

Minutes of the  
**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel**  
**Committee Meeting**  
August 26, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Committee Chair Montel Gayles. This Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee was being conducted in person and through videoconferencing communications pursuant to Public Act 101-0640, enacted June 12, 2020, and section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, allowing for virtual board meetings during a disaster declaration relating to public health concerns. The Chair of the Board determined that an in-person meeting was not practical or prudent because of the disaster. As such, trustees attended this meeting by audio and visual conferencing and not by physical presence.

Recording Secretary Mia Hannon conducted a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present

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; Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Omar Ghrayeb; Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Chad McEvoy; Vice President for University Advancement and President and CEO, NIU Foundation Catherine Squires; Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Charlie Fey; Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer Bill Hodson; Associate Vice President for Finance and Treasury Shyree Sanan; Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer Matthew Parks; Associate Vice President for Management and Campus Services John Heckmann; Assistant Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs Dara Little; and University Advisory Council Representatives Gregory Beyer, Felicia Bohanon, Peter Chomentowski, Katy Jaekel, Holly Nicholson and Karen Whedbee.

**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.

**SWEARING IN OF TRUSTEE JACOB SOMMER**

Board Chair Wasowicz conducted the swearing in ceremony for the newly elected Student Trustee Jacob Sommer. Jacob Sommer remarked that he was extremely excited to represent the student body of NIU on the Board of Trustees and bring about change in his role as student trustee.

*Trustee Herrero arrived at 8:40 a.m.*

#### **MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded.

Committee Chair Gayles asked Ms. Hannon to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Committee Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

#### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY, 13, 2021**

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the minutes of May 13, 2021. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Board Chair Wasowicz seconded.

Committee Chair Gayles asked Ms. Hannon to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Committee Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

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.

UAC Representative Peter Chomentowski introduced himself as the new Faculty Senate President and thanked everyone for being invited to the meeting.

#### **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 stated that Sairyia Jemison registered to make a public comment. Ms. Sairyia Jemison was not online and unable to make a public comment.

#### **UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS**

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

**Agenda Item 8.a. Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2021-2022**

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 8.a. Committee Vice Chair Butler so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

Committee Chair Gayles opened the floor for discussion and then asked Ms. Hannon to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Abstain

Committee Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.b. Request for New Program in B.S. in Applied Management – Instructional Technology, Training and Evaluation**

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 8.b. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

Committee Chair Gayles opened the floor for discussion and then asked Ms. Hannon to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Committee Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

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 9.a. 2020-2021 Faculty Emeritus Recognition**

EVPP Ingram presented Agenda Item 9.a. 2020-2021 Faculty Emeritus Recognition.

### **Agenda Item 9.b. Annual Listing of Changes Fiscal Year 2021**

EVPP Ingram presented Agenda Item 9.b. Annual Listing of Changes Fiscal Year 2021.

### **Agenda Item 9.c. Harper University Center Update**

Presentation on the Harper University Center Update conducted by Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram.

## **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, November 18, 2021.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Committee Chair Gayles asked Ms. Hannon to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Committee Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 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.*