Board voted unanimously to reconvene to open session. The motion carried.

Adjourn

At 12:13 p.m., Trustee Hoeniges, seconded by Trustee Russell, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The Board unanimously agreed to adjourn. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:13 p.m.

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