

MINUTES
Board of Trustees Meeting of Illinois State University
July 24, 2026

[Sound of rapping gavel]

Trustee Bohn: In accordance with the board's bylaws, as Chairperson I will now call the quarterly meeting of the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University to order at 9:16 a.m. I note for the record the notice of today's meeting was posted in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act and that the public has been notified of the date, time, and location of this meeting. As noted in the meeting notice, the university has provided a YouTube link that allows all interested persons to view the meeting live and hear all discussions and votes. Trustee Navarro, please call the roll.

Roll Call

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Bohn.

Trustee Bohn: Present.

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Hoeniges.

Trustee Hoeniges: Present.

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Kropp.

Trustee Kropp: Present.

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Lutt.

Trustee Lutt: Present.

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Merminga.

Trustee Merminga: Present.

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Navarro present. Trustee Peterson.

Trustee Peterson: Present.

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Tillis.

Trustee Tillis: Present.

Trustee Navarro: We have a quorum.

Oath of Office

Trustee Bohn: Thank you, Trustee Navarro. We are excited to welcome Tyler Kropp to his first Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Kropp, would you please approach and take the oath of office.

Please repeat after me. I do solemnly swear . . .

Trustee Kropp: I do solemnly swear . . .

Trustee Bohn: . . . that I will uphold the Constitution of the United States . . .

Trustee Kropp: . . . that I will uphold the Constitution of the United States . . .

Trustee Bohn: . . . and of the State of Illinois . . .

Trustee Kropp: . . . and of the State of Illinois . . .

Trustee Bohn: . . . and that I will faithfully discharge the duties . . .

Trustee Kropp: . . . and that I will faithfully discharge the duties . . .

Trustee Bohn: . . . of the office of the Board of Trustees . . .

Trustee Kropp: . . . of the office of the Board of Trustees . . .

Trustee Bohn: . . . of Illinois State University . . .

Trustee Kropp: . . . of Illinois State University . . .

Trustee Bohn: . . . to the best of my ability.

Trustee Kropp: . . . to the best of my ability.

Trustee Bohn: Congratulations.

[applause]

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Kropp, we are thrilled to welcome you, and we look forward to working together to benefit Illinois State University during the coming year. Would you like to say a few words?

Trustee Kropp's Remarks

Trustee Kropp: Yes. Good morning, everybody, and thank you for granting a student like me the opportunity to sit before you all at this table. Five years ago, I made a very similar oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the State of Illinois when my parents allowed me to join the Illinois National Guard at 17 years old. That decision granted me the freedom to pursue an education here and pursue a dream I did not think was possible, to become an educator. I never put much thought into the college selection process. I recall touring campus once to make sure there weren't any major issues and applying the next day. Never did I think I would eventually be amongst my esteemed colleagues here today, representing the entirety of Illinois State's student body.

Over a year ago I was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia. I was only 20 years old, and in that moment when my oncologist broke the news to my loved ones and me, I reacted as any college student would to call my academic advisor and let them know I would out of classes for a while. Now I'm only half joking. Yes, I did notify my advisor and professors immediately. But I was also in shock and unsure of what would come next for me. My loved ones, who are here in the audience with us this morning, can attest that despite being at my lowest physically, mentally the only thing I could think about was to talk about or look forward to was returning to Illinois State University and being a student again. This community, this campus has given me so much more than a kid fresh out of basic training could have ever imagined. Following the announcement of my diagnosis, I felt an outpouring of support from our campus community, clubs, and RSOs. Nothing will ever match the moment when my fraternity brother handed me thousands in cash for my treatment, all funds

raised from events held on this campus, all donated from students and family members of students. Much like the work the board and I now share, I took the news of difficulty and adversity and decided to turn it around into something bigger than myself. As a soldier in the Illinois Guard, I started in the spring semester, and now with an additional semester to catch up on I took the extra time as an opportunity to pursue this position and give back to a campus that had given me so much, a campus that I now proudly call home. The weight of representing over 20,000 students is heavy, but I've carried heavier weight before. What I hope to bring to this table isn't simply a voice of the students. It's a voice with a face and a name, a face of someone who has struggled, fought, and come out on top. I would like to thank my family and my girlfriend who sacrificed so much of their own time and lives to care for me in the hospital. Without them I would not be standing here today. Would you please stand so we can recognize you? Thank you.

[applause]

I would also like to thank my fellow peers who elected me into this position and the friends who campaigned relentlessly on my behalf. Your belief in me before this and after it motivates me to keep striving for more, and I will work tirelessly to make your trust in me worth it. I look forward to working with my fellow board members, President Tarhule, our vice presidents, deans, faculty, and staff to keep building a campus I am proud to call home. Five years ago, I swore an oath that gave me the chance to learn here. Today I swore another that gives me the chance to serve here. Thank you all so much. Go you Redbirds.

[applause]

Trustee Bohn: Thank you, Trustee Kropp.

Approval of Agenda

Trustee Bohn: You have before you the agenda for today's meeting. May I have a motion and a second to approve the agenda?

Trustee Lutt: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Lutt made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Merminga: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Second, Trustee Merminga. Is there any discussion? Having no discussion, all those in favor say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The agenda is approved.

Public Comments

Trustee Bohn: Next on the agenda is Public Comments. In accordance with established and recorded policy, the Board of Trustees will allow up to 30 minutes in total for public comments and questions during a public meeting. Each speaker is permitted 5 minutes for their presentation. If more than 2 people wish to speak on a single item, it is recommended that they designate one or more people to speak on their behalf. The Board of Trustees will accept copies of the speakers' presentations, questions, and other relevant written materials. If you have any written materials you want to share with the trustees, you may send them to bot@ilstu.edu. When appropriate, the Board of Trustees will provide a response to a speaker's questions within a reasonable amount of time.

At this time I invite Ben Matthews to come to the podium and proceed with your comments to the board.

