

Minutes of the  
**NIU Board of Trustees**  
**Of Northern Illinois University**  
**Special Meeting**  
February 14, 2017

**10. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by Chair Butler in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Kathleen Carey conducted a roll call. Members present were Trustees Dennis Barsema; Wheeler Coleman, Veronica Herrero, Matthew Holmes, Tim Struthers, Eric Wasowicz, Board Chair John Butler. Members absent Trustee Robert Boey. Also present: President Doug Baker, Board Liaison Mike Mann, Acting General Counsel Greg Brady, Executive Vice President and Provost Lisa Freeman.

**11. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

General Counsel Brady indicated the appropriate notification of the meeting has been provided pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Mr. Brady also advised that a quorum was present.

**12. MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Barsema so moved and Trustee Struthers seconded. The motion was approved.

**13. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Butler commented, I was very pleased to welcome the new board members and want to say personally thank you to all the board members for your assistance in moving us to this meeting today as we worked out who would be the officers and who would chair the various committees. As you know, Trustee Coleman is the Vice-Chair and Dennis Barsema, Trustee Barsema, has agreed to serve as the fourth member of the Executive Committee. The Merit Board position remains open and if you are interested, let me know.

Chair Butler continued, obviously, as Dr. Long presented, there's a great deal of anxiety and there's a morale issue on campus. We're in the most challenging period in the history of the university and the further incapacity to fund higher education in Springfield among other critical needs is just continuing that pressure and anxiety. So I wanted to assure and for the record, I will assure the NIU community that we are very serious about these issues, we're committed to moving forward quickly and intentionally to onboard our new trustees and to take seriously our tasks. I want to acknowledge again, however, the significance of the day. This day brings upon us all a deep level of reflection. I think we pay quiet respect to the students who lost their lives. There are still grieving families and loved ones and we reflect on the courage and the determination of so many people whose lives were changed forever that day. So we won't forget throughout this day as we continue to do the work of the university, but what an important day it is for us.

Chair Butler added, I want to take a moment and introduce Greg Long, not only is he the president of the Faculty Senate but also the Executive Secretary of the University Council and that's the university level consolidated governance council that includes faculty, staff, students, and administrators. He and his colleagues, Holly Nicholson who you met earlier and Cathy Doederlein, who you haven't met, whose president of the Supportive Professional Staff Council, are a part of what's called the University Advisory Council and they are a regular presence at our board meetings. As Greg noted, they meet with the

president prior to the board meetings to determine if there's any issues on the agenda that they want to talk about or would like to see on the agenda as well. During the Ad Hoc Committee meetings we've invited the UAC representatives to sit at the table with us and have a much more casual conversation. I will again provide Professor Long with an opportunity to address us.

Greg Long commented, I've appreciated my opportunity to serve in this role. I've been a long standing faculty member and, in fact on Thursday, I'm doing my presidential teaching professorship lecture where I'm going to give reflections on what it's like to have done this for 30 years. I appreciate the opportunity to participate, and I know there will be some future discussion in this group about the policy library concept which is something that from a shared governance standpoint, we feel very strongly about that needs to move forward.

#### **14. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were given.

#### **15. OTHER MATTERS**

No other matters were discussed.

#### **16. NEXT MEETING**

Board of Trustees Committee Meetings February 16, 2017; Full Board Meeting March 9, 2017.

#### **17. CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Butler asked for a motion to close the public meeting to conduct a closed session to discuss the following subjects authorized by the Illinois Open Meetings Act, as amended: personnel matters as generally described under sections 2.c. 1, 2, 3, and 21 of the Open Meetings Act, Collective Bargaining matters as generally described under sections 2.c.2 of the Open Meetings Act, and Litigation and Risk Management matters as generally described under sections 2.c.11 and 12 of the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Coleman so moved, seconded by Trustee Barsema. A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Closed Session was as follows:

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes	Trustee Robert Boey: Absent
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes	Trustee Matthew Holmes: Yes
Trustee Tim Struthers: Yes	Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes
Vice Chair Wheeler Coleman: Yes	Board Chair John Butler: Yes

The meeting is now closed and will re-open at the conclusion of the closed session in approximately two hours. The Board adjourned for closed session at 11:55 a.m.

The Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University reconvened on February 14, 2017, at 2:56 p.m. Chair Butler announced they were reconvening after the closed session and asked for a roll call.

Present: Trustees Dennis Barsema, Wheeler Coleman, Matthew Holmes, Tim Struthers, Board Chair John Butler. Absent: Trustees Robert Boey, Veronica Herrero, Eric Wasowicz

#### **18. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Butler asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Coleman so moved and Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Carey  
Recording Secretary

*In compliance with Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/1, et seq, a verbatim record of all Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees meetings is maintained by the Board Recording Secretary and is available for review upon request. The minutes contained herein represent a true and accurate summary of the Board proceedings.*