



Special Meeting
of the
Board of Trustees

May 14, 2020

**Special Meeting of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

11:30 a.m. – Thursday – May 14, 2020

This Special BOT meeting is being conducted through video conferencing communications and is being conducted pursuant to Section 6 of Executive Order 2020-7 (Suspending OMA requirements of in person attendance by members of a public body).

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Appropriate Notification of Public Meeting
3. Meeting Agenda Approval..... *Action*..... i
4. [Review and Approval of Minutes of March 5, 2020 and March 19, 2020](#) *Action*.....1
5. Chair's Comments/Announcements
6. Public Comment*
7. President’s Report No. 142
 - a. [Termination of the March 19, 2020 Resolution Temporarily Suspending Board of Trustees Policies, Regulations, and Authority Governing Campus Operations and Delegating Emergency Powers to the President to Ensure Continuity of University Operations](#).....
..... *Information*.....13
8. Other Matters
9. Next Meeting Date
10. Adjournment

*Individuals wishing to make an appearance before the Board should consult the [Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University](#), Article II, Section 4 – *Appearances before the Board*. Appearance request forms can be completed [online](#) in advance of the meeting. For more information contact Karen Campbell kcampbell5@niu.edu.

Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in the NIU Board of Trustees meetings should contact Karen Campbell, kcampbell5@niu.edu as soon as possible.

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Regular Meeting
March 5, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chair Dennis Barsema in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Liz Wright conducted a roll call. Members present were Trustees John Butler, Montel Gayles, Madalynn Mershon, Bob Pritchard, Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz, and Board Chair Dennis Barsema. Trustees Rita Athas and Veronica Herrero were absent.

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; General Counsel Bryan Perry; Board Liaison Matt Streb; Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram; Vice President for Administration and Finance Sarah Chinniah; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Associate Vice President of Information Technology Matt Parks; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Kelly Wesener-Michael; Associate Vice President of Facilities Management and Campus Services John Heckmann; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Kendall Thu, Cathy Doederlein, and Sarah Marsh.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

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

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded.

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to amend that motion, in order to approve a consent agenda as follows: Action items 8.a.1., 8.a.2., 8.a.4., 8.a.5., 8.a.6., 8.a.7., 8.a.8., 8.a.10., 8.a.11., 8.a.13., 8.a.14., 8.a.15., and 8.a.16. Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Butler seconded.

The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 13, 2020. Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Butler seconded. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Dennis Barsema welcomed the University Advisory Committee (UAC) members present and asked for their comments.

UAC Representative Thu voiced support for proposed changes to the BoT regulations for academic approvals.

UAC Representative Doederlein spoke on the proposed amendment to administrative employees' vacation and expressed her support of the item in order to create equity for SPS employees related to vacation time.

Chair Barsema made brief comments. He noted the NIU men's basketball team played for the West MAC conference champions and that NIU hosted wrestling MAC championship. He further congratulated Dr. Anne Britt on receiving the BOT Professorship. He commented on the outstanding bond refinance and looked forward to the update later in the meeting. Finally, he

noted the NIU Today story on the release of the IL Report Card by congratulating the team that worked on it and quoting Lima Chatterjee from the article “What we’re contributing is going to make a difference in students’ lives, and that was one of my motivations when I decided to join NIU four years ago. This is very different from a for-profit company that revolves around profit and loss. Here, what we’re doing as part of our day-to-day jobs is going to make a difference in somebody’s life.”

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Barsema introduced the public comment portion of the meeting.

General Counsel Perry indicated that there was one public comment request by Mr. Roderick Moyer. Mr. Moyer was not present.

REPORTS OF THE BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS

Chair Barsema reminded everyone that the reports of the Board Committees and the Board Liaisons are information only.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT NO. 140

Chair Barsema asked President Freeman to present the President’s Report No. 140.

