

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Regular Meeting
December 8, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Board Chair Eric Wasowicz in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. This meeting is 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. As Chair of the Board, I have determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the disaster. As such, trustees may attend today's 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: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

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 Student Affairs Clint-Michael Reneau; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; Vice President for Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Vernese Edghill-Walden; Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts Paul Kassel; Senior Associate Vice President for Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development and Chief Engagement Officer Rena Cotsones; Vice President for University Advancement and President and CEO of the NIU Foundation Catherine Squires; Dean of the College of Education Laurie Elish-Piper; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Dean of the Graduate School Kerry Wilks; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Katy Jaekel, Ismael Montana, 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. 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: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to amend that motion, in order to approve a consent agenda for action items 8.a.2. through 8.a.6. 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 Tim Moore: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Trustee Tim Moore joined the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2022

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the minutes of November 10, 2022. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Abstain

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Wasowicz wanted to congratulate the students that will be graduating at the end of the semester and looks forward to seeing them at alumni events in the future. He also wanted to thank the hard-working faculty, staff, and administrators for all they did this semester.

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

UAC Representative Montana wanted to thank the board for considering the 2023 University Goals of President Freeman. He mentioned that he appreciates that so many groups on campus are included in the discussion of the goals.

UAC Representative Jaekel commented on after seeing the university goals, how excited everyone is to continue the forward momentum. Dr. Jaekel also mentioned she is excited to work together on the goals, be ahead of best practices and engage in best practices.

UAC Representative Nicholson really appreciates President Freeman's advancement of shared leadership. Ms. Nicholson believes it will have a long-lasting effect on the university and she is very excited to see everyone working together.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Wasowicz introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry welcomed Dr. Kerry Ferris to the podium.

Following Dr. Ferris' public comment, members of the audience presented President Freeman with plates that included some of the following themes of commitment to: competitive/fair pay, faculty retention/longevity, fair raises to keep up with inflation, fair minimum salaries at rank, equity and fairness/longevity, fairness/a fair contract, to faculty/value faculty/NIU's best, and the future of NIU/students/student success/Huskies.

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.

Catherine Squires, Vice President for Advancement and President and CEO of the NIU Foundation, provided a verbal report for item 7.h.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 165

Chair Wasowicz asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 165.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 8.a.1. Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2022-2023

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

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.a.1. Trustee Gayles 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: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Abstain

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

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

Agenda Item 8.a.2. U.S. Geological Survey Research Partnership Renovation Project

Agenda Item 8.a.3. Lorado Taft Campus Wastewater Treatment Plant Replacement

Agenda Item 8.a.4. Recreation Center Locker/Changing Rooms Remodel Capital Project Construction Approval

Agenda Item 8.a.5. Yordon Center Room 125 Northwestern Medicine Performance Center Flooring Replacement

Agenda Item 8.a.6. DeKalb Campus Summer 2023 Roof Repairs Capital Project Approval

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

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: 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.

President Freeman continued to the items directly from the President.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 8.c.1. 2023 University Goals

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

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

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.c.2. Honorary Doctorate Recommendation

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

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.2. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Butler 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 Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.c.3. Appointment of Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

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

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.3. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Gayles 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 Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.c.4. Appointment of Vice President for Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development

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

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.4. Trustee Butler so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.c.5. Women's Volleyball Head Coach Search Update

Agenda Item 8.c.6. College of Visual and Performing Arts Overview

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.6. Paul Kassel, Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts presented an overview of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

The Trustees thanked Dean Kassel for his presentation and loved hearing about all that is happening in the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 105

Chair Wasowicz presented the Chair's report No. 105.

Agenda Item 9.a. Closed Session Minutes Review and Release

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

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.a. 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 Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.b. Board of Trustees Bylaw Second Reading and Final Review

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

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.b. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Butler 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 Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chair Wasowicz announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held March 23, 2023, 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: closed session minutes matters as generally described under section 2(c)(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; real estate matters as generally described under section 2(c)(5)&(6) of the open meetings act; and personnel matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(1)(2)(3) and (21) of the open meetings act.

Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Moore 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 Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 10:38 a.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 1:10 p.m.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Absent

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Present

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chair Athas so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Absent

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Present

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:11 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.