



Board of Trustees

Academic Affairs, Student Affairs,
and Personnel Committee

May 11, 2023

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee
8:30 a.m. – Thursday – May 11, 2023
Board of Trustees Room
Altgeld Hall 315

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum and Appropriate Notification of Public Meeting
3. Meeting Agenda Approval.....Action..... i
4. [Review and Approval of Minutes of February 16, 2023](#)Action.....1
5. Chair's Comments/Announcements
6. Public Comment*
7. University Recommendations
 - a. [Appointment of Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology...](#).....Action.....5
 - b. [Appointment of Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships..](#) .Action.....6
 - c. [Appointment of Acting Dean of the College of Education.....](#) .Action.....7
 - d. [Appointment of Interim Dean of the College of Business.....](#) .Action.....8
 - e. [Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2023-2024](#)Action..... 9
 - f. [Request for the Deletion of the Bachelor of Arts in Geography.....](#) .Action.....11
 - g. [Request for the Deletion of the Bachelor of Science in Geography.....](#) .Action.....12
 - h. [Request for the Deletion of the Master of Science in Geography.....](#) .Action.....13
 - i. [Request for the Deletion of the Doctor of Philosophy in Geography.....](#) .Action.....14
 - j. [Request to Change Name of Bachelor of Science in Geology and Environmental Geosciences.....](#) .Action.....15
 - k. [Request to Change Name of Master of Science in Geology.....](#) .Action..... 16
 - l. [Request to Change Name of Doctor of Philosophy in Geology.....](#) .Action.....17
8. University Reports
 - a. [Transformative Experiences Promoting Equity, Inclusion and Belonging....](#) .Information..18
9. Other Matters
10. Next Meeting Date
11. Adjournment

*Individuals wishing to make an appearance before the Board should consult the [Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University, Article II, Section 4 – Appearances before the Board.](#)

Appearance request forms can be completed [online](#) in advance of the meeting or will be available in the Board Room the day of the meeting. For more information contact Crystal Doyle, ccoppel@niu.edu, Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Altgeld Hall 300, DeKalb, IL 60115, 815-753-1273.

Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in the NIU Board of Trustees meetings should contact Crystal Doyle, ccoppel@niu.edu or (815) 753-1273, as soon as possible.

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel
Committee Meeting
February 16, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Committee Chair Montel Gayles. This committee 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 committee determined that an in-person meeting was not practical or prudent because of the disaster. As such, some 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: Absent
Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Present	Trustee Tim Moore: Absent
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 George Middlemist; 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; Vice President for Student Affairs Clint-Michael Reneau; Dean, College of Business Balaji Rajagopalan; Dean, College of Education Laurie Elish-Piper; University Advisory Council Representatives Katy Jaekel and Holly Nicholson.

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.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded.

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

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

The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 10, 2022

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the minutes of November 10, 2022.

Trustee Athas 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: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Absent

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Absent

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.

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 advised that no requests for public comment had been received.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS

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

Agenda Item 7.a. Request for Deletion of Bachelor of Science in Hospitality and Tourism Management

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.a. Board Chair Wasowicz 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: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Absent

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Absent

Committee Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.b. Request for the Deletion of the Master of Science in Taxation

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.b. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Absent

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Absent

Committee Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c. Request for New Minor in Sports Medicine

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.c. Board Chair Wasowicz 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: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Absent

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Absent

Committee Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

8:59 a.m. Committee Chair Gayles called for a 2-minute break

9:01 a.m. Return from break

Agenda Item 7.d. Recommendations for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

Committee Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.d. Trustee Butler 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: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Absent

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Absent

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 item.

Agenda Item 8.a. Faculty Presentation on Sabbatical Leave

EVPP Ingram introduced item 8.a., Associate Professor Holly Jones gave a faculty sabbatical presentation.

Agenda Item 8.b. Annual Report on the Outcomes of Sabbatical Leaves

EVPP Ingram introduced Agenda Item 8.b. EVPP Ingram presented an executive summary of the sabbatical report for the 2019-2020 Academic Year.

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, May 11, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Committee Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

The motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

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.

APPOINTMENT OF DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY

Summary: Following a national search and pending Board of Trustees approval, Dr. David Grewell has accepted an offer to be the Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. Dr. Grewell is recommended for appointment at the rank of professor with tenure in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

Background: Dr. David Grewell is currently the chair of the Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Engineering at North Dakota State University. Prior to his move to NDSU, he was a Professor at Iowa State University in the Department of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering for 14 years. Before returning to academia, he worked at Emerson Electric for nearly 14 years.

Dr. Grewell is the founder and Director of the NSF Industry/University Collaborative Research Center for Bioplastics and Biocomposites and of the Great Plains Region NSF I-Corps Hub, the Chair of the International Institute of Welding Commission IXV, a Board Member of the Ultrasonic Industry Association, and a Fellow of the Society of Plastics Engineers and of the National Academy of Inventors. He also holds a position at the University of Erlangen in Germany.