President Freeman presented the items that we moved to consent agenda including:

Agenda Item 8.a.1 – Request for New Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Health and Safety

Agenda Item 8.a.2. – Request for Deletion of the Certificate of Graduate Study in Applied Mechanics

Request for Deletion of the Certificate of Graduate Study in CAD/CAM/CAE

Request for Deletion of the Certificate of Graduate Study in Simulation, Modeling and Data Analysis

Request for Deletion of the Certificate of Graduate Study in Thermal, Fluid, and Energy Systems

Request for Deletion of the Certificate of Graduate Study in Vibration, Robots, and Control Systems

Agenda Item 8.a.4. – Request for Deletion of the Certificate of Graduate Study in Integrated Systems Engineering

Agenda Item 8.a.5. – Request for Specialization in Behavior Analysis within the Ph.D. in Educational Psychology

Agenda Item 8.a.6. – Request for Specialization in Teacher Leader with Endorsement within the M.S.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction

Request for Specialization in Curriculum and Culture Pedagogies in Social Justice within the M.S.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction

Request for Specialization in Academic Literacies, Language, and Culture within the M.S.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction

Agenda Item 8.a.7. – Request for Specialization in Reading within the M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education

Request for Specialization in English as a Second Language/Bilingual Education within the M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education

Agenda Item 8.a.8. – Request for New Certificate of Graduate Study in Instructional Coaching

Agenda Item 8.a.10. – Request for Deletion of the Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Culturally Relevant Teaching

Agenda Item 8.a.11. – Request for Deletion of the Certificate of Graduate Study in Children’s and Young Adult Literature/Media

Agenda Item 8.a.13. – Request for New Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Illinois Family Specialist Credential Certificate-Level 5

Agenda Item 8.a.14. – Request for New Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Black Studies

Agenda Item 8.a.15. – Request for Emphasis 6: Sustainable Food Systems within the B.A./B.S. in Environmental Studies

Agenda Item 8.a.16. – Request for Deletion of Emphasis 2: Geomatics (B.S.) within the B.A./B.S. in Geography

President Freeman further noted that information items 8.b.1. through 8.b.13. were discussed at the February 13, 2020 committee meetings and will not be revisited unless Trustees request to do so following university recommendations forwarded by committees.

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Prichard so moved and Trustee Mershon seconded. The motion was approved.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 8.a.3. Request for Deletion of the Master of Science in Integrated Systems Engineering

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.3. for approval.

Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

8.a.9. Request for New Minor in Esports Industry Professionals

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.9.

Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Mershon seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.a.12. Request for New Minor in Rehabilitation Counseling

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.12.

Trustee Pritchard so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.a.17. Request for New Minor in Music

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.17.

Trustee Prichard so moved and Trustee Butler seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.a.18. Change to Full-Time Tenure Requirement

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.18. She summarized the item and highlighted the need to be more flexible.

Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Pritchard seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.a.19. Recommendations for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for the 2020-2021 Academic Year

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.19.

Trustee Butler so moved and Trustee Mershon seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.a.20. College of Business New Creativity and Empathy Lab

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.20.

Trustee Pritchard so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded.

Chair Barsema asked what the timeline was for the construction.

Vice President Chinniah said that construction will start later this year and to open by Fall 2020.

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.a.21. Stevenson Towers A, B, C & D – Roof Replacement Capital Project Approval (Revised)

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.21.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

Chair Barsema revisited Trustee Pritchard's question from the committee presentation regarding damage to the top floor.

Vice President Chinniah stated that there has been damage to the top floor, but this request only includes the roof. Facilities will be managing the occupancy of the residence hall without using those floors. The repair of the roof will address the structural integrity of the building.

Trustee Gayles asked whether there is any idea of the cost of repairing those units.

Vice President Chinniah it is not known at this time.

President Freeman shared that in the interest of efficiency estimates are typically performed when a timeline is known for the repair.

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.a.22. Chicago-Based Office Leases for The Education Systems Center and College of Business MBA Programs

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.22.

Trustee Prichard so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded.

Chair Barsema asked whether we have an idea of whether we are at or above market for lease rates.

Vice President Chinniah that the space is at market and it is a competitive rate.

