



**CLOSED SESSION MINUTES OF THE  
TWO-HUNDRED-AND-TWENTY-NINETH  
MEETING OF THE UNIVERSITY CIVIL SERVICE MERIT BOARD –  
DECEMBER 9, 2025**

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

Northern Illinois University  
Altgeld Hall, Room 231  
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

University of Illinois at Springfield  
One University Plaza  
Human Resource Building (HRB) Room #30  
Springfield, IL

Chair Butler called the Closed Session to order at 2:55 p.m.

Members present at the State Universities Civil Service System (University System), posted designated sites, and those allowed to participate at nonpublic site were: John Butler, Chair, from the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees; Barb Baurer from the Eastern Illinois University Board of Trustees; Tami Craig Schilling 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 Quira from Chicago State University Board of Trustees; and John Simmons from the Southern Illinois University Board of Trustees.

Members absent were Carolyn Blackwell from the University of Illinois Board of Trustees; Ramon Cepeda from the University of Illinois Board of Trustees; and Kisha Lang from the Western Illinois University Board of Trustees.

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

Chair Butler stated that the purpose of the Closed Session Meeting was to discuss matters relating to discharge proceedings, Number NEIU-25-3, Laura Minelli.

The Merit Board discussed the case in further detail.

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

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

The Merit Board returned to open session at 3:10 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

March 10, 2026  
Date