



Special Meeting
of the
Board of Trustees

March 19, 2020

**Special Meeting of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
11 a.m. – Thursday – March 19, 2020
Board of Trustees Room
315 Altgeld Hall**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Appropriate Notification of Public Meeting
3. Meeting Agenda Approval.....*Action*..... i
4. Chair's Comments/Announcements
5. Public Comment*
6. President's Report No. 141
 - 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.....*Action*.....1
7. Other Matters
8. Next Meeting Date
9. 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 or will be available in the Board Room the day of the meeting. For more information contact Liz Wright, ewright1@niu.edu Altgeld Hall 300, DeKalb, IL 60115, 815-753-9501.

Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in the NIU Board of Trustees meetings should contact Liz Wright, ewright1@niu.edu or (815) 753-9501, as soon as possible.

**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**

Summary: 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