



CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF THE
TWO-HUNDRED-AND-THIRTIETH
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY CIVIL SERVICE MERIT BOARD –
MARCH 10, 2026

State Universities Civil Service System
1717 Philo Road, Suite 24
Urbana, IL

Northern Illinois University
Altgeld Hall, Room 203
DeKalb, IL

Chicago State University
Gwendolyn Brooks Library
Conference Room 352
9501 South King Drive
Chicago, IL

Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville
School of Dental Medicine
2800 College Ave.
Alumni Conference Room, Room B273
Alton, IL

Governors State University
1 University Parkway
Room C2315
University Park, IL

University of Illinois at Chicago
Discovery Partners Institute
200 S Wacker Drive
Conference Room 702
Chicago, IL

Illinois State University
718 W. College Avenue
Room NSB 101A
Normal, IL

Chair Butler called the Closed Session to order at 2:08 p.m.

Members present at the State Universities Civil Service System (University System) and posted designated sites were: John Butler, Chair, from the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees; Barb Baurer from the Eastern Illinois University Board of Trustees; Carolyn Blackwell from the University of Illinois Board of Trustees; Jim Kvedaras from the Governors State University Board of Trustees; Robert Navarro from the Illinois State University Board of Trustees; J. Todd Phillips from the Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees; Jason Quiara from the Chicago State University Board of Trustees, and Kisha Lang from the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees

Members absent were Tami Craig Schilling from the University of Illinois Board of Trustees; Ramon Cepeda from the University of Illinois Board of Trustees; and John Simmons from the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees.

Gail Schiesser, Executive Director; Maggie Miller, Legal Counsel; and Jennifer Miles, Secretary for the Merit Board, were also present.

Chair Butler stated that the purpose of the Closed Session Meeting was to discuss two matters relating to discharge proceedings: Number UIUC-25-19, Clarissa Babiarz, and UIC-25-17, Gino Ortiguerra.

The Merit Board discussed the evidence in the record of each discharge proceeding and the options available. The Merit Board took a straw poll regarding each matter.

Ms. Kvedaras made a motion to return to open session. Dr. Lang seconded Mr. Kvedaras' motion. In accordance with the Merit Board Bylaws, a roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved with the following vote:

Mr. Kvedaras	Aye
Dr. Lang	Aye
Dr. Navarro.....	Aye
Mr. Phillips	Aye
Mr. Quiara	Aye
Mr. Simmons	Absent
Ms. Baurer.....	Aye
Ms. Blackwell	Aye
Chair Butler	Aye
Mr. Cepeda.....	Absent
Ms. Craig Schilling	Absent

The Merit Board returned to open session at 3:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Jennifer Miles

Jennifer Miles
Secretary for the Merit Board

APPROVED:

/s/ John Butler

John Butler, Chair
University Civil Service Merit Board

August 19, 2026

Date