Ben Matthews: Good morning, President Tarhule and members of the Board of Trustees. My name is Ben Matthews. Just as I was in February and again in May, I am here as a lab school graduate, a legacy alum, a loyal donor, and a lifelong Redbird. And I'm here as a staff member of the Illinois Education Association advocating for public education and public education employees throughout Bloomington-Normal, including at Metcalf and U High. As an alum, parent and advocate, I love the lab schools. And while I've heard that there are those in campus leadership who question the value of Metcalf and U High, I'm a firm believer that the lab schools still count. When I last stood before you, I shared that our experience at the bargaining table had improved. Rather than stalling we were seeing steady progress. Rather than constant conflict we were seeing more collaboration. While sometimes the progress is slower than we would like and slower than it needs to be, we do appreciate the efforts to work together rather than always be adversarial, and we hope that continues as we start dealing with significant matters at the table, including compensation. Our team provided the university with a full compensation proposal on April 23rd. We have not yet received any response. We understand ISU's position when it comes to compensation to be that every category of employee the university makes sure to benchmark what a comparable salary in the comparable market is. Our proposal is crafted to help our educators and support professionals at the lab schools catch up to their counterparts in our local public schools. We have used the same benchmark districts that a previous joint salary study committee identified as a comparable market, and we have provided a proposal that we know the university can afford, especially given the more than \$6,000,000 currently in reserves from evidence-based funding from the State of Illinois intended to fund the lab schools. It's been quite some time since our lab members have benefited from any pay increase. As a result, they have fallen further behind. If we are committed to excellence as a campus community to cultivating the culture of success and belonging, promoting the culture of well-being, nurturing equity, diversity, access, and belonging, bolstering faculty and staff success, providing the culture of flourishing, and elevating our institutional excellence, we have to recognize the value of our lab school faculty and staff and reward that with fair compensation. We're hopeful that we'll receive a response from the university at the bargaining table soon. We still have a lot of work to do, but if we continue to see each other as partners, lean into our shared values, and commit to collaboration and respect, we can accomplish that work, get a fair contract for our lab school employees, and demonstrate that all of us collectively love the lab schools and believe they still count. Thank you.

Trustee Bohn: Thank you, Ben Matthews. That concludes the Public Comments for today.

The next item of business on the agenda is the election of officers.

Election of Officers

Board Counsel Carrie Haas: At the first board meeting of each fiscal year, the trustees elect board officers for the year by secret ballot as required by Illinois State University law. Are there nominations for the office of Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University?

Trustee Lutt: I would move to nominate Trustee Bohn.

Board Counsel Haas: Thank you, Trustee Lutt. Is there a second?

Trustee Navarro: I second.

Board Counsel Haas: Trustee Navarro got in first. [laughter] Are there any other nominations? If there are no other nominations, I will ask for nominations to be closed. Is there a motion to close nominations?

Trustee Lutt: So moved.

Board Counsel Haas: Trustee Lutt made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Navarro: I'll second.

Board Counsel Haas: Trustee Navarro seconded. All in favor of the motion to close nominations say aye.

Multiple speakers: Aye.

Board Counsel Haas: Opposed? The nominations are now closed with Trustee Bohn being nominated to the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. I will now ask the trustees to vote by secret ballot on a sheet of paper from the pad provided. Please write the last name of the individual you wish to vote for, fold the paper, and I will collect each trustee's vote and tabulate those votes.

I have counted the votes, and Trustee Bohn has been elected as the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University. Congratulations.

[applause]

Trustee Bohn: Thank you. First of all, I would like to thank my husband, Dr. Tom Nielsen, for his patience and his support of my service to ISU. I am humbled, I'm honored, and I'm appreciative that my fellow trustees have confidence in me as Chair. I look forward to working with you fellow trustees, with President Tarhule, the cabinet, the university community and staff to continue to move this wonderful university, my alma mater, forward. I've always believed that ISU gave me the start in my career and the life I have. I'm from a very small town in northern Illinois, a town of 200. I never dreamt that this would be my honor at some point in my life. I'm grateful to ISU for that, and I consider it a privilege to give back to the university with the entire Board of Trustees as we move forward.

We will now proceed with the election of the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University. Are there nominations for the Office of Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University?

Trustee Merminga: I'd like to nominate Bob Navarro.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Merminga has nominated Trustee Navarro. Is there a second?

Trustee Tillis: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Second was from Trustee Tillis. Thank you. Trustee Navarro has been nominated by Trustee Merminga as Secretary of the Board of Trustees. If there are no other nominations, I'll ask for nominations to be closed. Are there any other nominations? Is there a motion to close the nominations?

Trustee Hoeniges: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Hoeniges made the motion to close the nominations. Is there a second?

Trustee Tillis: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Second by Trustee Tillis. All those in favor to close nominations, please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The nominations are now closed.

Board Counsel Haas: Dr. Navarro has been nominated for the position of Secretary of the Board of Trustees. I will now ask the trustees to vote by secret ballot on a sheet of paper from the pad provided.

Congratulations, Dr. Navarro. I've counted the votes, and you have been elected as the Secretary for the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University. Congratulations.

[applause]

Trustee Bohn: Would you like to make any comments? No? [laughter]

Trustee Navarro: I just appreciate the opportunity to continue to serve and the confidence of my fellow board members to serve in this capacity. So thank you.

Trustee Bohn: Thank you, Trustee Navarro.

With the beginning of a new fiscal year it is time to make appointments to the Board of Trustees committees and appointments to university and State boards. The Executive Committee, consistent with the board bylaws, will consist of the Chairperson, board Secretary, and Trustee Darren Tillis. The Audit Committee will consist of Trustee Bohn, who will Chair the committee, Trustee Lutt, and Trustee Peterson. The State Affairs Committee will include Trustee Merminga as Committee Chairperson, Trustee Lutt, Trustee Peterson, and Trustee Kropp. Trustee Tillis will serve as liaison to the Foundation Board, and Trustee Hoeniges will serve as liaison to the Alumni Association. And Trustee Navarro will serve as the liaison to the University Civil Service Merit Board. It's the duty of the board to elect an employee from the university staff to serve as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. The Treasurer serves in an ex-officio capacity and receives and disperses all monies and reports to the Board of Trustees on the financial status and fiscal affairs of the university. At Illinois State University that person traditionally has been the Vice President for Finance and Planning. We will continue with this tradition, so Vice President for Finance and Planning, Glen Nelson, will serve as Treasurer.

It's the duty of the board Chairperson to designate a university representative to serve as an ex-officio member of the Municipal Clerks Training Institute Committee. The committee serves in an advisory capacity and helps develop curriculum from municipal clerks training courses. I have designated Rob Blemler, Director of Internal Auditing and University Ethics Officer for that task.

