

Minutes of the  
**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel**  
**Committee Meeting**  
November 18, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Committee Chair Montel Gayles in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall.

Recording Secretary Mia Hannon conducted a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Absent

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Present

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Present

Committee Chair Montel Gayles: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

Also present were President Lisa Freeman; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram; Board Liaison and Chief of Staff Matt Streb; Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer Sarah Chinniah; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer Vernese Edghill-Walden; Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Robert Brinkmann; Acting Chair of the Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences and the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences Mark Frank; and University Advisory Council Representatives Peter Chomentowski and Karen Whedbee.

*Trustee Rita Athas arrived at 8:32 a.m.*

**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.

**MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded. The motion was approved.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2021**

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 26, 2021. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion was approved.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Committee Chair Gayles welcomed those in attendance and provided a brief overview of the agenda. He also recognized the members of the University Advisory Committee who did not have comments.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Committee Chair Gayles inquired to General Counsel Perry if any members of the public registered a request to address the board in accordance with state law and Board of Trustees bylaws. General Counsel Perry advised that no requests for public comment had been received.

#### **UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Committee Chair Gayles asked Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram to present the following university recommendations.

#### **Agenda Item 7.a. Request to Merge the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences and the Department of Geography and Atmospheric Sciences into the Department of Earth, Atmosphere, and Environment.**

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.a. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

*Trustee Veronica Herrero arrived at 8:42 a.m.*

The motion was approved.

#### **UNIVERSITY REPORTS**

Committee Chair Gayles asked Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram to present the following informational items.

#### **Agenda Item 8.a. Oversight of Academic Programs**

EVPP Ingram presented Agenda Item 8.a. Oversight of Academic Programs.

#### **Agenda Item 8.b. Presentation on EAB Partnership**

EVPP Ingram and VP Sol Jensen presented Agenda Item 8.b. Presentation on EAB Partnership.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

Committee Chair Gayles asked if there were other matters. There were none.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee will be Thursday, February 10, 2022.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Board Chair Wasowicz seconded.

The motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Hannon  
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.*