

Minutes of the  
**NIU Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Special Meeting**  
November 15, 2018

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 12:59 p.m. by Chair Wheeler Coleman in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Chelsea Duis conducted a roll call. Members present were Trustees Dennis Barsema, John Butler, Nathan Hays, Bob Pritchard, Tim Struthers, Eric Wasowicz, and Board Chair Wheeler Coleman. Member absent was Veronica Herrero.

Also present: President Lisa Freeman, Acting General Counsel Greg Brady, Board Liaison Matt Streb, Vice President for Administration and Finance Sarah McGill, and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Therese Arado, Catherine Doederlein, and Holly Nicholson.

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

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

**3. MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2018, AND SEPTEMBER 20, 2018**

Chair Wheeler Coleman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 13, 2018. Trustee Dennis Barsema so moved and Trustee Eric Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

Chair Wheeler Coleman asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 20, 2018. Trustee Eric Wasowicz so moved and Trustee John Butler seconded. The motion was approved.

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

Chair Wheeler Coleman had no comments. UAC representatives had no comments.

**6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Acting General Counsel Greg Brady indicated there was one timely request for public comment. He called forward Dr. Joseph Baumgart.

Dr. Joseph Baumgart: "First of all I apologize. I'm a little naive to exactly how these things function and I was also unaware that the Finance Committee was in fact a committee of the whole. There will be a little bit of redundancy in what I have to say, but I did intend to make my remarks somewhat different from those that I had addressed earlier. On October 26, my wife and I celebrated Lagoon Day. It is Lagoon Day because that was the day 45 years ago while on a blanket on the lagoon studying physiology, cupid's arrow struck and almost everything good that has happened to me since, and I've had many blessings in my life, is a result of that moment. You the members of the board have had a bit of your own Lagoon Day. You have worked so very hard to keep the ship afloat through the most economically challenging time in the history of the university. In the middle of those struggles, you discovered a star. You noticed that a reluctant interim president was a hard-working, intelligent, thoughtful, resourceful individual. And somewhere in the course of searching for the right person to be president, you realized that the right person was in your midst. It is almost like the Cinderella story except this Cinderella has two doctorates. But even hard-working, intelligent, thoughtful, resourceful individuals can make a mistake sometimes, and here we are today. Just say out loud "I am Northern Illinois University's first woman president and I am doing away with Women's Health." And you know it is a stumble. I am trying to save Northern Illinois' first woman president from stumbling. Have you ever tried to help somebody who doesn't want to be saved? I have and it's not easy. I spoke directly to Northwestern about this fact and they told me to my face that their current plan excludes Women's Health and all patients will see generalists. I wrote an e-mail to the president thinking she did not understand what Northwestern was going to do, and she responded to me through Dr. Wesener-Michael, that family practice doctors are well-trained and are well-equipped to meet the needs of female, male, and transgender students. HMO's made the same claim in trying to require women to see a generalist

