

MINUTES
Central State University
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
July 24-25, 2025

Notice having been given in accordance with the Board of Trustees amended Code of Regulations, the following members met on July 24-25, 2025. The meeting was open to the public and trustees attended in-person and/or virtually in compliance with O.R.C. 3345.82.

CALL TO ORDER

On July 24, 2025, Trustee Gamblin called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. at the Aileron Center, Tipp City, Ohio.

Trustee Perry called the roll, and a quorum was announced (*nine voting trustees*).

Voting Trustees

Jacqueline Y. Gamblin, Chair	Present (In person)
Natalia S. Harris, Vice Chair	Present (In person)
Richard C. Perry, Secretary	Present (In person)
Christopher L. Wyche	Present (In person)
Jason R. Manns	Present (In person)
Linda D. Matthews	Present (In person)
Shon P. Anderson	Present (In person)
James L. Ervin, Jr.	Present (In person)
Ervan D. Rodgers	Present (In person)

Student Trustee

Aisa T. Brown	Absent
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EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 1:10 p.m., Trustee Gamblin announced that in keeping with the provisions of the state's "sunshine law" and Amended Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, the board members will meet in an executive session to discuss employment of a public employee.

A roll call vote was conducted to adjourn into executive session with the following results: Voting "yes" – Jacqueline Y. Gamblin, Natalia S. Harris, Richard C. Perry, Jason R. Manns, Christopher L. Wyche, Linda D. Matthews, Shon P. Anderson, James L. Ervin, Jr and Ervan D. Rodgers II. The motion was unanimously approved with nine affirmative votes.

The regular meeting was recessed, and the members moved into executive session. Trustee Ervin made a motion to come out of executive session at 3:33 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Manns and passed unanimously. No action was taken within executive session.

At 3:35 p.m., Trustee Gamblin adjourned the meeting until July 25, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. on Central State's campus.

BOARD MEETING RECONVENED – July 25, 2025

On July 25, 2025, the following members met on Central State University's campus in University Student Center, Room 203.

CALL TO ORDER

Trustee Gamblin called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Ms. Sergent called the roll and a quorum was announced (*nine voting trustees*).

Voting Trustees

Jacqueline Y. Gamblin, Chair	Present (In person)
Natalia S. Harris, Vice Chair	Present (In person)
Richard C. Perry, Secretary	Present (In person)
Christopher L. Wyche	Present (In person)
Jason R. Manns	Present (In person)
Linda D. Matthews	Present (In person)
Shon P. Anderson	Present (In person)
James L. Ervin, Jr.	Present (In person)
Ervan D. Rodgers	Present (In person)

Student Trustee

Aisa T. Brown	Absent
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Others present were Morakinyo Kuti (University President), Fred Aikens, Katherine Allen, Phillip Black, LaTonya Branham, Jason Broomfield, Kevicia Brown, Thomi Brown-Frazier, Tyrek Clarke, Caye Elmore, Alcinda Folck, Justin Frye, Amy Hobbs, TiaMarshae Johnson, Kim Jones, Rebecca Kocher, David Massey, Elizabeth Nash, Gretchen Parrish, Keith Perkins, Nicole Sergent and Chris Widener.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee Gamblin asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Ervin moved to approve the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Manns and passed unanimously.

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

Trustee Ervin moved to approve the minutes from April 24 and 25, 2025 regular board meetings and June 5 and 24, 2025 special board meetings as presented and seconded by Trustee Matthews. Trustee Harris abstained from voting to approve the June 24th minutes as she was not present at the meeting. The motion passed with a majority of the quorum. Trustee Gamblin amended the April 24th and 25th meeting minutes to reflect that the board reviewed the budget expenses and revenues, projected versus actual, during the April 25th board meeting as well as the Budget and Finance Committee meeting that took place the day prior. Trustee Ervin moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Trustee Matthews and passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Update. Ms. Caye Elmore, Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance and CFO, presented detailed information from the FY25 fiscal recovery plan budget versus the FY25 Education and General (“E&G”) preliminary budget through June 30, 2025. She noted that there are additional expenditures to be included in the FY25 budget and the timeframe for these transactions will be before the end of August when it is anticipated that the calculations for the prior fiscal year will be concluded. It is typical for transactions to occur within the fiscal year but have not been posted. The net amount is a “moving target” and it is not anticipated being more than \$1 Million. Ms. Elmore discussed the fiscal recovery plan categories versus the budgeted amount including each revenue source and expense by category. Ms. Elmore pointed out the variance in the “scholarships” line item in which the