Dr. Grewell received his BS, MS, and Ph.D. in Welding Engineering from The Ohio State University. He holds 17 patents, has authored numerous publications (including three books), and has been given numerous honors and awards.

Funding: There is no additional funding needed for this appointment.

Recommendation: The University recommends that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee approve the appointment for Dr. David Grewell as Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, with the rank of professor with tenure in the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering, effective July 1, 2023 and ask that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its special meeting on May 11, 2023.

APPOINTMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS

Summary: Following a national search, Dr. Yvonne Harris has accepted the offer to join Northern Illinois University as the Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships.

Background: Dr. Harris has extensive experience in higher education research administration. She is a proven leader with demonstrated success not only supporting and facilitating the research, scholarship and artistry of faculty, staff and students, but also promoting university entrepreneurship and economic engagement. Currently, Dr. Harris is the Associate Vice President for Research, Innovation and Economic Development at California State University at Sacramento with oversight responsibility for the Offices of Research Proposal Development, Economic Development, and Innovation and Technology, as well as the Student Research Center and 12 centers and institutes. Previously she served as the Vice Provost of Research and Scholarship at James Madison University (2014-2018), the Associate Vice President of Sponsored Programs at Chicago State University (2010-2014), the Dean of Math and Science at Harper College (2008-10) and Department Chair for Biology and Biotechnology at Truman College of the City Colleges of Chicago (2000-2008).

Dr. Harris' leadership has positively impacted research productivity at the universities where she has worked. She has been recognized throughout her career for exemplary contributions to innovation in STEM teaching and outreach. For example, she was selected as a mentor at the Project Kaleidoscope Leadership Institute for five consecutive years from 2013-2018. Further, she developed the CHOICE Scholars program to increase the number of students placed into credit bearing courses, which was recognized with the Resource for Excellence Award, the Illinois Council of Community College Administrators 2009 Innovation Award. In addition, Dr. Harris won the Chicago City Colleges Distinguished Professor Award for 2005-2006 and the Outstanding Woman of the Year Award at City Colleges of Chicago, 2004.

Dr. Harris holds three degrees from Northern Illinois University. She received a B.S. that fulfilled the major requirements for Biology and Philosophy in 1992 and continued to obtain M.S. and Ph.D. in Biology 1991 and 1992, respectively. Subsequently, Dr. Harris did post-doctoral work at the University of Chicago (1992-1994) and the University of Illinois Chicago (1994-1997).

Funding: There is no additional funding needed for this appointment.

Recommendation: The University recommends that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee approve the appointment for Dr. Yvonne Harris as the Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships effective August 1, 2023 and ask that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its special meeting on May 11, 2023.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Summary: Pending Board approval, Dr. William Pitney has been appointed to be the Acting Dean of the College of Education effective July 1, 2023. An internal search was conducted and Dr. Pitney's appointment was endorsed by the search committee with input from the college and NIU community. Dr. William Pitney has been a faculty member and administrator at Northern Illinois University (NIU) since 1994. Dr. Pitney served as associate dean for research, resources and innovation in the College of Education from 2016-2022, and he previously served as acting vice provost for faculty affairs and as president of the faculty senate. Dr. Pitney is a professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education in the area of athletic training. Dr. Pitney obtained his bachelor's degree from Indiana State University, his master's from Eastern Michigan University, and his doctorate at NIU.

Funding: There is no additional funding needed for this appointment.

Recommendation: The University recommends that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee approve the appointment for Dr. William Pitney as Acting Dean of the College of Education effective July 1, 2023 and ask that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its special meeting on May 11, 2023.

APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS

Summary: Pending Board approval, Dr. Denise Schoenbachler has been appointed to serve as Interim Dean of the College of Business effective July 1, 2023. The incoming Interim Executive Vice President and Provost consulted with the College Council and College Senate and received their endorsement for the appointment.

Dr. Schoenbachler was a faculty member at NIU from 1992 to 2022 and served as Dean of the College of Business from 2006 to 2016. Dr. Schoenbachler earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Louisville in Kentucky, MBA from the University of Louisville and doctorate from the University of Kentucky.

Funding: There is no additional funding needed for this appointment.

