

Minutes of the  
**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Special Meeting**  
February 18, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. by Board Chair Dennis Barsema virtually. This Special meeting was conducted through video conferencing communications pursuant to Section 6 of Executive Order 2020-7 (Suspending Open Meetings Act requirements of in person attendance by members of a public body). Recording Secretary Crystal Doyle conducted a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Trustee Aidan Shields: Present

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Present

All members of the Board of Trustees were present.

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; General Counsel Bryan Perry; Board Liaison and Chief of Staff Matt Streb; Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram; Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer Sarah Chinniah; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Associate Vice President for Information Technology Matt Parks; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representative Cathy Doederlein.

**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 Barsema asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 10, 2020**

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the minutes of December 10, 2020. Vice Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

#### **CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

UAC Representative Cathy Doederlein expressed appreciation for the ongoing collaboration between Business Managers and other members of the university who have been given the opportunity to make realistic revenue projections for this year and next year. Given the impact COVID has had this year on everyone, it is very much appreciated.

Chair Barsema made brief remarks.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Barsema introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry stated that someone did register to make a public comment, but they have since withdrawn. There are no other public comments.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 148**

Chair Barsema asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 148.

#### **President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.a. Fiscal Year 2021 Quarantine and Isolation Costs**

President Freeman noted that the Fiscal Year 2021 Quarantine and Isolation Costs item was discussed in detail at the FACFO meeting earlier today.

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

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

#### **President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.b. Fiscal Year 2022 Undergraduate Tuition Pricing Recommendation**

President Freeman noted that the Fiscal Year 2022 Undergraduate Tuition Pricing Recommendation item was discussed in detail at the FACFO meeting earlier today.

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

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.c. Fiscal Year 2022 Graduate and Law Tuition Pricing Recommendation**

President Freeman noted that the Fiscal Year 2022 Graduate and Law Tuition Pricing Recommendation item was discussed in detail at the FACFO meeting earlier today.

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 7.c. Trustee Shields so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.d. Appointment of Vice President and General Counsel**

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 7.d. Vice Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded.

Trustees congratulated Mr. Perry, and all agreed he is wonderful to work with and is very deserving of this title change.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

**OTHER MATTERS**

There were no other matters.

## NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held March 18, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

## 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 Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to take a roll call vote to close the public meeting.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 1:22 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 3:31 p.m.

Chair Barsema asked Dr. Streb to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Trustee Aidan Shields: Present

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Present

The motion was approved.

## ADJOURNMENT

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

Chair Barsema asked Dr. Streb to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Doyle  
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.*