

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Regular Meeting
September 23, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Board Chair Eric Wasowicz virtually. This meeting was 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.

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| Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present | Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present |
| Trustee John Butler: Present | Trustee Montel Gayles: Present |
| Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent | 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; Chief of Staff and Board Liaison Matt Streb; Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer Sarah Chinniah; Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Charlie Fey; Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer William Hodson; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; ACE Fellow Adrienne King; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; Vice President for Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Vernese Edghill-Walden; Associate Vice President for Information Technology Matt Parks; Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology Donald Peterson; Vice President for University Advancement Catherine Squires; Director of State Relations Katie Davison; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Peter Chomentowski, Holly Nicholson, and Karen Whedbee.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

General Counsel Perry indicated that 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 Gayles seconded.

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

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| Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes | Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes |
| Trustee John Butler: Yes | Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes |

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Trustee Jacob Sommer joined the meeting at 9:06 a.m.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to amend that motion, in order to approve a consent agenda for action items 8.a.1. through 8.a.4. 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: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2021 AND SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 26, 2021. Trustee Pritchard 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: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 9, 2021. Trustee Gayles 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: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Wasowicz welcomed the members of the University Advisory Council who were present and asked if any of the UAC members had any comments.

Chair Wasowicz was happy to say that NIU has been named to the Great Colleges to Work For list. NIU has been given this honor because of the work that is being done in faculty experience,

diversity, equity and belonging. NIU has also been honored as a top college for diversity by the Insight into Diversity magazine.

Trustee Veronica Herrero joined the meeting at 9:09 a.m.

Chair Wasowicz also mentioned that there is a website called Free League Answers, and NIU's Civil Justice Clinic students have been working on that platform with supervision from College of Law professors. They have been recognized for their work representing vulnerable residents of Winnebago County.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

REPORTS OF THE BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS

Chair Wasowicz reminded everyone that the reports of the Board Committees and the Board Liaisons are information only.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 154

Chair Wasowicz asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 154.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

President Freeman presented the items that were moved to consent agenda including:

Agenda Item 8.a.1. Request for New Program in B.S. in Applied Management – Instructional Technology, Training and Evaluation

Agenda Item 8.a.2. Telephony Replacement and Upgrade

Agenda Item 8.a.3. Wireless Network Expansion and Upgrade

Agenda Item 8.a.4. Building Access Control Upgrades

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Trustee Barsema 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: Yes

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.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

President Freeman asked whether any Trustees wanted to revisit information items forwarded from the committees.

Trustee Barsema commented on 8.b.1. and wanted to thank the faculty members on the list for their service and all that they have done for NIU.

President Freeman continued to the items directly from the President.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 8.c.1. Collective Bargaining Agreement for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union #364

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.1. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.1. 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: Yes

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.

Agenda Item 8.c.2. Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Metropolitan Alliance of Police #292 Police Sergeant

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.2. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.2. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

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.

Agenda Item 8.c.3. Out-Lease with Elan Church (NIU as Lessor)

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.3. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.3. Vice Chair Athas 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: Yes

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.

Agenda Item 8.c.4. Intergovernmental Agreement and Out-Lease with Illinois Board of Examiners (NIU as Lessor)

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.4. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.4. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

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

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| Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes | Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes |
| 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.

Agenda Item 8.c.5. Fiscal Year 2021 Report Tuition and Fee Waivers

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.5.

Agenda Item 8.c.6. College of Engineering and Engineering Technology Overview

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.6. Donald R. Peterson, Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology presented an overview of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

The trustees thanked Dean Peterson for this presentation. The trustees are all very excited with all that the students in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology are doing. The faculty and staff in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology are doing wonderful things with the students and community and are very proud to have them members of the Huskie family.

CHAIR’S REPORT NO. 99

Chair Wasowicz presented the Chair’s report No. 99.

Agenda Item 9.a. Board of Trustees 2022 Meeting Dates Approval

Chair Wasowicz presented agenda item 9.a. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.a. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

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

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| Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes | Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes |
| 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

Trustee Barsema commented on the 10-day count and the 12% growth in the freeman class this year. Trustee Barsema wanted to congratulate everyone involved who helped make this happen.

Trustee Gayles voiced concerns over what would happen if the campus was the victim of a ransomware attack and wanted to ensure NIU was protecting against such attacks.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chair Wasowicz announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held December 7, 2021, at 9 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Wasowicz 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; real estate matters as generally described under section 2(c)(5) and (6) 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.

Vice Chair Athas so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

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 closed at 10:38 a.m.

At 1:52 p.m. the Board returned from closed session.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Absent

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

The motion was approved.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Gayles 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: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Absent

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:53 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.