

Minutes of the
NIU Board of Trustees
Of Northern Illinois University
Special Meeting
May 3, 2017

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 12:35 p.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, Robert Boey, Wheeler Coleman, Matthew Holmes, Tim Struthers, Eric Wasowicz, Board Chair John Butler. Members absent: Trustee Veronica Herrero. Also present: President Doug Baker, Board Liaison Mike Mann, Acting General Counsel Greg Brady, Executive Vice President and Provost Lisa Freeman, Vice President Gerald Blazey, Associate Vice President Larry Pinkelton, UAC Representatives Holly Nicholson and Greg Long.

2. 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.

3. MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

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

4. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

No comments were by the Chair.

Greg Long, University Advisory Committee, commented on the strong support by faculty for Vice President Jerry Blazey.

5. PUBLIC COMMENT

No request for public comment.

6. PRESIDENTS REPORT NO. 113

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 6.a.(1) - Appointment of Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships

President Baker indicated there is one action item today and that is the appointment of Gerald Blazey as our Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships. He was selected through a national search process for the permanent position based on his outstanding qualifications. Dr. Blazey has been acting as the Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships in recent years and prior to that was the acting Associate Vice President for Research within the division. Prior to that, he served in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy Group and he holds the rank of Professor in Physics and is a distinguished research professor. His focus here is in high energy physics. He has an extensive experience with research and administration of research. His impressive track record includes funding from the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy as well as the Department of Defense and the Department of

Education. During his assignment at OSTP and the Executive Office of the President from 2011 to 2014, he was closely involved in the development of President Obama's budget for NSF and DOE. He's a strategic thinker. He's an amazing addition to NIU and I'm really appreciative of him taking on this role. He's also working aggressively in the innovation partnerships area seeking out innovations with local industry and some of our regional partners. I would ask that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. Gerald C. Blazey as the Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships effective May 16, 2017; and, I will note that we're doing this in this unusual time period because Jerry's contract runs out and there was a gap and we had to fill that gap with his permanent appointment. So I appreciate your making time to be here today for that.

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Gerald Blazey as the Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships effective May 16, 2017? Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Wasowicz.

Trustee Barsema noted, I've had the good fortune to work with Dr. Blazey on several projects during the period that he was the interim and I would just tell you that I couldn't be more pleased that he will now take the role on a permanent basis. I think you are the perfect person for this job Jerry, so great that this is the conclusion to this search.

Chair Butler called for a vote and the motion passed.

Jerry Blazed added, I thank you for all the kind words. I'd like to thank you all for your confidence and President Baker for his confidence. As we saw last night at dinner there really is excitement among the faculty with respect to research and scholarship and engagement, and it's my honor and privilege to work with them to try to promote our research and innovation agenda especially during this difficult time. I think the faculty are resilient and they will increase our research intensity and our innovation and, as I said, it's my honor to work with you and the senior cabinet as we move the institution forward.

7. OTHER MATTERS

No other matters were discussed.

8. NEXT MEETING

Board of Trustees Committee Meetings are scheduled for May 18, 2017; Full Board Meeting are scheduled for June 15, 2017.

9. CLOSED SESSION

Chair Butler asked for a motion to close the public meeting to conduct an executive 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 and litigation and risk management matters as generally described under sections 2.c.11 and 12 of the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey.

Trustee Struthers asked if it was necessary to cite acceptance of minutes for the closed session? Chair Butler indicated we would add to the motion. I'll consider Trustee Struthers making a friendly amendment to the motion to add an exemption for executive session minute matters as generally described under section 2.c.21 of the Open Meetings Act. Is there a second to the motion to amend the motion? Trustee Coleman so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The amendment to the motion passed.

A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Closed Session followed:

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent
Trustee Tim Struthers: Yes
Vice Chair Wheeler Coleman: Yes

Trustee Robert Boey: Yes
Trustee Matthew Holmes: Yes
Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes
Board Chair John Butler: Yes

The meeting is now closed and will re-open at the conclusion of the closed session for the purpose of closing the public meeting. No additional business will be conducted. The Board adjourned for closed session at 12:43 p.m.

The Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University reconvened on May 3, 2017, at 3:25 p.m. Chair Butler announced they were reconvening after the closed session and asked for a roll call.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Butler asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Coleman so moved and Trustee Boey seconded. The motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:25 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.