

Minutes of the  
**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee**  
February 13, 2020

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

The meeting was called to order at 8:50 am by Committee Chair Pritchard in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Parrish conducted a roll call.

Members present were Trustee Rita Athas, Trustee John Butler, Trustee Montel Gayles, Trustee Eric Wasowicz, Board Chair Dennis Barsema and Committee Chair Robert Pritchard. Trustee Madalynn Mershon arrived at 9:05 am

Trustee Veronica Herrero was absent.

Also present were President Lisa Freeman; General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram, Board Liaison Matt Streb; Vice President for Administration and Finance Sarah McGill; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; Vice President for EMMC Sol Jensen; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Vernese Edghill-Walden; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Kelly Wesener-Michael and UAC Representatives Alex Gelman, Cathy Doederlein, Jason Hanna, Sarah Marsh, Kendall Thu and Jeffry Royce.

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

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

### **3. MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

Committee Chair Pritchard informed the board of a correction made to the title of a presentation item and asked for a motion to amend the agenda. Eric Wasowicz moved. Montel Gayles seconded. Committee Chair Pritchard asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Trustee Wasowicz moved. Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion passed.

### **4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Committee Chair Pritchard asked for a motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2019. Trustee Wasowicz moved. Trustee Athas seconded. The motion passed.

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

Committee Chair Pritchard announced that since the last time the board met, NIU became the first Illinois institution to institute test blind admissions. He added that retention from the fall semester to the spring semester hit a ninety percent level and the School of Nursing graduates attained the highest pass rate for their NCLEX license exam of 96.3% on their first try, the highest Illinois state institute average for this year.

Committee Chair Pritchard delivered an overview of the committee meeting agenda, welcomed

the University Advisory Committee liaisons and invited them to give comments.

Alex Gelman talked about being a test-blind university

Cathy Doederlein discussed sabbaticals and trying to get more SPS personnel to take advantage of the opportunity.

Kendall Thu commended the shared governance process and collaboration between the Student Association, faculty, administration and staff for thorough vetting the test-blind process. He also remarked about the importance of the sabbatical process and the tenure change item that were to be discussed.

Jeffry Royce also discussed the test-blind admission policy.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Committee Chair Pritchard inquired of Chief Council Perry if any members of the public registered a written request to address the board in accordance with state law and Board of Trustees bylaws.

General Counsel Perry advised there was a request registered by Roderic Moyer. Roderic Moyer did not appear when called.

Committee Chair Pritchard requested that Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram present the university report and the following University Recommendations

## **7. UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Agenda Item 7.a. New Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Health and Safety**

Trustee Gayles moved to approve. Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion passed.

### **Agenda Item 7.b. Deletion of the Certificate of Graduate Study in Applied Mechanics; CAD/CAM/CAE; Simulation, Modeling and Data Analysis; Thermal, Fluid and Energy Systems; Vibration, Robots, and Control Systems**

Trustee Butler moved to approve. Trustee Athas seconded.

Trustee Barsema asked if there were any students enrolled in these programs, where they had migrated or what programs they would take now. EVPP Ingram responded that most of them had gone into the Master of Sciences degree in Mechanical Engineering.

Trustee Barsema asked if there is a specified amount of time that we wait before we recommend a deletion. EVPP Ingram responded that there is no one size fits all, it depends on what other programs are being offered and in response to the market. Trustee Barsema asked if recommendations come from the department chair.

EVPP Ingram responded that in general it starts with the department, would move to a collegiate committee and then the college dean. There is also a process at the university level that ends with the university council.

Trustee Wasowicz asked for clarification on the role of certificates; EVPP Ingram and Dean Peterson responded.

The motion passed.

### **Agenda Item 7.c. Deletion of the Master of Science in Integrated Systems Engineering**

Trustee Gayles moved to approve. Trustee Butler seconded.

Trustee Gayles asked how it was determined that this program should be deleted. Dean Peterson and EVPP Ingram discussed how the program had been reviewed.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.d. Deletion of the Certificate of Graduate Study in Integrated Systems Engineering**

Trustee Wasowicz moved to approve. Trustee Butler seconded.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.e. Specialization in Behavior Analysis with the Ph.D. in Educational Psychology**

Trustee Wasowicz moved to approve. Trustee Gayles seconded.

Trustee Athas asked about the difference between a certificate and a specialization.

Associate Dean David Walker advised that a specialization is a track within a graduate degree, an emphasis is a track within an undergraduate degree and a certificate is stand-alone and runs between 12 and 21 credits.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.f. Specialization in Teacher Leader with Endorsement; Curriculum and Culture Pedagogies in Social Justice; Academic Literacies, Language, and Culture; within the M.S.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction**

Trustee Gayles moved to approve. Trustee Athas seconded.

There was a brief discussion of the meaning of a Teacher Leader and how specializations fit into that role.

