



Indiana State University

Board of Trustees Agenda Meeting

July 25, 2025

State Room, Tirey Hall



Board of Trustees Agenda July 25, 2025

Meeting Agenda

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1. Call Meeting to Order – Board Chair Robert Casey

Roll Call:

Robert Casey
Rob Carter
Lori Danielson
Jon Ford
Cynthia Powers
John Pratt
Cheryl Roberson
Christian Roembke
Troy Woodruff

2a Minutes of June 27, 2025, Meeting and Certification of Executive Session

The Indiana State University Board of Trustees met in Executive Session at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 27, 2025.

The Indiana State University Board of Trustees hereby certifies that no subject matter was discussed in the Executive Session other than the subject matter specified in the public notice.

The Trustees met in a regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, June 27, 2025, at 12:30 p.m.

Trustees present: Robert Casey, Rob Carter, Lori Danielson, Jon Ford, Cynthia Powers, John Pratt, Kate VanHyfte, and Troy Woodruff.

Trustees absent: Cheryl Roberson.

Recommendation: Approve the Board Minutes from June 27, 2025, Meeting and Certification of Executive Session.

2b Amendment to Policy 910 Right of Expression

Date Prepared: July 9, 2025
From: Mike Godard, President
Prepared by: J.D. Lux, General Counsel
Presented by: J.D. Lux, General Counsel
Presented at: July 25, 2025
Subject: Model Freedom of Expression Statement from University of Chicago
Disposition: Item is for **Action**

Objective: Add The Model Freedom of Expression Resolution Based on University of Chicago Statement to Policy 910 Right of Expression

Background of Issue: The “Chicago Statement” refers to the free speech policy statement produced by the Committee on Freedom of Expression at the University of Chicago. In July of 2014, University of Chicago President Robert J. Zimmer and Provost Eric D. Isaacs tasked the Committee with “articulating the University’s overarching commitment to free, robust, and uninhibited debate and deliberation among all members of the University’s community.” The Committee, which was chaired by esteemed University of Chicago Law School professor Geoffrey Stone, released the report in January of 2015.

Funding Source: N/A

Supporting Reasons and Timing for the Recommendation: Adopting the Chicago Statement, shows that Indiana State values free expression for all students and faculty. Free speech rights benefit everyone on campus and reaffirm the core purpose of a university – a place for free inquiry, debate, and discourse. Whether it’s to protest, do research, or simply learn in an environment that promotes open inquiry and the free exchange of ideas, the Chicago Statement helps to ensure the institution is accountable for protecting the free expression rights of students and faculty. Faculty bodies, administrations, and institutional governing boards have officially endorsed the Chicago Statement at over 100 institutions, including Purdue, Ball State, Southern Indiana, and DePauw.

Potential Concerns Arising from the Recommendation and Steps Needed to Address Them:

None.

Management Recommendation: Adopt the Chicago Statement as part of the University’s Policy 910 Right of Expression. Amend Policy 910 as follows:

910.1 Overview of Policy Freedom of Expression Statement

~~The right of expression is as necessary as the right of inquiry and both must be preserved as essential to the pursuit and dissemination of knowledge and truth. Consequently, the University takes seriously its commitment to protecting the rights of students, employees, guests and other visitors to engage in free speech and protected expressive activity. Importantly, nothing in this policy shall interfere with the right of any member of the University faculty to conduct and manage their teaching and research activities in accordance with their professional judgment and the principles of academic freedom.~~

Because Indiana State University is committed to free and open inquiry in all matters, it guarantees all members of the University community the broadest possible latitude to speak, write, listen, challenge, and learn. Except insofar as limitations on that freedom are necessary to the functioning of the

University, Indiana State fully respects and supports the freedom of all members of the University community “to discuss any problem that presents itself.”