And lastly, the Board of Trustees of Illinois State University formally designates Chief Information Security Officer, Dan Taube, as qualified individual under the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act Safeguards Rule. The board directs the qualified individual to develop and maintain a comprehensive strategic plan for the university's Information Security Program, ensuring the protection of all sensitive information processed by the university in compliance with applicable federal and state requirements. The qualified individual shall report at least annually to the Board of Trustees on the status of the university's Information Security Program, including material risks, implemented safeguards, and program effectiveness.

Well, good morning, and thank you for joining us for the July 24th, 2026 Board of Trustees meeting. First, I again want to thank my fellow trustees for the confidence you've placed in me by electing me to serve as Chair of the Board. I am honored to continue in this role, and I look forward to working alongside you as we advance the mission and the future of Illinois State University. I would also like to congratulate Trustee Navarro on his re-election as the Secretary of the Board and thank him for his continued leadership and service.

As we begin the work of the coming year, I am especially pleased to welcome Student Trustee Kropp to the Board. We're excited to have your voice, perspective, and leadership represented in our discussions and our decisions. Your commitment to serving fellow students and helping shape the future of Illinois State

University is deeply valued. We look forward to working with you and wish you every success in this important role.

Earlier this morning, the Campus Communication Committee hosted a highly informative Discussion Hour. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank Dr. Jeri Beggs, Director of Athletics, for her recap of this past year in Redbird Athletics. We look forward to another successful year.

President Tarhule and Vice President for Finance and Planning, Glen Nelson, have informed me that the university ended fiscal year 2026 in the black with a small net positive margin. I want to congratulate the administration on the outcome. Although we generally expect the university to end each year in the black, the multiplicity of the many challenges confronting all universities means that this outcome can no longer be guaranteed. I would like to comment on two related issues. First, I am pleased that the new budget model has been fully developed. Among other things, the new budget model strictly ties Illinois State's expenditures to revenues. In other words, it obligates us to live within our means and our resources. It means the university will commit to expenses only if we are confident that we have the resources to pay for them. While this may entail difficult choices and tradeoffs, I ask President Tarhule and the administration to strictly adhere to the principle of this new budget model. To do otherwise is to put the university's fiscal future at risk and, therefore, our hard-earned brand and reputation. I think President Tarhule and the cabinet are well aware that I will continually ask, "Where's the money coming from?" for projects. Second, FY27 is the onset of the dreaded enrollment cliff which we have heard so much about for more than a decade. A cohort analysis shows that the number of students graduated from high schools in Illinois will decline by more than 15,000 during the next five years. This matters because nearly 96% of undergraduate students at Illinois State University come from Illinois, meaning that we can expect to be adversely affected by the shrinking of this enrollment pipeline. At the same time, most of our expenses are paid for by tuition dollars, so what impacts enrollment will impact our financial situation. I ask administration to continually closely and diligently monitor enrollment data and trends and do everything possible to keep Illinois State's enrollment strong. To all other university constituents, I ask that you monitor these trends and adjust your expectations accordingly. Please ensure that your demands are pragmatic and cognizant of this moment which I've heard described as a poly-crisis in higher education. On our part, the board looks forward to working with and supporting the administration to ensure Illinois State remains fiscally resilient and forward looking. I'll now turn to President Aondover Tarhule for his remarks.

President Tarhule's Remarks

President Tarhule: Thank you, Chairperson Bohn, and congratulations on being re-elected Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. And congratulations to Trustee Navarro on also being re-elected Secretary. The two of you comprise a strong and steady leadership team for the board, and I look forward to continuing to work with you. I also want to welcome Trustee Kropp. We look forward to working with you.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Board of Trustees for their commitment and dedication to Illinois State. We sincerely appreciate all you do, and I note without compensation. My team and I look forward to working with all of you to advance the mission of the university as we move into the 2026-27 academic year. Like our Board's Chair, I also thank the Campus Communication Committee for hosting the Discussion Hour and for providing an opportunity to hear about Redbird Athletics Year in Review from Director of Athletics, Dr. Jeri Beggs.

Although there may be fewer people on the Quad during the summer, campus has remained busy as Illinois State welcomed more than 3,800 first-time-in-college students and their families for Preview. Students explored campus, experienced residence hall and dining life, learning about support resources, met with academic advisors, and began building connections with future classmates. Advising staff continue to meet individually with students to prepare for the fall semester, completing nearly 4,000 appointments to date. And I thought my calendar was full.

[laughter]

The fall semester is just around the corner, and University Housing Services staff and volunteers from across campus will be ready to welcome students and assist with moving, beginning Tuesday, August 11th and continuing through Saturday, August 15th.

Welcome Week, held the week before fall classes begin, features a variety of exciting events and experiences designed to help students connect with one another, get involved on campus, and start the semester off right. Best of all, many events include food and opportunities to win prizes.

As we get ready for this academic year, I want to make sure that we spotlight some of the incredible work that goes on all year long. Here is just a small sampling of the people and work that make Illinois State University great. I'll begin by congratulating the Illinois State Solar Car Team, which is participating in the American Solar Car Challenge. This multidisciplinary student-driven team of ten is advised by faculty and staff within the Department of Physics and was one of only 16 teams that earned a spot yesterday afternoon in the Challenge. Their trip from Annapolis to Amarillo, Texas begins tomorrow. The 16 teams will travel through Bloomington-Normal as they reach an overnight checkpoint here on Illinois State's campus on Sunday. The teams will continue to drive on Monday morning, connecting to historic Route 66 in southwest Bloomington in recognition of the model road's 100th anniversary. The ASC, the American Solar Car Challenge, is also officially part of America 250, the nonpartisan celebration of the United States' 250 years. The team introduced and displayed their new Mercury vehicle at a special Solar Send-Off Event last week. Best wishes to the team as they begin these days' long journey that will end on August 1.

Dr. Lisa Lawless from University College and Dr. Angell Howard from Student Affairs led the creation of a campus-wide Professional Learning Institute that brought together more than 120 faculty, staff, and campus partners to strengthen student success efforts. The institute promoted cross-campus collaboration and generated actionable strategies to support students through critical academic, social, and personal transitions.