before they saw a gynecologist over twenty years ago, and it caused such an uproar that women descended on the US Congress and had federal laws passed barring gatekeepers from interfering with a woman's right to see a gynecologist. In the day and age of Title IX, rising STIs, sexual violence on campus, LGBTQ awareness and evolving contraceptive technology, is there any question that expertise in woman's health is needed on campus? Female college students are women, not girls, and they need to be treated with the same respect as all women. They too do not want a gatekeeper to decide if they should see an expert in women's health. The contract as it stands is a bad deal for NIU students. Health Services employees were told to watch for Northwestern's job postings. There are currently 31 employees in Health Services and we are seriously understaffed with 31. To replace our 31 employees, Northwestern Medicine posted 11 jobs including two for registered nurses. Do you think two RNs is a reasonable number to take care of 17,000 students? When Northwestern took over Kishwaukee Hospital, they did not throw two-thirds of the employees overboard. When Northwestern medicine took over the old DeKalb clinic, they did not replace all the specialists with family physicians and tell us that they are well equipped to meet the needs of men and women. Make no mistake, the students will know the president has stumbled when it happens. They probably won't raise barricades, waving banners that say save women's health, but when they call for an appointment and they find out the university, without discourse, abandoned them. Currently 31% of women's visits at Health Services are scheduled with a gynecologist or an advanced practice nurse certified in women's health. It has been available to NIU women for over 30 years. Why? Because students fought for it. Now I know that Trustee Coleman and Trustee Barsema are alumni and I'm not sure if they are a few years ahead of me or a few years behind me, but it was us baby boomers that fought for and won the privilege for women's students at NIU to see women's health specialists. That need has not changed. It doesn't take a couple of years of looking and seeing what's happening with students because it's been going on for the last 30 years. Northwestern Medicine told us this morning they didn't consider women's health because they weren't asked. So ask them. I ask you today to save our president from this stumble. Do not let it be said that it was President Freeman that ended women's health at this university. Renegotiate the contract. But before you renegotiate the contract, read the provided document on outsourcing and that's the documents that I provided to the secretary earlier today. And then look at the health services of Illinois State, who by the way has a gynecologist. Southern Illinois-Carbondale who had a gynecologist lost them, but cannot replace them. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, which by the way has advanced practice nurses who are certified in women's health, and Northwestern University who also has a gynecologist on staff. Go visit these institutions and see what they have and what they do. A good contractor provides their clients with what they need and what they want. If Northwestern Medicine is a good contractor, they should be able to do the same. Northwestern Medicine expressed nurturing a long term relationship and meeting student needs. Here is their chance to show it. Thank you very much. You asked many questions this morning of many people, but you never asked me back up for any questions. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask. Thank you."

Chair Wheeler Coleman called for questions from the trustees. Trustee Eric Wasowicz: "Yeah I have a question. So I'm kind of curious. The way I view how this is going to go from a woman's health standpoint and I was thinking about my wife and my daughter as they have a separate specialist. So someone will go in the way I understand it from the way it was explained from Northwestern, is that they would go in and they would see a general practitioner and if there was something the example given was a pap smear and they found something there, instead of having a gynecologist right there in the next room, that they would be advised to go to Kishwaukee. Is that the way you see it?"

Dr. Joseph Baumgart: "Well no, because first of all people misunderstand what it means to have Northwestern running our health service. Northwestern is an incredible organization. It's been said many times they're very highly rated, if not top rated, in our area in providing health care. But it's not because they're colored purple and it's not because of fancy logos. It's because of their expertise. However, if you remove that expertise from health service, it's no longer a fee covered service. I always tell students that their visit today with me is free because they already paid for it and I always thank my students for paying my salary. But once they leave campus, it doesn't matter whether they're seeing Northwestern or somebody else. Now it's no longer their health service fee, it's their insurance that takes over. When their insurance takes over, if their insurance has a deductible, and most insurances do, then before their insurance pays any dollars they have to meet that deductible. So the difference between a patient seeing me, and I had one this week who had an abnormal pap smear and needed to have further evaluation by an expert and I am that expert, it cost her nothing to have that. Now she has to go to an outside provider and it doesn't matter if it's Northwestern or anybody else, they will have to meet the requirements of their insurance. So what was free now becomes a cost of several hundred dollars. And believe me I've seen so many students of need. I have had patients where they have a serious medical problem and I can't get them to see the

specialist because they don't have the money to see them. Now women's health is a specialty where there's a lot of issues. If you have an apartment building, you might have a fix it man right? But if you have an institution like Northern where you have thousands of pipes that are always going wrong, you have a plumber on staff because you want someone to meet that problem. Well when I walk around campus, I notice there sure are a lot of women around here and I would not invade your privacy by asking the women in this room or the husbands of women whether they see a gynecologist or a family practice physician. Some would see one, some would see the other. But I'm sure that they want to have the right to do that. And so when you remove the gynecologist from campus it doesn't matter how wonderful the gynecologists are in downtown Chicago or at the professional building here, they no longer have access to that person. And so by me being available, people can see that right away and I mean just look at the numbers of people that have chosen to come to see us and you know the need is there. And again if Northwestern was never asked to provide it, then maybe it's time to ask them to provide it. I'm not leaving town. I love it here. I've lived here – well I came to school here in '71 and other than being away to medical school and residency, I came right back here and lived here because I think this is a great place. I'm not going away, but I don't know if I'll be here. Thank you for asking."