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.a.23. FY21 Master Agreement Facility Contract Renewals

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.23.

Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Butler seconded.

The motion passed.

Following agenda item 8.a.26., Trustee Butler asked to go back and do a roll call vote for this item.

A roll call vote was taken, and Trustee Butler abstained. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.a.24. Fiscal Year 2021 Open Order Agreements for Consumable Commodities

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.24.

Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

Trustee Pritchard asked what the increase is for.

President Freeman noted the increase is for material costs and that the request is for an amount "up to" or "not to exceed", so they may not need to utilize the entire amount.

Vice President Chinniah noted that they university is also proposing a new vender in the amount of \$250,000 in order to provide flexibility, which adds to the total amount of the item.

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.a.25. FY21 Student Health Insurance

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.25.

President Freeman thanked those that worked to get a reduced rate.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.a.26. FY21 Division of Information Technology Microsoft Enrollment Contract Renewal

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.26.

Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

Trustee Wasowicz clarified whether it was up to \$400,000. President Freeman replied that was correct.

Trustee Gayles requested that they review how they can use small businesses owned by women and minority vendors for these types of procurement purchases. President Freeman confirmed the commitment to diversifying the vendor base and pursuing that goal.

The motion was approved.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

President Freeman asked whether any Trustees wanted to revisit information items forwarded from the committees. Hearing none, she continued to Items Directly from the President.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 8.c.1. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Overview

President Freeman asked Acting Dean Ledgerwood to present the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Overview.

Trustee Mershon stepped out (9:40)

Acting Dean Ledgerwood presented an overview on the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Trustee Mershon returned (9:42)

Following Acting Dean Ledgerwood's presentation, discussion ensued.

Chair Barsema thanked Acting Dean Ledgerwood for her service and for moving the college forward over the last three years.

Agenda Item 8.c.2. Division of Administration and Finance Refinancing of Series 2010 and 2011 AFS Revenue Bonds

President Freeman made a few introductory comments before she asked Vice President Chinniah to present this report.

President Freeman stressed that this refinance provides an opportunity to bridge to the university's future that should not be used to avoid the changes that we need to make us the best and most sustainable university.

Vice President Chinniah highlighted the shared success and thanks members of the budget, finance, and legal team. She summarized that there were \$175MIL to refinance. The first part was \$30MIL that was done with variable rate financing with PNC for a 7-year term that allows the opportunity to refinance. That left \$126MIL in bonds that were successful refinanced. Savings were improved to add a \$3MIL incremental savings in FY20, FY21, and FY23 and total overall savings is about \$52 MIL, which exceed \$27MIL estimated savings. The overall borrowing amount is about \$19MIL less than initially \$175MIL. In addition to savings, this allowed us to add flexibilities that had been introduced in the market including adjusting covenants to create an open system, which will allow flexibility throughout the financial enterprise for the university.

Chair Barsema commented that this refinance is a great indication of the confidence that the investors have in NIU and in the leadership of NIU. He echoed President Freeman's comment regarding the tough decisions that have to be made university-wide and his expectation that NIU will continue to become more efficient with all leaders held accountable to make strategic decisions.

Agenda Item 8.c.3. Draft Strategic Action Planning Framework

President Freeman presented a draft of the imperative. She reminded the Board of the work already done to revise the Vision, Mission, and Values of NIU, and identify six strategic themes. She explained that the framework was a work in progress to fulfil the presidential goals. Board discussion ensued.

Agenda Item 8.c.4. Proposed Amendments to Board of Trustees Regulations Related to Academic Program Approvals

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.4. for approval.

Trustee Gales so moved and Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

Trustee Butler asked whether it was correct that they would be notified of a list of academic changes at the May Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee meeting.

President Freeman said, yes, as that is in advance of the IBHE meeting.

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.c.5. Proposed Amendments to Board of Trustees Regulations Related to Administrative Employees Vacation

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.5. for approval.

Trustee Pritchard so moved and Trustee Butler seconded.