Illinois State published its Graduate Outcomes Report for the class of 2025, reflecting stronger collaboration among career services, the graduate school, and the academic colleges as well as enhanced data collection and reporting processes. The results underscore strong student success outcomes. 97% of graduates are employed or pursuing further education within six months of graduation. 87% remain in Illinois and nearly all respondents report that their current paths align with their career goals and that they feel well prepared for their next steps.

The Department of Special Education received a \$2,300,000 gift from the Wheeler Foundation to expand the PULSE Program, providing access for paraprofessional educators committed to bettering their schools and communities to earn their licensure in special education.

The Illinois State lab schools provided a final report in June 2026, accounting for more than 52,132 hours of clinical experience for pre-service teachers from across the university in 2025-2026.

Milner Library is actively planning its 50th anniversary celebration to be held on October 8, 2026, commemorating the building's official opening in July and five decades of service to Illinois State University. The event will honor Milner's long extended impact on student success, faculty research, and community engagement while also bringing together campus leaders, alumni, and supporters to advance visibility and future fund-raising priorities.

For the first time in Redbird Athletics history, Illinois State has won both the Missouri Valley Conference All Sports and Missouri Valley Conference All Academic Award in the same year. Our student athletes continue to excel in competition and in the classroom, earning a department-record 3.48 cumulative GPA.

University Advancement has achieved a historic milestone in FY26, raising more than \$52,000,000 in private support, the highest level in Illinois State's 169-year history and the second consecutive record-setting year. This achievement reflects both the extraordinary generosity of our donors and their strong confidence in the university's future and strategic priorities. We are deeply grateful for their investment and steadfast support.

I'm genuinely pleased with the progress Illinois State University is making on all fronts. If current enrollment deposit trends continue, our focus shows that next year's total enrollment will come in just slightly below last year's record-setting numbers, well within the range we anticipated. This is encouraging and it reflects the stated discipline work happening across the university.

Our major constructions projects continue to advance satisfactorily. These include the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts renovation, the College of Engineering renovation, and the Solar Installation Project. In just a few minutes I will also be asking the board for approval of the funding mechanism for the Science Complex Project. Taken together, these projects, the new academic programs and initiatives will have launched our ongoing strategic plan, Excellence By Design, and our appropriation for the next capital campaign paint a clear picture. Illinois State University is moving forward with momentum, focus, and resolve. To borrow the words of our Board Chair, we are a forward-looking university. As President, I am acutely aware that none of this progress happens on its own. It is made possible only through the dedication, hard work, and in many cases the sacrifices of our faculty and staff. Each day, Illinois State faculty and staff go beyond the call of duty to ensure the student feels seen, encouraged, and supported. They are prepared to put in that extra time, one or two more extra hours, to attend to a student who needs help, a colleague who needs support, that a goal that seemed initially impossible is met. This is who we are. This is what makes Illinois State special, and I could not be prouder to work alongside such extraordinary colleagues in service to our students and their families. Accordingly, after consultation with the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to announce a 3% merit-based salary increase effective October 1, 2026 for continuous faculty and staff with non-negotiated appointments. This means that each unit will have the equivalent of 3% of non-negotiated salaries to disburse to those employees based on merit. ISU's total salary increases over the past 5 years are the highest in 18 years, highlighting our commitment to supporting our staff despite financial constraints. As President, I pledge to continue working tirelessly towards a goal where our compensation remains competitive and attractive within our financial realities. This balancing act, as seen elsewhere in Illinois and across the country, is incredibly challenging and may not produce perfect results. Yet, I remain committed to working together where possible to support our dedicated team in these tough times. The University Budget Office will soon share additional eligibility and process details with salary managers to assess and apply these increases. Pay increases for employees in bargaining units are determined through the collective bargaining process and the terms of the applicable contract. The Salary Wage Program is not simply a financial decision. It is a statement of gratitude. It is an acknowledgement of the people who make Illinois State University what it is. It is a commitment to support those who give so much of themselves, to our university and our mission. In further acknowledgement of that commitment, I am pleased to announce that an update to the university's Administrative Closure Policy has been made, which gives the flexibility to declare an additional Administrative Closure Day during the fall or winter break. For this year I am exercising that flexibility and declaring Administrative Closure Day for Wednesday, November 25th, 2026.

Additionally, I would like to take a moment to recognize new members of our Illinois State University Leadership Team. Please welcome Dr. Marko Dumancic who began his role as Associate Vice President for Undergraduate Education on June 1, 2026. Dumancic brings extensive leadership experience in undergraduate education, including guiding general education reform, advancing innovative academic initiatives such as AI in the curriculum, and strengthening student advising and success efforts. He joins Illinois State from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where he served as Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education. I believe Dumancic is here. Marko, will you stand to be recognized?

[applause]

Thank you. Please also welcome Dr. Kristian O'Connor who began his role as Associate Vice President for Research on June 8, 2026. O'Connor brings expertise in research administration and institutional leadership with a collaborative approach to advancing research excellence and innovation. An Association of Public and Land Grant University's Council on Research Leadership Fellow, he joins Illinois State from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee where he served as Associate Vice Provost for Research and Professor of Biomechanics. Is Kristian in the audience? Yeah, he is.

[applause]

Dr. Gwen Tarbox began her role as the new Director of Scholarly Teaching in the Center of Integrated and Professional Development on July 1, 2026. Tarbox will lead initiatives that advance evidence-based teaching, inclusive excellence, faculty mentoring, and student success. An expert in equitable and accessible teaching practices and the impact of emerging technologies in higher education, Tarbox brings extensive leadership experience focused on the intersection of faculty and student success. She most recently served as the University Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning at the University of Connecticut and previously as Director of the Office of Faculty Development and Professor of English at Western Michigan University. Welcome, Dr. Tarbox. Is Dr. Tarbox in . . .

[applause]

Dr. Linda Haddad joined Mennonite College of Nursing on July 1 as its new dean. A nationally recognized nursing leader, Haddad has led efforts to improve student success, expand online learning, strengthen research and grant activity, and enhance faculty and student support programs. She most recently served as a Visiting Provost Fellow at the University of Michigan Flint and previously as Dean of the College of Nursing at the University of Memphis. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Haddad to Illinois State University.

