

**Friday, July 25, 2025, 1:45 p.m.**  
**Indiana State University Board of Trustees**  
**Board of Trustees Agenda Meeting**

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

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Robert (Bob) Casey at 1:45 PM.

A quorum was established with the following Trustees present:

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

**2. New Business Items**

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

The minutes from the June 27, 2025, meeting and the certification of the Executive Session had been distributed prior to the meeting.

- **Motion to Approve:** Trustee Roberson
  - **Second:** Trustee Powers
  - **Discussion:** None
  - **Vote:** Unanimously approved.
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**2b. Amendment to Policy 910: Right of Expression**

General Counsel J.D. Lux presented a proposed amendment to **Policy 910, "Right of Expression,"** to incorporate the **Chicago Statement** on free expression. This statement, developed by the University of Chicago in 2014, articulates a commitment to free and uninhibited debate. Over 100 institutions, including Purdue, Ball State, and the University of Southern Indiana, have endorsed it.

The amendment proposes to replace Section 910.1 ("Overview of Policy") with the language from the Chicago Statement and renames the section "Freedom of Expression Statement." The Faculty Senate Officers expressed support for these principles.

- **Motion to Adopt:** Trustee Woodruff
  - **Second:** Trustee Pratt
  - **Discussion:** Trustee Casey noted that several other Indiana institutions have adopted this statement.
  - **Vote:** Unanimously approved.
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## **2c. Amendment to Policy 923: Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment**

General Counsel J.D. Lux also addressed an amendment to **Policy 923, "Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment."** This amendment involves relocating a paragraph titled "Commitment to Freedom of Expression and Academic Freedom" from Policy 923 to Policy 910 to consolidate all free expression policies in one place. No content regarding freedom of expression is being eliminated.

- **Motion to Approve:** Trustee Roembke
  - **Second:** Trustee Carter
  - **Discussion:** None
  - **Vote:** Unanimously approved.
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## **2d. Nominating Committee Report and Election of Officers**

Trustee John Ford, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the recommended slate of officers for the 2025-2026 term, effective July 25, 2025, unless otherwise noted:

- **Chair:** Trustee John Pratt
- **Vice Chair:** Trustee Troy Woodruff
- **Secretary:** Trustee Cheryl Roberson
- **University Treasurer:** Seth Hinshaw (effective August 1, 2025)

The named individuals confirmed their willingness to serve.

- **Vote:** Unanimously approved the slate of officers.
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## **2e. Naming of the Thompson Thrift Department of Construction Management and Thompson Thrift Classroom**

Vice President Andrea Angel presented an action item to name the **Thompson Thrift Department of Construction Management** and **Room 225** in the Bailey College of Engineering and Technology as the **Thompson Thrift Classroom**. This recognizes a generous 15-year pledge from Thompson Thrift, totaling **\$1.4 million** to the Indiana State University Foundation and **\$1.3 million** in paid internship support.

Thompson Thrift, founded by ISU alumni John Thompson and Paul Thrift, aims to establish a premier construction management program through scholarships, internships, faculty partnerships, and industry trend guidance. This partnership will also involve industry leaders as guest speakers and adjunct professors.

Chairman Casey expressed gratitude for this "exemplary investment," highlighting its benefits for student success and workforce development.

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

### **Remarks:**

- **President Godard** emphasized the partnership's alignment with the university's focus on a "culture of care" and "career readiness." He thanked John and Jennifer Thompson for their generosity and for setting a model for public-private collaboration.
- **John Thompson** (Co-founder, Thompson Thrift) expressed thanks to the Board, the ISU Foundation (Jeremiah Turner and Andrea Angel), President Godard, and Dean Divya Choudhary for their support. He also recognized Brian Webster for his work on the internship program and the almost 700 Thompson Thrift team members (over 100 of whom are ISU alumni) whose dedication made this gift possible. Thompson highlighted the importance of industry partnership in curriculum to produce "job-ready" graduates.

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## **2f. Grant of Anchor Easement to Duke Energy**

Senior Vice President Diann McKee presented a request from Duke Energy of Indiana for a permanent easement on university property at 111 Water Street. This easement is for the installation of poles, down guys, and anchors to support a planned expansion and upgrade to the Water Street substation, which serves the university and much of downtown.

McKee confirmed that the easement would not hinder future campus master plans or improvements. The easements are under 20 feet and located at the edge of the property where the poles are.

- **Discussion:** Trustee Woodruff clarified that any future movement of Duke Energy's items for university projects would be at their expense. Trustee Pratt inquired about the size of the easements, which are approximately 20 feet by 20 feet.
- **Chairman Casey** thanked Diann McKee for her decades of dedicated service to the Board and the university, acknowledging this might be her final presentation before her upcoming transition.
- **Motion to Approve:** Trustee Roberson
- **Second:** Trustee Roembke
- **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

### 3. Chairman's Concluding Remarks

Chairman Bob Casey delivered his final remarks as Chair of the Board of Trustees, expressing gratitude for the support he received during his tenure:

- **President Deborah Curtis** (during his first year as Chair)
- **President Mike Godard** for his partnership and support.
- **Chief of Staff Rex Kendall** for logistical and administrative support.
- **Executive Assistants Kay Ponsot and Jennifer Keller** for administrative support and coordination.
- **Special Event Staff** for assistance with speaking engagements.
- **Fellow Trustees** for their teamwork, diverse perspectives, and consistent engagement.
- **Vice Chair John Pratt** for his partnership, wisdom, and counsel, and for chairing the search committee for the new president.

The Chairman concluded by stating it had been a great experience.

### 4. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:18 PM.