Vice Chair Wasowicz asked for clarification regarding administrative employees' current accrued vacation.

Chief of Staff Streb stated that with the change time of service would be applied the same way to Civil Service exempt and SPS.

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.c.6. Real Estate Property Sale – President House

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.6. for approval.

Trustee Pritchard so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded.

President Freeman stated that the advertised price of the president's residence is \$295,000. The buyer has proposed an offer deemed to be competitive and has the latitude to negotiate based on maintenance needed for the home.

General Counsel Perry stated that home maintenance would be negotiated either in payment or purchase price.

Trustee Barsema said it was important to note that under ordinary circumstances this would not come before the board a second time.

General Counsel Perry stated that the main reason that it is before the board is that the street address in the first item was incorrect.

The motion was approved.

OTHER MATTERS

No other matters were discussed.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chair Dennis Barsema announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held June 18, 2020.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Barsema stated that the Board needed to go into closed session and would not take up new business following the closed session. He asked for a motion to close the public meeting to conduct closed session to discuss the following subjects as authorized by the Open Meetings Act: 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 section 2(c)(2) of the open meetings act; litigation and risk management matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(11) and (12) of the open meetings act; and closed session minutes matters as generally described under section 2(c)(21) of the open meetings act.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Wright to take a roll call vote to close the meeting. Ms. Wright read the roll call and the meeting closed.

At 11:45 a.m. the Board returned from closed session. Chair Barsema asked Ms. Wright to call the roll to reopen the public meeting. Ms. Wright read the roll call.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Butler so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Wright
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.

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Special Meeting
March 19, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. by Board Chair Dennis Barsema. Recording Secretary Liz Wright conducted a roll call. Members present were Rita Athas, John Butler, Montel Gayles, Veronica Herrero, Madalynn Mershon, Bob Pritchard, Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz, and Board Chair Dennis Barsema.

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; General Counsel Bryan Perry; Board Liaison Matt Streb; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Catherine Doederlein, Jason Hanna, Sarah Marsh, Jeffry Royce, and Kendall Thu.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

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

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

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

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Dennis Barsema welcomed members of the University Advisory Council and invited them to make remarks.

UAC Representative Thu supported the move to delegate authority to President Freeman noting the nimbleness required to operate during this time. Further, he thanked all of the NIU employees across classifications for their dedication and hard work during this time.

UAC Representative Gelman also noted his support of the item on the agenda. He expressed his admiration and awe of watching his colleagues reimagine and reinvent the teaching mode across the university.

UAC Representative Hanna thanked the Faculty Development and Instructional Design center for the great work they have done during the last week.

UAC Representative Royce also voiced his support for the action item and noted his faith in the current administration.

UAC Representative Doederlein thanked the staff members required to work on campus as well as the communication and leadership that has been shown during this time.

UAC Representative Marsh agreed with the comments of her colleagues.

Chair Barsema provided a summary of the current COVID-19 situation, the seriousness of it and his gratefulness for the precautions the university is taking at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Dennis Barsema asked General Counsel Perry if any timely requests to address the meeting were received. General Counsel Bryan Perry responded that there was a timely request to read a statement prior to the meeting.

Perry read a statement to the Board from AFSCME Local 1890 NIU Clerical.

Good morning,

The executive board and stewards of AFSCME Local 1890 NIU Clerical, Paraprofessional and Technical Employees, on behalf of our members, wish to express our appreciation to Dr. Freeman and the entire administration team working to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

We recognize the hours dedicated to following rapidly changing directives from our National, State and Local governments in order to adapt policies and procedures such that faculty and staff can continue to support the students with their studies.

We especially appreciate efforts to not disrupt our pay and allow the use of benefits as needed. The decisions made have demonstrated this Administration's consideration for the needs of everyone involved in University operations, and it has not gone unnoticed by our members.

The flexibility provided to operating staff at this time to work remotely and outside normal work schedules has been most welcomed. Adaptations to office procedures will enable us to remain on task for meeting deadlines that will keep the University operational.