Of course, the ideas of different members of the University community will often and quite naturally conflict. But it is not the proper role of the University to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive. Although Indiana State greatly values civility, and although all members of the University community share in the responsibility for maintaining a climate of mutual respect, concerns about civility and mutual respect can never be used as a justification for closing off discussion of ideas, however offensive or disagreeable those ideas may be to some members of our community.

The freedom to debate and discuss the merits of competing ideas does not, of course, mean that individuals may say whatever they wish, wherever they wish. As further described in this Policy the University may restrict expression that violates the law, that falsely defames a specific individual, that constitutes a genuine threat or harassment, that unjustifiably invades substantial privacy or confidentiality interests, or that is otherwise directly incompatible with the functioning of the University. In addition, the University may reasonably regulate the time, place, and manner of expression to ensure that it does not disrupt the ordinary activities of the University. But these are narrow exceptions to the general principle of freedom of expression, and it is vitally important that these exceptions never be used in a manner that is inconsistent with the University’s commitment to a completely free and open discussion of ideas.

In a word, the University’s fundamental commitment is to the principle that debate or deliberation may not be suppressed because the ideas put forth are thought by some or even by most members of the University community to be offensive, unwise, immoral, or wrong-headed. It is for the individual members of the University community, not for the University as an institution, to make those judgments for themselves, and to act on those judgments not by seeking to suppress speech, but by openly and vigorously contesting the ideas that they oppose. Indeed, fostering the ability of members of the University community to engage in such debate and deliberation in an effective and responsible manner is an essential part of the University’s educational mission.

As a corollary to Indiana State’s commitment to protect and promote free expression, members of the University community must also act in conformity with the principle of free expression. Although members of the University community are free to criticize and contest the views expressed on campus, and to criticize and contest speakers who are invited to express their views on campus, they may not obstruct or otherwise interfere with the freedom of others to express views they reject or even loathe. To this end, the University has a solemn responsibility not only to promote a lively and fearless freedom of debate and deliberation, but also to protect that freedom when others attempt to restrict it.

2c Amendment to Policy 923 Non-Discrimination and Harassment

Date Prepared: July 9, 2025
From: Mike Godard, President
Prepared by: J.D. Lux, General Counsel
Presented by: J.D. Lux, General Counsel
Presented at: July 25, 2025, Board Agenda Meeting
Subject: Model Freedom of Expression State from University of Chicago Statement
Disposition: Item is for **Action**

Objective: To remove Section 923.5 entitled, "Commitment to Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom, as part of adopting the Chicago Statement and incorporating into Policy 910 Free Expression.

Background of Issue: In a separate action item the Trustees are considering adopting the Chicago Statement associated with free expression and incorporating the statement in Policy 910. To avoid confusion and having multiple expressions supporting free expression in other policies, it is recommended to delete Section 923.5.

Funding Source: N/A

Supporting Reasons and Timing for the Recommendation: This coincides with the recommended change to Policy 910, and removing this section, will avoid confusion, and eliminate multiple statements on free expression within the policy library.

Potential Concerns Arising from the Recommendation and Steps Needed to Address Them:

None

Management Recommendation: Remove the following section from Policy 923 and renumber accordingly:

~~923.5 Commitment to Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom.~~

~~ISU values the principles of freedom of expression and academic freedom, even when speech or academic discourse is uncomfortable and challenging. However, speech that is discriminatory and harassing is not protected and will be subject to investigation and possible disciplinary action.~~

2d Nomination Committee Report and Election of Officers

The nominating committee met at 1:15 p.m. on Friday, July 25, 2025, to develop a recommended slate of officers for the 2025-2026 election, including the chair, vice chair, secretary, and university treasurer. The committee also recommends the appointment of the University Treasurer. The recommended slate is:

Chair:

Vice Chair:

Secretary:

University Treasurer:

Recommendation: Approve the slate of Board of Trustees officers for 2025—26, effective July 25, 2025. Approve the appointment of the University Treasurer for 2025-26, effective August 1, 2025.

