

**Indiana State University**  
**Board of Trustees Agenda Meeting Minutes**  
**Friday, October 10, 2025, 2:15 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair John Pratt at 2:15 PM.

A quorum was established with the following Trustees present:

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

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**2. Remarks**

**Faculty Senate Chairperson, Dr. Liz Brown** emphasized that faculty at Indiana State University expressed concerns about state-mandated program minimums that may not suit the institution's size and mission, emphasizing the importance of shared governance and the faculty's role in supporting underserved students through high-quality education and individualized attention, while cautioning that a one-size-fits-all approach could negatively impact the university and its students.

**Staff Council Chairperson, Roxanne Torrence** shared that the Staff Council announced two new members, Carly Whitmire (School of Nursing) and Julie Lynn (Early Childhood Education), and noted upcoming elections for the vice chair position due to a resignation. Members will participate in a personality profile workshop on October 21st and are preparing for the annual apparel sale. Recent activities included a door decorating contest won by the Career Center, Spirit Week, participation in the homecoming parade, the Haunted Haute event on October 24th, and sponsoring Lunchtime Bingo sessions that staff enjoy.

**Student Government Association President, Chase Witsman** highlighted the administration's focus on connection, commitment, and culture, noting partnerships with six student organizations and the introduction of SGA scholarships starting December 1st for students with a GPA of 2.5 or higher who participate in SGA events. Additionally, a fund is being

established with the Indiana State Foundation to engage alumni and donors to support future SGA efforts, aiming to enhance student engagement and academic excellence in collaboration with the university and Board of Trustees.

**President of the University, Dr. Mike Godard** emphasized Indiana State University is experiencing significant growth and success, marked by record enrollment, rising academic standards, and strong community and alumni engagement. The university is focused on strategic planning to enhance student support, career readiness, and innovative curriculum development.

**Chairperson of the ISU Board of Trustees John Pratt** expressed that the Indiana State University's Board expresses satisfaction with the university's strong first-year enrollment, record-high retention rates, and successful fundraising campaign, highlighting the collaborative commitment of trustees, faculty, staff, and the community. The Board commends President Godard's leadership and ongoing organizational and strategic improvements, anticipating continued progress and enhanced student experiences.

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### **3. New Business**

#### **3a. Approval of July 25, 2025, Meeting and Certification of Executive Session**

The minutes from July 25, 2025, meeting and the certification of the Executive Session had been distributed prior to the meeting.

- **Motion to Approve:** Trustee Woodruff
- **Second:** Trustee Casey
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

#### **3b. Approval New Undergraduate Program BS in Early Childhood Education**

Provost and VP of Academic Affairs Chris Olsen announced a new Bachelor of Science program in early childhood education beginning in fall 2026, designed to prepare teachers for pre-kindergarten through third grade (up to age 8), distinguishing it from the existing elementary education degree and reflecting the expansion of pre-kindergarten programs in public schools; it also highlights the use of a newly renovated Early Childhood Education Center to support faculty, students, research, and grant development.

- **Motion to Approve:** Trustee Roembke
- **Second:** Trustee Roberson
- **Discussion:** None

- **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

### **3c. Acceptance of Annual Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statements**

General Counsel J.D. Lux presented that Indiana State University annually requires members of the State Board of Trustees and President's Cabinet to complete a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement in compliance with Indiana law and **ISU Policy 912, "Conflict of Interest"** which mandates disclosure of financial conflicts of \$250 or more before any transaction occurs, with further details available on the Office of the General Counsel website.

- **Motion to Approve:** Trustee Ford
- **Second:** Trustee Danielson
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

### **3d. Retirement Benefits Modification**

VP Seth Hinshaw proposes a modification to its post-retirement health benefit policy to accommodate changes in the health plan for the upcoming year, specifically incentivizing spouses of employees to enroll in their own employer's health plans. A new provision allows spouses who leave the university's health plan due to this change to retain their post-retirement benefits, provided the employee meets eligibility criteria of 20 years of service and age 60 at retirement.

- **Motion to Adopt:** Trustee Ford
- **Second:** Trustee Casey
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

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### **4. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:38 PM.