Special thanks to the technology team behind pushing necessary messaging out in a timely manner, updating the COVID-19 web page, and for all the support they are providing to those of us who have had to adapt to working from home for the first time.

The communication from Administration has been timely, clear cut, and welcomed. We feel included in the loop and valued. We especially appreciate the message from the Employee Assistance Program offering suggestions to help us through any anxiety this situation causes.

This is an extremely stressful time for everyone. Your leadership provides confidence and assurance that we will get through this together as one team.

Finally, thank you, Board of Trustees, for making it possible for this Administration to respond as necessary to sustain operations for the University through this crisis.

Respectfully Submitted by

Ellen Cabrera, President
Angie Gasero, Vice President
Claire Duvall, Treasurer
Patricia Wielert, Secretary
Beatrice Kooken, Member-at-large
Debbie Williams, Membership Chair
Tom Kapraun, Chief Steward
Patricia Liberty-Baczek, Certified Steward
Sarah Lindell, Certified Steward
Rebecca Rahe, Trustee
Kristin Sherman, Trustee

Chair Barsema thanked the administration, the faculty, and the staff for their management during this time. It is wonderful to have leadership that cares about the well-being about all of the NIU family.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO 141

Agenda Item 6.a. Resolution Temporarily Suspending Board of Trustees Policies, Regulations, and Authority Governing Campus Operations and Delegating Emergency Powers to the President to Ensure Continuity of University Operations.

Chair Dennis Barsema asked President Freeman to present agenda item 6.a.

President Freeman thanked the NIU campus, the faculty and staff for their hard work during this challenging time. She read the following item to the board for approval:

On March 9, 2020, the Governor of Illinois declared a state of emergency to ensure that the effects of COVID-19 were mitigated and minimized and that residents and visitors in the State remained safe and secure. Because of the continued spread of coronavirus (COVID-19) nationwide, Northern Illinois University (“NIU”) extended Spring Break through Sunday, March 22, and modified courses replacing face-to-face instruction as of March 23, 2020. NIU’s top priority is the health and well-being of our campus community. In order to minimize the impact of the emergency on our employees or student workers, NIU is offering multiple work options for our employees to use through April 5 and potentially beyond, if circumstances dictate. These include working remotely, flexible schedules, use of personal benefits and combinations thereof. Some of the personal benefit options that can provide employees with the most flexibility require the Board of Trustees (“BOT” or “Board”) to temporarily suspend regulations (For example, §II: Faculty and Administrative employees and §III: Civil Service Employees) contained in Regulations of the Board of Trustees. The COVID-19 public health emergency is a fluid situation, and further operational decisions affecting employee benefit usage and maintaining continuity of university operations may be needed without sufficient time to convene a meeting of the Board to deliberate and vote on the requested change to BOT policy, regulation, or authority. This resolution, limited in scope and authority, will temporarily suspend BOT policies, regulations, rules, or any other authority currently granted to the Board, governing campus operations, and delegate those inherent powers to the President until the sooner of the state of emergency being lifted or the executive committee meeting of the Board of Trustees on May 14, 2020.

March 19, 2020

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a novel severe acute respiratory illness that can spread among people through respiratory transmissions and present with symptoms similar to those of influenza; and,

WHEREAS, certain populations are at higher risk of experiencing more severe illness as a result of COVID-19, including older adults and people who have serious chronic medical conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, or lung disease; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Illinois is continuing efforts to prepare for any eventuality given that this is a novel illness and given the known health risks it poses for the elderly and those with serious chronic medical conditions; and,

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a Public Health Emergency of International Concern on January 30, 2020, and the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19 presents a public health emergency on January 27, 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the CDC has advised older travelers and those with chronic medical conditions to avoid nonessential travel, and has advised all travelers to exercise enhanced precautions; and,

WHEREAS, a vaccine or drug is currently not available for COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, in communities with confirmed COVID-19 cases, the CDC currently recommends mitigation measures, including staying at home when sick, when a household

member is sick with respiratory disease symptoms or when instructed to do so by public health officials or a health care provider and keeping away from others who are sick; and,