[applause]

I would like to thank Dr. Caroline Mallory, who postponed her retirement and returned to Illinois State University to serve as the Interim Dean of Mennonite College of Nursing for the past year. She retired for the second time on June 30th, and this time I'm told she means it. [laughter] Let's give her a round of applause. Is Caroline in the audience?

[applause]

I want to conclude my remarks with the following: Illinois State University is advancing with purpose. We are building, innovating, and preparing for the future. But most importantly we are doing so together with shared values, shared dedication, and shared belief in this university and what it can achieve. I thank you for your continued service, your passion, and your unwavering commitment to our students. It is an honor to lead this institution alongside with you. With that, I'd like to call on today's spokesperson for the Campus Communication Committee, Dr. Daniel Freburg, who serves as Director of the Learning Center at the School of Information Technology and an administrative professional representative to the newly formed Staff Council. Daniel . . .

Daniel Freburg: All right. Thank you. First, the Campus Communication Committee would like to thank Dr. Jeri Beggs for presenting on Redbird Athletics during the Coffee Hour. The purpose of the Campus Communication Committee is to communicate the climate of the campus and amplify the voices of the people we represent to the Board of Trustees. We are grateful for the opportunity to participate in shared governance and provide perspectives from across the university community. Two of the groups represented by the Campus Communication Committee are Civil Service and Administrative Professionals. We are

pleased to share that the newly formed Staff Council, which combines the former Civic Service Council and the AP Council, has begun meeting, and we look forward to working as a united staff group.

While the summer term is generally a quieter period for many areas of the university, several prominent issues remain at the forefront as we prepare for the fall 2026 semester. Chief among these is the transition to the university's new budget model. We recognize and appreciate the considerable time, effort, and planning that the university leadership has invested in developing and implementing this model. As we monitor enrollment projections for fall 2026, which points to a potential decline compared to last year, we remain hopeful that the thoughtful preparations behind the new budget framework will position the institution to navigate challenges effectively and achieve long-term outcomes with minimal disruption to faculty, staff, and students.

Another area of concern is the One Big Beautiful Bill Act passed in July 2025 and its implications for student financial aid and affordability. On July 1st, several changes from the Act came into effect, including changes to the Federal Needs Analysis calculations, graduate student loan limits, proration of loans for students attending below full-time, and student loan repayment options as well as new measurements for institutional accountability related to post-graduation earnings. The One Big Beautiful Act will impact many aspects of higher education. We are thankful for the university's advocacy for faculty, staff and students, and we look forward to receiving timely updates about the changes as the legislation is implemented.

One of the most visible and impactful activities of the summer is the university's Preview program which welcomes incoming first-time-in-college students to the campus. This year the program substantially changed its schedule and format, including moving new student registration to online meetings before their on-campus visit. Feedback indicates that these changes have been well received and contributed positively to the experiences of incoming students and their families. We appreciate all who contributed to Preview's success, especially academic advisors who are now meeting with students individually rather than in groups.

We are delighted to see the new and long-awaited construction projects on campus. The Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts construction brings a sense of new era for the college. The announcement of a new Science Complex brings a sense of growth and development for hands-on research. We also look forward to hearing more about the proposed new on-campus housing and dining facilities. These projects demonstrate that ISU is committed to ensuring Redbirds will continue to have excellent learning experiences and facilities.

Lastly, we support further reflection on the labor disputes that have occurred on campus in recent years, including the recent strike. These situations have created uncertainty and stress for students, faculty, staff, families, and many others across the university community. While we recognize that labor negotiations are complex and disagreements may arise, we hope proactively exploring strategies that promote communication, collaboration, and early resolution of concerns could reduce future labor disputes. We encourage the board and the university administration to continue seeking opportunities to strengthen relationships with unions and employee groups. Taking proactive steps today could help foster a more stable and supportive environment for everyone who learns, works, and engages with Illinois State University.

Thank you for this opportunity to share the pulse of the campus and the topics that matter to our constituents.

President Tarhule: Thank you, Daniel.

[applause]

There is one report today, the Academic Plan 2026-2031, which was included in your board materials. The annual renewable plan consists of a brief profile of the university, the university's Strategic Plan and inventory of academic programs and centers, educational program and center changes 2024-2025, an

inventory of accredited academic programs, and updates regarding academic initiatives, college strategic plans, and summaries of the 2025-26 academic program reviews. Are there questions or comments from board members about this report?

Trustee Bohn: Okay. We will now move toward to the Consent Agenda.

Consent Agenda

Trustee Bohn: All items listed on the Consent Agenda are routine and will be enacted in one motion. There will be no individual discussion of these items unless a trustee requests it, in which case the item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and considered at the appropriate point on the agenda. Do any trustees wish to have any items removed from the Consent Agenda? Hearing none, may I have a motion and a second to approve the Consent Agenda, items A through E?

Trustee Navarro: I so move.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Navarro made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Peterson: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Peterson, second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor, please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? Items included on the Consent Agenda are approved. President Tarhule, please proceed with the resolutions.

Resolutions

President Tarhule: Thank you.

Resolution 2026.07/29. Approval of the FY2027 Operating Budget.

According to Illinois Board of Higher Education policy, each public university's governing board must review and approve an official budget for the university it governs each fall. FY2027 is the first year under the university's new budget framework, which aligns divisional budget allocations with projected general revenue funds. The university expects to generate \$595,800,000 in total revenue from enrollment tuition fees, state funding, and other revenue sources. It also plans to use \$7,800,000 from its general revenue reserves to cover start-up cost for the College of Engineering. Together, these funds total \$603,600,000, which is \$3,200,000 more than the university's planned \$600,400,000 expenditure budget. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Tillis: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Tillis made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Lutt: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Lutt, second. Is there any discussion? I have one question.

President Tarhule: Yes.

Trustee Bohn: So we're taking the \$7,800,000 from general reserves. So that puts us not quite \$3,000,000 over.

President Tarhule: Correct.

Trustee Bohn: What are you going to do with those funds?

President Tarhule: The \$7,800,000?

Trustee Bohn: No, the almost \$3,000,000. So you take the \$7,800,000 and the \$595,800,000; that gives us \$603,800,000.

President Tarhule: Yes.

Trustee Bohn: But the budget is \$600,400,000.

