

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Special Meeting
May 14, 2020

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Board Chair Dennis Barsema. Recording Secretary Karen Campbell conducted a roll call. Members present were Trustees Rita Athas, John Butler, Montel Gayles, Madalynn Mershon, Veronica Herrero, Bob Pritchard, Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz, and Board Chair Dennis Barsema.

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, and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Sarah Marsh, Jeffry Royce, Cathy Doederlein, and Jason Hanna.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Dennis Barsema

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| Trustee Rita Athas: Absent | Trustee John Butler: Present |
| Trustee Montel Gayles: Present | Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present |
| Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Present | Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present |
| Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present | Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Present |

2. 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.

3. MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Dennis Barsema asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Bob Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Montel Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 5 AND MARCH 19, 2020

Chair Dennis Barsema asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 5, 2020. Trustee Eric Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Veronica Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 19, 2020. Trustee John Butler so moved and Trustee Madalyn Mershon Seconded. The motion was approved.

5. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Dennis Barsema welcomed the members of the University Advisory Council who were present.

UAC Representative Jeffry Royce thanked the University for its care for the employees of the University and for President Freeman's continued good communication, but also mourned the difficult decisions that will need to be made. He noted that most staff seem to be willing to make small sacrifices in hope that no one will have to make large sacrifices

(Trustee Rita Athas joined the meeting at 2:11pm)

UAC Representative Sarah Marsh added that she liked seeing the community coming together to help each other.

UAC Representative Cathy Doederlein echoed Jeffrey Royce's statement that most of the staff seem to be willing to make small sacrifices so that no one will have to make large sacrifices.

UAC Representative Jason Hanna celebrated the successful move from in person to online learning across the university.

Chair Barsema stated that NIU must rely on its values and principles moving forward to get through this very difficult time. He expressed his support of President Freeman and her team in making good decisions during this time. He also expects that NIU will emerge from this crisis fiscally sound and in a position of strength.

Chair Barsema reminded the Board that the Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2021 will take place at the June meeting.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

General Counsel Bryan Perry stated that no one had registered for public comment.

7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO 142

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.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

President Freeman reported on the two uses of her delegated emergency powers and thanked the Board for their confidence in her and her team.

8. OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held June 18, 2020 at 9 a.m.

10. CLOSED SESSION

Chair Dennis Barsema asked for a motion to move to closed session. Trustee Madalyn Mershon so moved, and Trustee Bob Pritchard seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The Board closed the public meeting at 2:30p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 3:28 p.m. Chair Barsema asked for a roll call. Trustees present were John Butler, Montel Gayles, Madalynn Mershon, Bob Pritchard, Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz, and Chair Dennis Barsema.

Roll Call:

Trustee Rita Athas: Absent

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present
Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Present
Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent
Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present
Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Present

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dennis Barsema asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Eric Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Madalynn Mershon seconded. The motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Campbell
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.