actual amount awarded was \$1.5 Million higher than the fiscal recovery plan budget. President Kuti stated that scholarship awards are now managed by program managers and only through approved programs. Dr. Hobbs added that, in addition to these new protocols, an award letter template will be used by program managers which explains the process and private scholarships will be applied first and institutional aid will be last and not be refunded. To clarify, the scholarship programs that were not previously approved have been discontinued.

President Kuti stated that the following four strategies helped build the FY25 budget: prioritizing student success, optimizing campus resources, empowering faculty and staff and building bridges across stakeholders. The FY26 budget will expound on these and, when the 2025-2030 strategic plan is finalized, every activity that occurs on campus will have to be aligned towards the new strategic plan. The following strategic pillars have been developed: academic excellence, research and public service, operational excellence and sustainable infrastructure, and these will be the guide to developing the university's FY26 budget.

Ms. Elmore presented information regarding the FY26 current unrestricted funds budget plan by categories. She stated that at the last board meeting in June, a resolution was adopted for the FY26 budget, however, the proposed budget today recognizes the change in Central State's supplement and state share of instruction ("SSI"). The state supplement increased but the SSI was reduced by approximately 6% and this is the only change made to the proposed budget. She covered E&G budget assumptions such as projected enrollment, tuition/room and board which included the 3% increase that the board approved in February. In addition, the FY26 current restricted funds budget plan was discussed including a five-year history of the university's state support with a breakdown of restricted and unrestricted amounts. Factors that go into determining the amount of state support are student success, enrollment, persistence and graduation of Ohio students, and the level of coursework for master's and doctorate degrees. In addition, there is part of the formula that allows for equity based on income of the students. President Kuti noted that the university has discussed the state's Ohio College Opportunity Grant ("OCOG") funding methods. In this calculation, the grant only covers tuition and not room and board. Because Central State has the lowest tuition in the state, CSU students receive less than students who attend other institutions with higher tuition rates. To adjust for the discrepancy, the state increased CSU's state supplement but only by 1% which is insufficient. Also, the state has capped annual tuition rate increases for Ohio public institutions at 3% for the past 10 years and, as a result, the university has struggled to remain self-sustaining. Ms. Elmore listed the university's long- and short-term debt along with ongoing capital projects such as critical Information Technology projects and sewer line and water tower maintenance.

According to President Kuti, one of the action items that the Ohio Auditor of State noted in its report was that the board should receive detailed information on the university's projected budget versus actual budget going forward such as what was spent and what was encumbered. This will be part of the university's reporting starting with the board's next meeting in September and, with the help of the new IT management company, the reporting should be very accurate and timely. Trustee Gamblin noted that the board has had a chance to review the budget and auditor's report in the TEAMs portal.

Divisional Dashboard Reports. President Kuti stated that the Higher Learning Commission ("HLC") placed a financial issue designation on Central State in December of 2024 when the State of Ohio placed the university on fiscal watch. The HLC committee came to campus in April and spoke to stakeholders across campus and examined the university's records, questioning whether the university's fiscal situation affected delivery of its academic programs and support services to students. The HLC also looked at the university financial situation and a key factor that influenced its decision was that CSU was meeting its basic financial obligations and without any additional funding from the state. With this said, HLC was concerned about the audit for FY23 and its completion. After the site visit, HLC was

satisfied that CSU was moving in the right direction and removed its financial issue designation on June 1st. In addition, the state auditor has been on campus as a requirement of the fiscal watch process and auditors have reviewed records and evaluated operations for several months. Ultimately, they issued recommendations regarding financial accountability that will help improve the university's financial situation. The university must respond to all of the recommendations no later than March 31, 2026. President Kuti presented a spreadsheet showing the departments and individuals who will be responsible for completion have been identified along with the dates for completion, and an update will be presented to the board at the September meeting.