President Tarhule: Yes. So I think . . . it's a good question, and I appreciate the question. One way to think about it is if we didn't have the \$7,800,000, we would have a positive balance. And the \$7,800,000 we're taking from reserves, from savings. So it's not part of the ongoing cash flow. And that's money that was planned several years ago when we submitted a plan for the College of Engineering. At that time we already knew that each year we would take out a certain amount of money as the college ramped up until we got to the point where it was now generating enough revenue from tuition to support itself. So this is part of planned expenditure. It's essentially, again, taking from savings. And so we feel confident that it still keeps us at the operating budget, in the black.

Trustee Bohn: And so we'll leave it in if we don't need it?

President Tarhule: Correct. But we will need it.

Trustee Bohn: Okay. [laughter] Any other discussion? All those in favor of the resolution, please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Thank you.

Resolution 2026.07/30. Authorization for Mitigation, Remediation, and Restoration of the June 10, 2026 Flood Damage.

On June 10, 2026, a severe rainfall event overwhelmed Illinois State University's stormwater system, resulting in significant flooding and damage to the Center for Visual Arts, Center for Visual Arts Rotunda, State Farm Hall of Business, and Old Union. The university has submitted an insurance claim related to the losses incurred and continues to assess the full extent of damage to technology equipment. In addition, the university is evaluating exterior drainage improvements and other mitigation measures to reduce the risk of future flooding. To restore affected facilities in preparation for the fall 2026 semester, immediate water mitigation, remediation, and restoration efforts were required. The university contracted with CORE Construction Services of Illinois, Inc. and SERVPRO of Normal, Illinois to perform the necessary assessment and repairs. The total project cost, including contingency, is \$3,166,000, and the source of funds includes general revenue reserves to be reimbursed through insurance. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Hoeniges: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Hoeniges made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Merminga: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Merminga, second. Is there any discussion? Trustee Navarro.

Trustee Navarro: When do you anticipate you'll hear on the insurance claim?

President Tarhule: Carlos, do you know?

Trustee Navarro: And is there a deductible of any sort?

Carlos Garcia: My name is Carlos Garcia, Associate Vice President for Financial Administration. The moment the event occurred, we contacted our insurance carrier as part of the protocol so that they can initiate the investigation. A consultant was on campus to initiate the initial assessment. We started in the process of continued review in the total loss of the incident, so we don't have an exact date as to when the claim will be filed and then start negotiating with our insurance carrier about the reimbursement. But as soon as we have that day, we'll communicate to you, to the board.

Trustee Navarro: You haven't filed a claim yet?

Carlos Garcia: No. We are still in the process of discovering the total cost of the loss.

Trustee Bohn: And the deductible?

Carlos Garcia: The deductible is \$100,000 per event.

Trustee Bohn: Okay. So is it \$100,000 for each of these . . .

Carlos Garcia: Correct.

Trustee Bohn: . . . parts that were damaged?

Carlos Garcia: It's \$100,000 for any event where the insurance is called to reimburse the cost.

Trustee Navarro: But is this considered one event or each building is considered its own event?

Carlos Garcia: It's one event for this particular resolution.

Trustee Bohn: Is there any other discussion? All those in favor of the resolution, please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Thank you.

Resolution 2026.07/31. Authorization to Replace the Exterior of 302 School Street After Significant Rain Events.

302 School Street is a three-story apartment-style residential building owned and operated by Illinois State University. It's affordability, proximity to campus, and the security of university-managed housing makes it an attractive option for students who are not required to live in traditional residence halls. Given the facility's age and extended service life, several building systems are now due for repair or replacement. Recent severe rain events caused water intrusion and damage to the building's exterior, accelerating the need for new windows, siding, and exterior sheeting. To restore and protect the facility and ensure continued operations, University Housing Services and Facilities Maintenance requests authorization to utilize state emergency procurement procedures to complete the exterior replacement at 302 School Street at a cost not to exceed \$1,100,000. The source of funds is AFS Housing Resources. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Tillis: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Tillis made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Peterson: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Peterson, second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the resolution, please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Thank you.

Resolution 2026.07/32. Authorization for Design and Construction Services for the National Panhellenic Council Plaza.

The Divine Nine historically black fraternities and sororities have been an integral part of Illinois State University for more than 50 years. To recognize their legacy, contributions, and lasting impact, the university proposes the construction of a National Panhellenic Council Plaza. The plaza will feature nine pillars representing each member organization and a donor wall acknowledging leadership-level philanthropic support. This permanent campus landmark will provide a space for reflection and celebration while reinforcing the university's commitment to inclusion, recognition, and institutional history. The university seeks authorization to execute the necessary contracts and expense funds to complete the project at a cost not to exceed \$1,000,000 with construction scheduled to begin during Homecoming Week 2026. The source of funding for this project includes Foundation dollars and bond revenue funds. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Tillis: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Tillis made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Kropp: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Second, Trustee Kropp. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the resolution, please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Thank you. Before I read the next resolution I'd like to take a few moments to thank the many alumni, students, and friends of Illinois State University whose generosity has helped make this vision possible. I'm especially grateful to the alumni chapters and members of the NPHC organizations who fundraising efforts helped ensure that each organization will be represented within the plaza. Their commitment reflects the pride, the history, and legacy of the Divine Nine at Illinois State. I also want to recognize the alumni, students, and staff who have served on the fundraising committee over the past three years. Their dedication and leadership have been instrumental in bringing us to this important milestone, and we're deeply grateful for their partnership.

I move now to the next resolution.

Resolution 2026.07/33. Authorization to Execute Agreement with Keypath Education, LLC.

Illinois State University seeks to expand access to Workforce Alliance graduate programs through online delivery. To support the development and launch of an online speech language pathology program, the university requests authorization to negotiate and execute a five-year Master services agreement with Keypath Education. Keypath will provide program development, marketing, recruitment, enrollment growth and student support services while Illinois State retains full academic control over academic content and degree-granting authority. Under the proposed revenue-sharing model, student fee revenue remains with the university, and tuition revenue generated by enrolled students is shared with Keypath. Based on Keypath's market analysis, the 52-credit-hour online program will be offered at a transparent, all-inclusive cost of \$48,000 with full-time and part-time completion options. Tuition and fees remain subject to annual adjustment. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Merminga: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Merminga made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Tillis: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Tillis, second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the resolution, say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Thank you.

