

Minutes of the
NIU Board of Trustees
FINANCE, AUDIT, COMPLIANCE, FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2017

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 a.m. by Committee Chair Tim Struthers in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Vicky Rippberger conducted a roll call of the trustees. Members present were Trustee Dennis Barsema, Trustee Bob Boey, Trustee John Butler, Trustee Giuseppe LaGioia, Trustee Eric Wasowicz, Board Chair Wheeler Coleman, and Committee Chair Tim Struthers. Members absent were Trustee Veronica Herrero. Also present were Acting President Lisa Freeman, Committee Liaison Larry Pinkelton, Acting Executive Vice President and Provost Chris McCord, Deputy General Counsel Greg Brady, and Board Liaison Matt Streb.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

General Counsel Greg 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.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Trustee Wheeler Coleman; seconded by Trustee Bob Boey. All were in favor. The motion carried.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Struthers recognized members of the University Advisory Committee

There were no comments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

General Counsel Greg Brady indicated that there were no requests for public comment.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS

The following items were discussed by the Committee:

Action Item 6.a. – Fiscal Year 2019 Out-of-State College of Law Tuition Recommendation

Larry Pinkelton explained, the current rate for out-of-state law students is two times the in-state rate, the same differential as undergraduate and graduate rates prior to approval at the Board of Trustees meeting. Although the College of Law is different in some respects than the undergraduate and graduate programs, many of the same reasons for equalizing in-state and out-of-state rates for undergraduate and graduate students apply equally to the College of Law. Most importantly, elimination of the out-of-state rate will position the College of Law to continue to improve the quality and diversity of the incoming class while at the same time increasing the number of enrolled students at the college.

Mr. Pinkelton read the following motion for consideration by the Board:

The University requests the Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee endorse this request and ask that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its meeting on December 7, 2017.

A motion was made by Trustee Bob Boey; seconded by Trustee Dennis Barsema. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried.

Action Item 6.b. – Fiscal Year 2019 Pricing Recommendation

Greg Brady refreshed the Boards memory that this item was tabled at the last meeting of this committee. As such, a motion should be made to un-table the item and bring the item back for consideration by the committee.

Mr. Pinkelton read the following motion for consideration by the Board:

The University requests the Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee endorse this request for FY19 tuition, fees, and room and board as detailed in Tables 1 – 3, summarized in Table 4 and ask that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its meeting on December 7, 2017.

A motion was made to un-table the item by Trustee John Butler; second by Trustee Wheeler Coleman. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried.

Greg Brady continued, the item before the committee today is amended from the original motion at the last meeting. As such Larry Pinkelton will provide a verbal recitation of the item today, and a vote will be required to seek an amendment to substitute today's item for the previous item in totality so that we are voting on one item today.

Larry Pinkelton explained, this item presents a comprehensive pricing recommendation that addresses tuition, fees, and room and board rates for fiscal 2019. These recommendations were developed with the goals of maintaining fiscal responsibility and addressing affordability concerns by keeping the total cost of tuition for fulltime students as low as possible. The recommendations include a zero percent increase in undergraduate tuition, multiple occupancy room and board rates, and a .5 percent decrease in fees for undergraduate students. Overall, a decrease in the total cost of tuition for undergraduate students of .1 percent and 0 percent increase for graduate students and law students is recommended.

A motion to approve the amendment to substitute this recommendation was made by Trustee Wheeler Coleman; seconded by Trustee Dennis Barsema.

Wheeler Coleman commended the administration for taking a closer look at the cost of education and keeping the costs for our students and parents relatively flat stating this could possibly help as it relates to recruitment as well as retention.

Tim Struthers echoed those comments adding appreciation for the administration as well as the Board and the committee members for active engagement in this discussion. It was a great demonstration of not only the care but the real analysis and detailed rigor around the thought and overarching effort to keep tuition low and to make the institution as affordable as possible and will surely help in the goals of retention and recruitment

All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried.

One additional vote was necessary to approve the actual item. For clarity, Larry Pinkelton restated the recommendation based on the amendment.

A motion to approve amended item was made by Trustee Dennis Barsema; seconded by Trustee John Butler. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion carried.

Information Item 7.a. – University Press Proposal

There were no questions or discussion.

OTHER MATTERS

No other matters were discussed.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee will be some time in February.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn by Trustee Wheeler Coleman; seconded by Trustee John Butler. The motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicky Rippberger
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 proceeding A motion was made by Trustee Bob Boey; seconded by Trustee Dennis Barsema. All were in favor. None were opposed. The motion passed.