

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Special Meeting
September 9, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Board Chair Eric Wasowicz virtually. This special meeting 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 Crystal Doyle conducted a roll call.

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

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian 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 University Advancement Catherine Squires; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representative Katy Jaekel and Holly Nicholson.

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 Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Vice Chair Athas so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes	Trustee Dennis Barsema: Absent
Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes
Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent	Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Wasowicz thanked everyone who was involved in working on the potential sale of Hoffman Estates and appreciates their hard work.

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

UAC Representative Nicholson mentioned a concern has been brought to her attention by a colleague regarding the sale of Hoffman Estates. She was told they are supportive of the sale, but also concerned with optics. Their concern is that it will appear that NIU is divesting from that community, and they were wondering how NIU will address that. They are also worried that there will be a perception that NIU isn't thriving and how we can message that in a positive way. UAC Representative Nicholson said she would follow-up with the appropriate campus leaders regarding the concerns.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Wasowicz introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry stated that there were no public comments.

Trustee Jacob Sommer joined the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 153

Chair Wasowicz asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 153.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 6.a. Real Estate Property Sale – Hoffman Estates Campus

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 6.a. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Vice Chair Athas seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Absent

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: 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 September 23, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Absent

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.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.