President Kuti introduced Adrian Petway, the university's new Vice President for Administration and Finance and CFO, who will start August 11th and David Massey, Vice President for Technology and CIO and currently a Ferrilli employee, who will start on July 14th. A search for a new legal counsel is ongoing as well as for a new chief of staff and director of student ombudsman. The university is negotiating with AFSCME union regarding compensation. Trustee Harris noted that the search committee for a new general counsel has a target date of August 25th to bring recommendations to the board.

Ms. Elmore, Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance and CFO, presented highlights from her division. She stated that the function of student employment has been transferred from Human Resources to Career Services to better serve students, and the SOAR events have been instrumental with cash management in providing financial guidance to students and families. In the area of Title IX activities, the university responded to 19 various complaints on campus and 12 of the cases resulted in disciplinary actions, the remaining cases resulted in no action taken. In other areas, the university's agreements with Barnes & Noble, SodexoMagic and Xerox are in negotiations. Ms. Elmore introduced Angela Kettler, new director of Facilities. Ms. Kettler's priority is to make sure the campus is safe and secure, especially for students.

The FY23 audit is an ongoing process but a major issue is with cash reconciliation. In FY23, the employees who were overseeing the financial reporting and maintaining records are no longer with the university and, therefore, limited records from this time frame were available. The university has hired an outside consulting firm to review all entries and provide recommendations. President Kuti noted that the university will meet with the state auditors soon to discuss the reconciliation process. Trustee Gamblin asked if there is a contingency plan if for some reason the university is not able to proceed to the next step in the process. President Kuti responded that it is the suggestion of the state auditors to wait for the outcome of the meeting before formulating a contingency plan. Trustee Perry asked if the consulting firm is of value to the university in helping to close out the FY23 audit. Trustee Gamblin clarified for the board that the independent auditor was hired by the Ohio Department of Higher Education ("ODHE") and the chancellor's office to assist Central State when it went on fiscal watch. One of the university's challenges is to keep its vendors abreast of where it is in the payment plan process. The arrangements have been established with vendors including Ellucian, EAB and other smaller vendors, according to Ms. Elmore. President Kuti commented that the university is not where it wants to be with vendors but is making significant progress and the goal is that by October, it will be in better shape.

Ms. Gretchen Parrish, Chief Information Officer and Ferrilli executive consultant, presented updates from the CSU and Ferrilli managed services contract. She discussed KPI's that were directly related to the contract. There has been \$1.2 Million return on investment by investigating and reducing unnecessary contracted services, and bringing the CSU IT staff over to Ferrilli. Ferrilli has developed a plan to move the university's Banner system from SSB8 to SSB9 which is very technical and will require contracts to be signed and agreements to be updated. In addition, Ferrilli will not only improve the environment but also work with end users to improve their ability to use Banner properly.

Regarding technology and data governance, the group from Ferrilli will be coming on campus in August to present their findings from earlier discussions with faculty and staff. This process will be extremely important as the university moves forward as it tries to wrap its arms around the technology and infrastructure, to get systems more aligned in order to have a stable environment to support student classes, faculty and have a sustainable environment. Trustee Rodgers noted that from his experience as an IT professional, it is important that Ferrilli helps the board to understand the KPI's with regards to bringing on the Ferrilli group, to know where the university started and where it is going, to have a scorecard-type report and baseline. Trustee Gamblin agreed and added that the board would like to see more detail on the priorities and how IT activities are progressing. She suggested that Ferrilli should provide backup documentation that supports some of the KPI's to be uploaded to the board's portal. Ms. Parrish presented a "road map" to show the implementation of Banner Self Service 9 with the goal of moving to Saas.

Sen. Chris Widener provided an update on Government Relations. He stated that the university continues to advocate and lobby for state and federal assistance with financial and policy needs, and meetings are ongoing with federal and state representatives for appropriations bills. Central State submitted \$10 Million to \$15 Million worth of immediate capital requests and, of course, water line replacement is a big priority, and added that the price continues to increase to replace the water line from Stevenson Road to the campus. There is an RFQ that has been published for an engineering firm to design and replace the pump station and the pump house, a very key capital project. He commented that the APLU and the 1890 land-grant institutions are traveling to Washington DC the first week of September for the 135th anniversary of the 1890 Morrill Land-Grant Act.