Resolution 2026.07/34. Authorization to Amend Exhibit B to Installment Purchase Contract Relating to Certificates of Participation, Capital Improvement Projects, Series 2021B.

Certificates of participation are a financing mechanism that allows government entities to fund capital development through installment purchase agreements. Investors provide upfront project funding by

purchasing certificates that entitle them to a share of future installment payments. In 2021, the Board of Trustees issued Series 2021B Certificates of Participation to finance renovations across campus to provide temporary classroom laboratory student collaboration and office administrative space during the rehabilitation of the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts Building. A portion of the 2021B proceeds remains unspent, and the university proposes amending the description of improvements in the installment purchase contract to allow these funds to be used for electrical infrastructure improvement, including transformers, substations, and switches serving the Wonsook Kim College of Fine Arts Building. This amendment would not result in the issuance of additional debt, and the certificates will continue to be repaid from general revenue funds. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Lutt: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Lutt made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Hoeniges: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Hoeniges, second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the resolution, please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Thank you.

Resolution 2026.07/35. Authorization to Issue Certificates of Participation, Series 2026A.

At its May 8, 2026 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved expenditures for the design and construction services for a new STEM building, research and teaching greenhouse facilities, and the Science Laboratory Building Annex. Together, these projects comprise the Science Complex, which will expand instructional capacity, modernize research and teaching spaces, improve accessibility, and support the university's strategic and academic priorities. The State of Illinois has appropriated \$29,200,000 for the STEM Building Project with those funds transferred to the Capital Development Board. The university will finance the remaining STEM Building cost as well as the full cost of the greenhouse and the Science Laboratory Building Annex Project and renovations at the newly acquired facilities at 1709 and 1711 General Electric Road. To support these projects, the university requests authorization for the issuance of Series 2026A Certificates of Participation in an amount not to exceed \$68,500,000. The university will repay the financing over time utilizing revenue from the Academic Enhancement Fee. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Peterson: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Peterson made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Merminga: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Second, Trustee Merminga. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the resolution, please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Thank you.

Resolution 2026.07/36. Authorization to Issue Certificates of Participation, Series 2026B.

At its December 12th, 2025 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved expenditures for the design and construction services for a solar energy system at the facilities located at 1711 General Electric Road. This project will generate an estimated 3.2 MW of electricity, which is expected to meet approximately 85% of the electricity needs of the property. The university requests that the board authorize the issuance of Series 2026B Certificates of Participation in an amount not to exceed \$16,500,000 to finance the design and construction of the solar energy project. Debt service on these certificates is expected to be repaid from general revenue funds, including federal and state tax credits and energy rebates. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Hoeniges: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Hoeniges made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Lutt: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Lutt, second. Is there any discussion? I have one question.

President Tarhule: Sure.

Trustee Bohn: When you say that it's projected to meet approximately 85% of the electricity needs, is that including the eastside building that we will be taking over in January?

President Tarhule: Jon, can you confirm?

Jon Gibb: Good morning, trustees. My name is Jon Gibb. I'm the Associate Vice President of Facility Services. Yes, to answer your question. We've reviewed the existing usage by Country Financial, and based on that data the 85% is the capacity of both buildings.

Trustee Bohn: Great. Okay. Thank you very much. Any other discussion? All those in favor of the resolution, please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Thank you.

Resolution 2026.07/37. Authorization to Name Illinois State Softball Dugout in Honor of Holley Hinthorn.

Holley Hinthorn, a 2000 Illinois State University graduate and his wife, Connie, were dedicated supporters of Redbird Athletics since 1996. Their longstanding commitment included season tickets for four sports and

deep family ties to Illinois State Athletics. Following Holley's passing in 2023, Connie has continued both their tradition of support and has significant philanthropic investment in Redbird Athletics. In honor of the Hinthorn's lasting impact on Illinois State Athletics, we propose naming the softball home dugout at Marian Kneer Stadium the Illinois State softball dugout in honor of Holley Hinthorn. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Lutt: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Lutt made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Navarro: I'll second.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Navarro, second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the resolution please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Thank you. I want to especially thank Connie Hinthorn and family for their generosity honoring Holley while providing our Redbird softball players a place to rest and strategize their plays. Please join me in thanking the Holley Hinthorn family.

[applause]

Resolution 2026.07/38. Authorization to Name Keysite Circuits and Electronics Lab and Keysite Digital and Microcontrollers Lab.

A global leader in electronic design testing and measurement solutions, College of Engineering partner Keysite provides hardware and software tools that support industries, including telecommunications, aerospace, automotive, and semiconductor manufacturing. Through educational programming and financial support, including the hands-on summer camp at Illinois State focused on radiofrequency concepts and teamwork, Keysite has demonstrated a strong commitment to engineering student success. In recognition of this partnership, we propose naming two spaces within the College of Engineering the Keysite Circuit and Electronics Lab and Keysite Digital and Microcontrollers Lab for a term of seven years. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Peterson: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Peterson made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Lutt: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Lutt, second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the resolution please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Thank you. And I'd also like to especially thank Keysite for their partnership and support of our new College of Engineering. Do we have Keysite representatives here? Let's give them a round of applause.

[applause]

Resolution 2026.07/39. Authorization to Name Lenovo Computer Labs.

The College of Engineering respectfully requests naming the computers labs, Room 123 and Room 124, of the College of Engineering. The namings reflect and recognize the generous gift of in-kind equipment made by Lenovo. Lenovo provides technology that focuses on building a brighter, more sustainable future for customers, communities, and the planet. As a licensed vendor for TechZone, Lenovo has worked alongside the College of Engineering leadership to build unique opportunities tailored to the curriculum and provide customized preconfigured machines that meet Illinois State's specific standards for technology. Lenovo's financial commitment demonstrates their willingness to find new ways to continue partnering with Illinois State and elevate the College of Engineering program for students. As a result, we propose naming the lab spaces as the Lenovo Computer Labs for a fixed term of five years. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Merminga: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Merminga made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Hoeniges: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Hoeniges, second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the resolution please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Thank you so much. I'd also like to thank Lenovo for their generous support of Illinois State's College of Engineering. I believe Lenovo has representatives here. Joey Haley, Lenovo Client Manager, and Memo Ramirez, Lenovo's workstation sales manager with us here today as well as John Therrell, Hernon Londono, David Gibbs, and Connie Freeman who are joining us virtually. Please join me in showing our sincere appreciations to Lenovo for their support of and commitment to Illinois State's future engineers. Would you stand to be recognized?