WHEREAS, despite efforts to contain COVID-19, the World Health Organization and the CDC indicate that it is expected to spread; and,

WHEREAS, there are currently confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Illinois; and,

WHEREAS, based on the foregoing, the circumstances surrounding COVID-19 constituted a public health emergency under §4 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act; and,

WHEREAS, these conditions provided legal justification under §7 of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act for the issuance of a proclamation of disaster;

WHEREAS, beginning March 18, 2020, all public and private gatherings in the State of Illinois of 50 people are prohibited for the duration of the Gubernatorial Disaster Proclamation.

WHEREAS, in the interest of aiding the people of Illinois and the local governments responsible for ensuring public health and safety, JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois, found that a disaster exists within the State of Illinois and specifically declare all counties in the State of Illinois as a disaster area.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University in an emergency meeting assembled, that:

The Board hereby temporarily suspends BOT policies, regulations, rules, or any other authority currently granted to the Board, governing campus operations, and delegates those inherent powers to the President until the sooner of the state of emergency being lifted or the executive committee meeting of the Board of Trustees on May 14, 2020.

Adopted in an emergency meeting assembled this 19th day of March.

**Board of Trustees of
Northern Illinois University**

Dennis L. Barsema
Chair

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the recommendation. Trustee Athas so moved and Trustee Herrero seconded.

Trustee Gayles noted he did not take this decision lightly and noted his confidence in the President and leadership of NIU. He asked the Board of Trustees continue to be kept informed.

Chair Barsema asked for the President to report to the Board any changes or decisions made under this authority on a regular schedule. He suggested bi-weekly reports on how this new regulation is being utilized.

President Freeman confirmed that decisions under this authority will be communicated in a timely fashion.

Trustee Butler noted his interest in policy related to finances with respect to accounts receivable and tuition management during this time, as well as items related to employment in efforts to properly delegate this authority.

The motion was approved.

OTHER MATTERS

Trustee Wasowicz thanked Governor Pritzker for suspending the in-person requirement of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) during this time. Chair Barsema echoed the sentiments.

There were no other matters.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held June 18, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dennis Barsema asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Athas seconded. The motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Wright
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.

Termination of the March 19, 2020 Resolution Temporarily Suspending Board of Trustees Policies, Regulations, and Authority Governing Campus Operations and Delegating Emergency Powers to the President to Ensure Continuity of University Operations

At the March 19th, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees (“BOT”), the BOT voted unanimously to temporarily suspend BOT policies, regulations, rules, or any other authority granted to the Board, governing campus operations, and delegated those powers the President. The delegation was temporary and would automatically terminate at the sooner of the May 14th, 2020 BOT meeting or the state of emergency requiring all Illinois residents to stay at home except leaving to attend to essential personal business.

The president’s delegated authority was used on the two occasions set forth below:

- The temporary suspension of the board regulation requiring employees to first go into an unpaid status prior to accessing 25 workdays of non-accumulative sick leave. The decision allowed NIU employees to immediately access non accumulative sick leave, which was consistent with the advice and recommendations from the IBHE and the deputy governor, that universities were encouraged to do everything within its legal authority to keep employees working, including reviewing existing university leave policies and allowing employees flexible work options.
- At the request of the Dekalb County Health Department, NIU committed the use of the Holmes Student Center hotel to serve as the primary alternative housing site for individuals unable to quarantine or isolate in their own homes after being tested for or diagnosed with COVID-19.

Both presidential decisions under the delegation of authority are appropriately documented and were broadly communicated to the campus community.

The in-person meeting requirement of the Open Meetings Act is suspended through the duration of the governor’s stay at home order. With the ability to conduct remote BOT meetings, if needed, the BOT can convene a quickly to address any issues requiring board approval. Therefore, consistent with the Board’ resolution, the Presidential delegation is automatically terminated as of May 14, 2020.