Recommendation: The University recommends that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee approve the appointment for Dr. Denise Schoenbachler as the Interim Dean of the College of Business effective July 1, 2023 and ask that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its special meeting on May 11, 2023.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FACULTY TENURE AND/OR
PROMOTION EFFECTIVE 2023-2024**

NAME

COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL

**Promotion from Clinical Assistant Professor to Clinical Associate Professor
(For Informational Purposes Only)**

Blythe Kitner Allied Health and Communicative Disorders

Promotion from Associate Professor to Professor

Andy Bruno	History
Clayton Camic	Kinesiology & Physical Education
Timothy Hagen	Chemistry & Biochemistry
Pi-Sui Hsu	Educational Technology, Research & Assessment
Laura Johnson	Educational Technology, Research & Assessment
Holly Jones	Biological Sciences
Julia Ogg	Psychology
Wesley Swingley	Biological Sciences
Carol Walther	Sociology

Tenure and Promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor

Heather Bergan-Roller	Biological Sciences
Marcia Cooke	Nursing
Christine D'Alexander	Music
Alex Garivaltis	Economics
Lydia Gerzel-Short	Special & Early Education
Aarjen Glas	Political Science
Candice Hux	Accountancy
Jennifer Koop	Biological Sciences
Kathryn Mazurek	Interdisciplinary Health Professions
Henna Muzaffar	Health Studies
Irina Nesterova	Chemistry & Biochemistry
David Nieto	Curriculum & Instruction
Tiffany Puckett	Leadership, Educational Psychology & Foundations
Elizabeth Shelleby	Psychology
Perrin Stamatis	Art & Design
Yihui Tang	Marketing
Matthew Timko	Law Library
Mahdi Vaezi	Engineering Technology
Sahar Vahabzadeh	Mechanical Engineering
Ying Wang	Operations Management & Information Systems
Ziteng Wang	Industrial & Systems Engineering
Jiao Wu	Operations Management & Information Systems

Promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor

Andrew Mamo Law

Hired at the Rank of Professor with Tenure

Hope Wilson Special and Early Education

Hired at the Rank of Associate Professor with Tenure

Roxanna Conner
Rosanne Thomas

Theatre and Dance
Allied Health & Communicative Disorders

Recommendation: The University recommends that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee endorse this request and that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its meeting on June 15, 2023.

REQUEST FOR THE DELETION OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN GEOGRAPHY

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete major programs. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2023. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Geography offered by the Department of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Rationale: On December 7, 2021, the Board of Trustees approved the merger of the Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences with the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences. With the merger of these departments, the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Geography will be incorporated into the former Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Geology and Environmental Geosciences, which will be renamed to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment. A Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in this area of study will no longer be offered. The major in earth, atmosphere and environment offers the opportunity for students to develop a greater understanding of specific aspects of earth science, geology, geography, and atmospheric sciences by choosing electives for multiple and wide-ranging areas of study. Students currently enrolled and pursuing the Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Geography will have the option to complete their degree under their designated catalog year, or they may use their existing coursework toward the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment.

Recommendation: The University recommends that the Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee endorse this request and asks that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its meeting on June 15, 2023.

REQUEST FOR THE DELETION OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN GEOGRAPHY

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete major programs. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2023. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Geography offered by the Department of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Rationale: On December 7, 2021, the Board of Trustees approved the merger of the Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences with the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences. With the merger of these departments, the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Geography will be incorporated into the former Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Geology and Environmental Geosciences, which will be renamed to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment. The major in earth, atmosphere and environment offers the opportunity for students to develop a greater understanding of specific aspects of earth science, geology, geography, and atmospheric sciences by choosing electives for multiple and wide-ranging areas of study. Students currently enrolled and pursuing the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Geography will have the option to complete their degree under their designated catalog year, or they may use their existing coursework toward the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment.

Recommendation: The University recommends that the Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee endorse this request and asks that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its meeting on June 15, 2023.

REQUEST FOR THE DELETION OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GEOGRAPHY

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete major programs. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2023. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete the Master of Science (M.S.) in Geography offered through the Graduate School by the Department of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Rationale: On December 7, 2021, the Board of Trustees approved the merger of the Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences with the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences. With the merger of these departments, the Master of Science (M.S.) in Geography will be incorporated into the former Master of Science (M.S.) in Geology and Environmental Geosciences, which will be renamed to the Master of Science (M.S.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment. The M.S. degree prepares students for professional work relating to the earth, atmosphere and environment, or for further work leading to a doctorate. The degree may also be valuable to teachers of science in secondary schools and community colleges. Students currently enrolled and pursuing the Master of Science (M.S.) in Geography will have the option to complete their degree under their designated catalog year, or they may use their existing coursework toward the Master of Science (M.S.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment.

Recommendation: The University recommends that the Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee endorse this request and asks that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its meeting on June 15, 2023.

REQUEST FOR THE DELETION OF THE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN GEOGRAPHY

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete major programs. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2023. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Geography offered through the Graduate School by the Department of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Rationale: On December 7, 2021, the Board of Trustees approved the merger of the Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences with the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences. With the merger of these departments, the Doctor of Philosophy in Geography will be incorporated into the former Doctor of Philosophy in Geology, which will be renamed to Doctor of Philosophy in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment. The Doctor of Philosophy in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment prepares students to design, conduct and manage research projects with large, diverse data sets. A student seeking admission to the Ph.D. program in EAE must meet all the requirements for admission to the Graduate School and have earned a baccalaureate or master's degree in geography, geology, environmental science, meteorology, soil science, biology, chemistry, engineering, mathematics, physics, or related field from an accredited college or university.