Trustee Gamblin commented that the board is looking to have a calendar that would include all university activities, to divide and conquer to make sure trustees are supporting the university wherever it may be needed. She asked Senator Widener to include the events that involve advocacy.

Dr. Amy Hobbs, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented highlights from the colleges including College of Business that submitted the 2025 self-study for reaffirmation from the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs ("ACBSP"), and key hires in academic affairs. The university's new director of Financial Aid is Matthew Kirksey who will start on August 18th and the new dean of the John W. Garland College of Engineering, Science, Technology and Agriculture, Dr. Frank Hall, will start on August 1st. Dr. Hobbs presented enrollment numbers for fall of 1,523 traditional students and 470 online students. The enrollment numbers are not final yet and it is anticipated that the university will reach its goal of 1,750 traditional students. She added that first-time freshmen number 551 and "confirmed" Ohio first-time freshmen students number 368. Trustee Gamblin asked Dr. Hobbs to include the category as a KPI in future presentations.

Ms. Kevicia Brown, Athletic Director, presented highlights from her department. She mentioned that the Detroit Classic football game is scheduled on August 30 against Kentucky State University in Detroit and the Fredrick Douglass Classic football game is scheduled on September 27 against Lane College in Rochester, New York. She reminded trustees that CSU's homecoming is October 11th against Morehouse College with the Hall of Fame luncheon on October 10th.

Ms. Rebecca Kocher, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, presented highlights from Institutional Advancement. During Homecoming 2025, the university will launch a "Battle of the Decades" crowd funding that involves a friendly competition for all CSU alumni classes with prizes being awarded to the top three classes in the top three decades. The staff has been working hard to improve its data tracking. According to Ms. Kocher, there is limited historical data in Institutional Advancement but with the implementation of Raiser's Edge software, and partnerships with Ferrilli and Information Technology ("IT"), this will certainly improve. Regarding Trustee Gamblin's request, she stated that

Institutional Advancement (“IA”) is working with IT to provide a single location on the website where all events will be feeding into one place. The goal is to make the portal user friendly and will be available to not only the board but alumni and friends as well. As of June 30,2025, the university has raised \$2.07 Million which is an increase over last year.

Dr. Alcinda Folck, Associate Extension Administrator for Land-Grant Extension programs, presented highlights from her area. She noted that the university has researchers whose findings are being published. This is significant and means they are making scientific discoveries that are of interest to their peers and relevant to their fields of discipline. Dr. Folck shared recent visits led by CSU Extension with key partners in the Toledo area across urban agriculture, youth development, financial literacy and community wellness. The KPI’s included the offering of 241 student scholarships and one new hire in the area of 1890 research, Dr. Jessica Hartstorn, the new faculty member for forestry.

Trustee Manns noted that the university income in land-grant funding is approximately \$32 Million this year which is significantly less than last year, and the current environment at the federal and state levels has been challenging. President Kuti added that last year, the grant funding to the university was \$42 Million but when details were broken down for competitive grants, meaning grants that an organization must buy and are peer reviewed, the university stayed level. But the state has not provided Central State with the one-to-one match of land-grant dollars that is required. There have been conversations with the chancellor’s office and the governor’s office has been made aware that, currently, the state’s match is 80 cents on the dollar. The federal government has reduced NIH budget by 40% and, therefore, NSF does not have the funding available and the opportunities to apply for grants are reduced.

Dr. Hobbs presented details of the university’s new strategic plan covering 2025 to 2030. She introduced the three co-chairs on the committee who have been tasked with developing the strategic plan: herself, and Drs. Toledo and Aikens. Dr Hobbs stated that the strategic plan is a “work-in-progress.” Dr. Aikens presented the new vision statement: “Central State University is the Midwest’s leading destination for discovering and maximizing human potential.” In addition, the new mission statement was presented: “Central State University, a distinguished HBCU and Land-Grant institution, provides personalized learning pathways, advances research, and shares knowledge to meet the needs of individuals, families, and communities in Ohio and around the world.” Dr. Hobbs explained the committee’s approach in developing the strategic plan with an objective to be “data informed,” not only from Central State but other peer institutions.