Eric Wasowicz noted Trustee John Butler and he are alumni.

Vice President Sarah McGill: "I'd just like to clarify that as part of the work with Northwestern, we did ask them to provide all services that are provided currently, and we shared the unit of measures, the CPT code, we shared those codes. So anything that is covered currently by the student fee will be covered going forward, and that includes women's health services or services in support of women's health."

Chair Wheeler Coleman thanked Vice President McGill and asked President Freeman if she had anything to add.

President Lisa Freeman: "You know I guess I should probably say something since of all of the people sitting at the table, I'm probably the one who's had the most up close and personal experience with women's health, and I will say that I care very deeply about our women students. I feel that the process that the university used has the checks and balances in it to ensure that our students will be well taken care of, and I will say that over my lifetime as a women seeking healthcare services, I've had positive and negative experiences with generalists and with specialists. And with my experience, it is not the degree that hangs on the wall that provides the type of care that we want our students to have, but rather the empathy, the time, the expertise, and it can be from a family practitioner, it can be from an advanced nurse practitioner, it can be from an OBGYN, especially when you're talking about routine services. When something more than that is needed, you want to be confident that there is a network, a referral network, that will have expertise to address whatever specific complicated problem you might have, and that there are caring individuals to help you navigate that. Northwestern stood here this morning and promised that to us. Our contract has KPIs, key performance indicators, and metrics that will be reviewed regularly to make sure that promise is kept, and we have courses of action available to us if those promises are not kept. We have student voices on the governance structure who will make us known quickly if something is awry. And so I feel that we have, what we can do to make this trial work, that we have roots for adjustment is necessary, and I'm confident in the decision, and I don't need to be spared from a decision that a lot of thought has gone into from the university and from the people on my team."

Chair Wheeler Coleman thanked President Freeman. There were no further comments.

## **7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 128**

### **Items Directly from the President**

#### **Agenda item 7.a. Services and Lease in Support of Health and Student Athletic Care**

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7, discussed extensively in the FACFO meeting earlier in the day. The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of the Services and Lease in Support of Health and Student Athletic Care.

Chair Wheeler Coleman asked for a motion to approve the agenda item. Trustee John Butler asked for a clarification on the motion due to the alternative leasing pricing listed incorrectly in the board report. Vice President Sarah McGill noted the amount was read correctly in the committee meeting vote, though it appeared incorrectly in the written materials. Acting General Counsel Greg Brady noted that since this is the item as it came from the committee meeting, there is no need to amend the motion. Trustee John Butler so moved and Trustee Dennis Barsema seconded.

Chair Wheeler Coleman noted there has been a lot of discussion of the item previously. He thanked Dr. Baumgart for coming to the meeting and sharing his thoughts. He noted that if changes for women's health are determined to be needed, the university will seek one at that time. He asked for a roll call vote.

Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Nathan Hays: Yes
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes
Trustee Tim Struthers: Abstain	Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes
Vice Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes	Board Chair Wheeler Coleman: Yes

The motion was approved.

## **8. OTHER MATTERS**

No other matters were discussed.

## **9. NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting is December 6, 2018, at 9:00 AM.

## **10. CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Wheeler Coleman 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); Collective Bargaining Matters as generally described under Section 2(c)(2); Litigation and Risk Management Matters as generally described under Sections 2(c)(11) and (12); Closed Session Minutes Matters as generally described under Section 2(c)(21). Trustee Dennis Barsema so moved and Trustee Eric Wasowicz seconded. A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Closed Session was as follows:

Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Nathan Hays: Yes
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes
Trustee Tim Struthers: Yes	Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes
Vice Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes	Board Chair Wheeler Coleman: Yes

The board adjourned to closed session at 1:22 p.m.

### **Reconvene Meeting**

The Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University reconvened on November 15, 2018, at 3:19 p.m. Chair Wheeler Coleman asked for a roll call. Trustees present were Dennis Barsema, Nathan Hays, Bob Pritchard, Tim Struthers, Eric Wasowicz, and Board Chair Wheeler Coleman. Trustees absent were John Butler and Veronica Herrero.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Wheeler Coleman asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Bob Pritchard so moved and Trustee Dennis Barsema seconded. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chelsea Duis  
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.*