[applause]

Thank you.

Resolution 2026.07/40. Authorization to Name Quality Craft Design Lab.

Since 1984, Quality Craft's vision to inspire and improve the home, work and play environments and lifestyles for all has guided the development of innovative manufacturing partnerships and a strong relationship with Illinois State University's College of Engineering. Through classroom engagement, participation in the engineering design projects showcase and ongoing financial support, Quality Craft has demonstrated its

commitment to enhancing students' experiences. In recognition of this partnership we propose naming the design labs the Quality Craft Design Lab for a term of five years. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Lutt: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: The motion is made by Trustee Lutt. Is there a second?

Trustee Merminga: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Second by Trustee Merminga. Is there any discussion?

Trustee Lutt: Yeah, I just want to say a couple of things. We had the opportunity to tour yesterday, and I just want to offer my congratulations and thanks to the dean and all those involved with the remodeling and the construction. You know, a few months ago we were there, and it was truly a construction zone. Hard hats and all of the things that go with that. And to see the way the facility has transformed the way it has, I think we can all be Redbird proud. And to the extent they're having a facility that is ready for our students here in a few weeks, it's amazing the progress that they've made. And once again I appreciate all the hard work by so many that were involved. Once again, it looks amazing.

President Tarhule: Thank you.

Trustee Bohn: I concur. It does look amazing, and we thank all of our partners for their gifts, also. All those in favor of the resolution, please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Thank you so much. Please join me in thanking Quality Craft for its commitment to the creation of a strong engineering program at Illinois State University.

[applause]

Resolution 2026.07/41. Authorization to Name the Mercer Family Locker Room.

Mary Mercer is a proud two-time alum having earned both her Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Illinois State. Her deep connection to the university is shared by her family. Her late husband, Rollie, and two of their daughters are also Illinois State alumni. Their daughter, Amy, was a member of the Redbird Swimming and Diving Teams. Through years of service on numerous athletics councils and boards as well as the creation of an endowed scholarship, the Mercer family has made a lasting impact on Redbird athletics and future generations of student athletes. In recognition of the family's enduring service, loyalty and generosity, we propose naming the swimming and diving locker room within Horton Fieldhouse the Mercer Family Locker Room. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Peterson: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Peterson made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Merminga: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Merminga, second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the resolution please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Now hold your applause.

Resolution 2026.07/42. Authorization to Name Mercer Volleyball Offices.

Mary Mercer is also a longtime season ticket for four sports, including volleyball. Her generous philanthropy and enduring support will have a lasting impact on the student athlete experience and exemplifies her deep connection to Illinois State University Athletics. Therefore, we propose naming the volleyball coach's office inside CEFCU Arena the Mary Mercer Volleyball Offices. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Merminga: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Merminga made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Lutt: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Lutt, second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the resolution, please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: Thank you. And I'm pleased that Mary Mercer is able to join us today. Mary . . . was she able to join us? Oh, no. Mary, thank you for your continued support and generous support of athletics. Please, let's show our appreciation to her.

[applause]

Resolution 2026.07/43. Approval to Award Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters to Jon Farney.

Illinois State University awards honorary degrees to individuals whose outstanding professional achievements, leadership, service, and societal contributions exemplify the university's highest ideals and core values. Jon Farney, President and Chief Executive Officer of State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Company, has demonstrated exceptional leadership, philanthropy, and commitment to higher education with significant contributions that align with the mission and values of Illinois State University. Through his leadership and personal philanthropic efforts, his engagement with the university has supported students, faculty, and the institution's long-term success. In accordance with university policy, the recommendation to award Jon Farney the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humane Letters has been reviewed and endorsed by the Honorary Degree Committee, the Academic Senate, as well as me, the President of the university. If approved by the Board of Trustees, the degree will be conferred during Illinois State's winter 2026 commencement ceremony on December 12th, 2026. I ask for your approval of this resolution.

Trustee Bohn: May I have a motion and a second to approve the resolution?

Trustee Tillis: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Tillis made the motion. Is there a second?

Trustee Peterson: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Trustee Peterson, second. Is there any discussion? All those in favor of the resolution please say aye.

Multiple people: Aye.

Trustee Bohn: Opposed? The resolution is approved.

President Tarhule: And that concludes the resolutions for today.

Trustee Bohn: Thank you. I will now entertain a motion to move into closed session for discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this act for purposes of approval by the body of the minutes pursuant to 5ILCS120/2C21, discussion of collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives pursuant to 5ILCS120/2C2, discussion of litigation when action against, affecting, or on behalf of the public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal and when an action is probable or imminent pursuant to 5ILCS120/2C11, and discussion regarding the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of specific employees pursuant to 5ILCS120/2C1. May I have a motion and a second to move into closed session?

Trustee Hoeniges: So moved.

Trustee Bohn: Motion made by Trustee Hoeniges.

Trustee Tillis: Second.

Trustee Bohn: Second by Trustee Tillis. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion, Trustee Navarro, please call for a roll call vote.

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Bohn.

Trustee Bohn: Yes.

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Hoeniges.

Trustee Hoeniges: Yes.

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Kropp.

Trustee Kropp: Yes.

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Lutt.

Trustee Lutt: Yes.

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Merminga.

Trustee Merminga: Yes.

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Navarro. Yes. Trustee Peterson.

Trustee Peterson: Yes.

Trustee Navarro: Trustee Tillis.

Trustee Tillis: Yes.

Trustee Bohn: The motion is approved. We will now move into closed session. Following the closed session, the board will reconvene in public session to vote on the board action discussed during the closed session, specifically the approval of the closed session meeting minutes from May 8th, 2026 and to adjourn. Thank you.

[Sound of rapping gavel]

[End of recording.]

The meeting recessed at 10:38 a.m. to closed session and reconvened at 12:35 p.m. with the same attendance noted in the initial roll call.

Trustee Tillis moved to approve the closed session meeting minutes of May 8, 2026 as presented. Trustee Kropp seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

With there being no further business, Trustee Tillis moved to adjourn. Trustee Navarro seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. The meeting ended at 12:36 p.m.