2e Naming of the Thompson Thrift Department of Construction Management and the Thompson Thrift Classroom

Date Prepared: July 16, 2025
From: Dr. Mike Godard, President
Prepared by: Andrea Angel, Vice President of University Advancement
Presented by: Andrea Angel, Vice President of University Advancement
Presented at: July 25, 2025, Board of Trustees Agenda Meeting
Subject: Naming of the Thompson Thrift Department of Construction Management and the Thompson Thrift Classroom
Disposition: Item is for **Action**

Objective: To recognize the generous support of Thompson Thrift for their 15-year pledge to the Bailey College of Engineering and Technology to support scholarships, paid internships, partnership with faculty, advice, and counsel on emerging topics and industry trends with a term partnership agreement. The gift includes a \$1.4 million pledge to the Indiana State University Foundation and a commitment of \$1.3 million in internship support for Indiana State University students.

Background of the Issue: John Thompson and Paul Thrift began laying plans for their business partnership while attending Indiana State University. Those plans came to fruition in 1986 with the founding of Thompson Thrift. Since that time, Thompson Thrift has grown from a locally focused development and construction company into an integrated, full-service real estate company with a national scope. The partnership between Thompson Thrift and Indiana State University aims to establish a premier program in construction management. Thompson Thrift will invest in the construction management program in multiple ways, including naming the department and a classroom, providing input on industry trends and needs to aid course development, and utilizing industry leaders as guest speakers and adjunct professors. This partnership reflects both institutions' shared commitment to excellence, innovation, and community impact, setting a new standard for collaboration between higher education and industry. In addition to the \$1.4 million gift to the University, Thompson Thrift is providing \$1.3M in paid internships over the next fifteen years to qualified students majoring in construction management.

Funding Source: A signed pledge agreement has been executed for a cash pledge of \$1.4 million to the Indiana State University Foundation.

Supporting Reasons and Timing for the Recommendation: To recognize Thomson Thrift for their support and partnership with Indiana State University.

Potential Concerns Arising from the Recommendation and Steps Needed to Address Them:
None

Management Recommendation: Management recommends approval of the naming of the Thompson Thrift Department of Construction Management and Thompson Thrift Construction Management Classroom (Room 225) in the Bailey College of Engineering and Technology.

2f Grant of Anchor Easement

Date Prepared: July 18, 2025
From: Dr. Mike Godard, President
Prepared by: Diann McKee, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration/University Treasurer
Presented by: Diann McKee, Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration/University Treasurer
Presented at: July 25, 2025
Subject: Grant of Anchor Easement
Disposition: Item is for **Action**

Objective: Approval of a Grant of Anchor Easement as requested by Duke Energy Indiana, LLC on property located at 111 North Water Street in the City of Terre Haute.

Background of Issue: Indiana State University owns property located at 111 North Water Street in Terre Haute, Indiana. Currently, there are no buildings or other infrastructure on the site. The property is adjacent to a Duke Energy substation that is one of two substations providing electricity to the Indiana State University campus.

Duke Energy Indiana, LLC, will be installing new electric poles in the right of way along Water Street and has requested a permanent property easement that would allow for the installation of the down guys and anchors to support their new poles. This is a part of a planned expansion and upgrade to the Water Street substation.

Funding Source: No additional funding is necessary.

Supporting Reasons and Timing for the Recommendation: Approval is necessary for Duke Energy Indiana, LLC to begin installation of new transmission electric poles and anchors.

Potential Concerns Arising from the Recommendation and Steps Needed to Address Them:
After discussion with Duke Energy and reviewing campus master plans, there are no concerns that this easement would inhibit any future site improvements undertaken by the University.

Management Recommendation: Approval of a Grant of Anchor Easement to Duke Energy and delegation to the University Treasurer to sign the easement on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

3 Old Business

No old business to report.

4 Adjournment

The Indiana State University Board of Trustees adjourned at [TIME] p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will take place on October 10, 2025.