Dean Elish-Piper advised that Teacher/Leader provides a pathway for individuals that aspire to have a leadership or instructional coaching roles in teaching.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.g. Specialization in Reading; English as a Second Language/Bilingual Education; within the M.S.Ed. In Literacy Education**

Trustee Barsema moved to approve. Trustee Butler seconded.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.h. New Certificate of Graduate Study in Instructional Coaching**

Trustee Gayles moved to approve. Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

Trustee Athas asked if no new resources are needed because there are teachers and instructors that are already doing this work. EVPP Ingram said yes.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.i. New Minor in Esports Industry Professionals**

Trustee Wasowicz moved to approve. Trustee Athas seconded.

Trustee Barsema asked for more information about this minor.

Chair Todd Gilson advised the courses are being offered in Kinesiology and Physical Education, they all cross into logistical support. There are aspects of computer science, art design and communication, all needed to deliver logistics and back end support to this growing industry.

President Freeman added that MAC schools are building competitive programs and are thinking about ways to leverage this to increase the identity of the conference, some of the varsity teams have physical therapists and trainers dedicated to their Esports teams. They train competitors on reflex time and peripheral vision. She continued that there are now Esports not only on campus in Neptune, but also in the Hoffman Estates and Naperville campus.

Trustee Gayles asked about Esport sponsorship. Director of Housing Dan Pedersen remarked that there is financial investment from the Esports Clubs. Chief of Staff Matt Streb added that there are sponsors for the Esports teams and that it is a burgeoning area.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.j. Deletion of the Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Culturally Relevant Teaching**

Trustee Gayles moved to approve. Trustee Barsema seconded.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.k. Deletion of the Certificate of Graduate Study in Children's and Young Adult Literature/Media**

Trustee Barsema moved to approve. Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

Trustee Barsema asked about the content provided in this certificate. Dean Elish-Piper explained that the content was learning about children and young adult literature and then using it pedagogically in classrooms. The content is being covered by other programs.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.l. New Minor in Rehabilitation Counseling**

Trustee Gayles moved to approve. Trustee Athas seconded.

Trustee Barsema asked about physical therapy and if there is collaboration with physical therapy organizations in DeKalb.

Chair Paul Priester advised that this is mental health counseling focus with a specialty towards persons with disabilities.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.m. New Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Illinois Family Specialist Credential Certificate – Level 5**

Trustee Wasowicz moved to approve. Trustee Gayles seconded.

Trustee Butler asked about the content of this certificate.

Dean Derryl Block advised that this certificate is for students looking for positions in counseling and social work in either not-for-profit or governmental agencies.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.n. New Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Black Studies**

Trustee Wasowicz moved to approve. Trustee Butler Seconded.

Trustee Athas asked how many hours are required for a certificate. Dr. Joseph Flynn advised that 12 hours are required for this certificate. Trustee Barsema asked about minor versus this certificate. Dr. Flynn explained the differences.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.o. Emphasis 6: Sustainable Food Systems within the B.A./B.S. in Environmental Studies**

Trustee Athas moved to approve. Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

Committee Chair and Trustee Athas asked for clarification about this emphasis.

Assistant Director Melissa Burlingame explained that environmental studies as a major has seven (including this one) different emphasis changing the focus on their degrees.

Committee Chair Pritchard asked if there are courses available for students interested in operating greenhouses.

Assistant Director Melissa Burlingame responded that those type of courses are traditionally taken at the community college level and then built upon by transferring to programs offered by NIU.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.p. Deletion of Emphasis 2: Geomatics (B.S.) within the B.A./B.S. in Geography**

Trustee Gayles moved to approve. Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.q. New Minor in Music**

Trustee Athas moved to approve. Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 7.r. Change to Full-Time Tenure Requirement**

Trustee Wasowicz moved to approve. Trustee Butler seconded.

Trustee Wasowicz asked for clarification on this item.

Vice President Jerry Blazey gave an example of joint appointments with other institutions, national labs and having a mechanism for entering into long-term tenure relationships.

Committee Chair Pritchard asked if someone would move from full-time teaching to a split appointment or generally a path where they stay in a split appointment.

Vice President Blazey replied that employees may be engaged by the lab or NIU may engage someone that ends up moving to NIU in the long term.

The motion passed.

## **8. UNIVERSITY REPORTS**

**Agenda Item 8.a. Annual Report on the Outcome of Sabbatical Leaves**

## **9. UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS (CONTINUED)**

**Agenda Item 9.a. Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves, 2020-2021 Academic Year**

Trustee Gayles moved to approve. Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

The motion passed.

**Agenda Item 9.b. Honorary Doctorate**

This is an honorary degree in science recommendation for Dr. Sherret Chase.

Trustee Gayles moved to approve. Trustee Barsema seconded.

EVPP Ingram amended her recommendation to forward this item to the Special Meeting of the Board on February 13, 2020.

Committee Chair Pritchard requested approval to amend from the motion and second. Trustee Gayles and Trustee Wasowicz approved.

The motion passed.

## **10. UNIVERSITY REPORTS (CONTINUED)**

**Agenda Item 10.a. College of Engineering and Engineering Technology Overview**

Dean Don Peterson gave an Overview on the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

## **11. OTHER MATTERS**

Committee Chair Pritchard asked if there were other matters.

## **12. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee will be Thursday, May 14, 2020.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Chair Pritchard asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Gayles moved to adjourn. Trustee Barsema seconded.

The motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:46 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Parrish  
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.*