Students currently enrolled and pursuing the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Geography will have the option to complete their degree under their designated catalog year, or they may use their existing coursework toward the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment.

Recommendation: The University recommends that the Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee endorse this request and asks that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its meeting on June 15, 2023.

REQUEST TO CHANGE NAME OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to change the name of major programs. If the board approves this name change, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2023. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to change the name of the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Geology and Environmental Sciences to the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, offered by the Department of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Rationale: On December 7, 2021, the Board of Trustees approved the merger of the Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences with the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences. With the merger of these departments, the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Geography will be incorporated into the former Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Geology and Environmental Geosciences, which will be renamed as Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment. Faculty and staff of both the geography and geology areas have been engaged in discussions for more than two years regarding how to best combine their strengths, better serve the students of NIU, and to expand and enhance the scope and impact of their research, engagement, and outreach. This innovative plan will expand research collaborations and success, attract new, high-quality undergraduate students to NIU, and support the function and enhance the impact of the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability. The revisions to this program will make it adaptable to changing student demographics and demand for decades to come. The major in earth, atmosphere and environment offers the opportunity for students to develop a greater understanding of specific aspects of earth science, geology, geography, and atmospheric sciences by choosing electives for multiple and wide-ranging areas of study.

Students currently enrolled and pursuing the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Geology and Environmental Geosciences will have the option to complete their degree under their designated catalog year, or they may use their existing coursework toward the Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment.

Recommendation: The University recommends that the Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee endorse this request and asks that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its meeting on June 15, 2023.

REQUEST TO CHANGE NAME OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN GEOLOGY

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to change the name of major programs. If the board approves this name change, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2023. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to change the name of the Master of Science (M.S.) in Geology to the Master of Science (M.S.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, offered through the Graduate School by the Department of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Rationale: On December 7, 2021, the Board of Trustees approved the merger of the Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences with the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences. With the merger of these departments, the Master of Science (M.S.) in Geography will be incorporated into the former Master of Science (M.S.) in Geology, which will be renamed as Master of Science (M.S.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment. Faculty and staff of both the geography and geology areas have been engaged in discussions for more than two years regarding how to best combine their strengths, better serve the students of NIU, and to expand and enhance the scope and impact of their research, engagement, and outreach. This innovative plan will expand research collaborations and success, attract new, high-quality graduate students to NIU, and support the function and enhance the impact of the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability. The revisions to this program will make it adaptable to changing student demographics and demand for decades to come. The M.S. degree in earth, atmosphere and environment prepares students for professional work relating to the earth, atmosphere and environment, or for further work leading to a doctorate. The degree may also be valuable to teachers of science in secondary schools and community colleges.

Students currently enrolled and pursuing the Master of Science (M.S.) in Geology will have the option to complete their degree under their designated catalog year, or they may use their existing coursework toward the Master of Science (M.S.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment.

Recommendation: The University recommends that the Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee endorse this request and asks that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its meeting on June 15, 2023.

REQUEST TO CHANGE NAME OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN GEOLOGY

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to change the name of major programs. If the board approves this name change, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2023. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to change the name of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Geology to the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment, offered through the Graduate School by the Department of Earth, Atmosphere and Environment in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Rationale: On December 7, 2021, the Board of Trustees approved the merger of the Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences with the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences. With the merger of these departments, the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Geography will be incorporated into the former Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Geology, which will be renamed as Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment. Faculty and staff of both the geography and geology areas have been engaged in discussions for more than two years regarding how to best combine their strengths, better serve the students of NIU, and to expand and enhance the scope and impact of their research, engagement, and outreach. This innovative plan will expand research collaborations and success, attract new, high-quality graduate students to NIU, and support the function and enhance the impact of the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability. The revisions to this program will make it adaptable to changing student demographics and demand for decades to come. The M.S. degree in earth, atmosphere and environment prepares students for professional work relating to the earth, atmosphere and environment, or for further work leading to a doctorate. The degree may also be valuable to teachers of science in secondary schools and community colleges.

Students currently enrolled and pursuing the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Geology will have the option to complete their degree under their designated catalog year, or they may use their existing coursework toward the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Earth, Atmosphere and Environment.

Recommendation: The University recommends that the Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee endorse this request and asks that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at its meeting on June 15, 2023.

**TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCES PROMOTING EQUITY,
INCLUSION AND BELONGING**

Presentation by Vernese Edghill-Walden, Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer at Northern Illinois University, Doris Houston, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer at Illinois State University, and Tina Williams, Chair, Department of Management and Quantitative Methods at Illinois State University.