Within the strategic framework, there were four transformational pillars: Academic excellence, research and public service, continuous improvement and operational excellence and strategic investments in innovation and infrastructure. Dr. Aikens reported on the university’s distinctive strengths and competitive advantages as identified by the committee and Dr. Hobbs covered implementation of the plan and success measures that will hold the university accountable. The plan is to introduce the new strategic plan at the University Institute event for the campus in August.

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF RESOLUTIONS

Ms. Sergent read the following resolutions and noted that these are available in full text on the Board’s TEAMS portal.

RESOLUTION 2025-40

APPROVAL OF REVISED FISCAL YEAR 2026 CURRENT UNRESTRICTED FUNDS OPERATING BUDGET (Amended)

WHEREAS, Section 3343.05 of the Ohio Revised Code grants exclusive authority to the Board of Trustees regarding “the direction and control over the operation and conduct of the University;” and

WHEREAS, the University administration has developed a budget of estimated revenues and expenditures for the purpose of operating the University in a fiscally prudent manner; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2026 Current Unrestricted Funds Operating Budget totals \$61,065,044 for revenues and \$59,835,080 for expenditures recognizes the change in state support;

WHEREAS, the President or his designee has the authority to make changes within the totals of the Current Unrestricted Funds Operating Budget for operating and management purposes **and upon notification to the Board;**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the President, that the proposed revised FY26 Current Unrestricted Funds Operating budget be approved by the Board of Trustees.

The above resolution was amended as follows: add “and upon notification to the Board” to the fourth paragraph. A motion was made by Trustee Ervin to approve the amended resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Wyche and passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2025-41

APPROVAL OF AMENDED CENTRAL STATE UNIVERSITY’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES’ CODE OF REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, the Central State University Board of Trustees (“Board”) is vested by law with all the powers and authority to govern effectively and set policy for Central State University (“University”) in accordance with Ohio law and the Ohio Department of Higher education; and

WHEREAS, in compliance with the newly-enacted Ohio Senate Bill 1, also known as the “Advance Ohio Higher Education Act,” effective June 27, 2025, which shortened the length of the term of office for trustees of state universities appointed on or after July 1, 2025, the Central State University Board of Trustees’ Code of Regulations Section 1.1 shall be amended to change the terms for Board Trustees appointed by the Governor on or after July 1, 2025 to six (6) years, excluding student members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, upon the recommendation of the Board Governance Committee and the University President, that the Board approve the following amendment to update Section 1.1 of the Board Code of Regulations to read: “Except for student members, terms of office shall be six (6) years for Board Trustees appointed after July 1, 2025 and nine (9) years for Board Trustees appointed prior to July 1, 2025.”

A motion was made by Trustee Wyche to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Trustee Ervin and passed unanimously.

Approval of Board Meeting/Retreat Schedule for Calendar-Year 2026. Regarding the schedule of board meetings and retreat for the 2026 calendar year, Trustee Gamblin stated that the following dates are recommended to the Board for approval. She noted that the June 4-5, 2026 meeting dates will be rescheduled to July 23-24, 2026 to give finance a chance to complete financials and get closer to the end of the fiscal year:

Thursday-Friday, February 5-6, 2026 (Committee Meetings/Regular Meeting)
Thursday-Friday, April 30-May 1, 2026 (Committee Meetings/Regular Meeting)
Thursday-Friday, ~~June 5-6~~ July 23-24, 2026 (Regular Meeting/Organizational Meeting – Election of Officers; and Retreat)
Thursday-Friday, September 3-4, 2026 (Committee Meetings/Regular Meeting)
Thursday-Friday, November 5-6, 2026 (Committee Meetings/Regular Meeting Committee)

Trustee Harris noted that the Board of Trustees Code of Regulations stipulates that the election of board officers shall be done at the June meeting, but the board is looking to amend this section. Trustee Gamblin asked for a motion to approve the above schedule of board meetings and retreat for calendar-year 2026 as amended. Trustee Ervin moved for approval the schedule as presented. The motion was seconded by Trustee Manns and carried unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee Gamblin noted that the next board meetings are scheduled on September 11-12, 2025, which was moved from the original date of September 4-5, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Ervin moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m. The motion was seconded by Trustee Matthews and passed unanimously.