

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Regular Meeting
December 7, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Board Chair Eric Wasowicz in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall.

Recording Secretary Crystal Doyle conducted a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Vice Chair Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Absent

Trustee Leland Strom: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Vice President for Student Affairs Clint-Michael Reneau; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer Carol Sumner; Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resources Office John Arcado; Vice President for Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development and Chief Engagement Officer Rena Cotsones; Vice President and Director of Athletics and Recreation Sean Frazier; Dean of the College of Law Cassandra Hill; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Felicia Bohanon, Benjamin Creed, and Natasha Johnson.

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 Strom so moved, and Vice Chair Gayles seconded. 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.1. through 8.a.8. Vice Chair Gayles so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 9, 2023

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2023. Trustee Strom so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Wasowicz welcomed the University Advisory Committee Representatives to the meeting and asked if any of them would like to make a comment. No comments were made.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Wasowicz introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry welcomed Mr. Manny Diaz to the podium.

Trustee Rita Athas arrived and joined the meeting at 9:03 a.m.

General Counsel Perry welcomed Mr. Patrick Sheridan to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Mr. Richard Niemi to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Ms. Tini Montavon to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Mr. Aaron Sebourn to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Mr. Jason Williams to the podium.

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. 173

Chair Wasowicz asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 173.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

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

Agenda Item 8.a.1. Huskie Stadium Brigham Field Artificial Turf Replacement

Agenda Item 8.a.2. Chick Evans Fieldhouse Tennis Facility Upgrades Phase II

Agenda Item 8.a.3. DeKalb Campus 2024 Roof Repairs

Agenda Item 8.a.4. Chilled Water Plant Chiller #4 Overhaul

Agenda Item 8.a.5. Cell Tower Land Lease (NIU as Lessor)

Agenda Item 8.a.6. Stevenson Towers Wireless Network Expansion and Upgrade

Agenda Item 8.a.7. Internet Exchange Point Land Lease (NIU as Lessor)

Agenda Item 8.a.8. Office Safety Equipment Refresh

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Trustee Athas so moved, and Vice Chair Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

Trustee Tim Moore arrived and joined the meeting at 9:32 a.m.

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. 2024 University Goals

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

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.1. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.c.2. Honorary Doctorate Recommendation for Chinary Ung

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

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.2. Trustee Butler so moved, and Vice Chair Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.c.3. Honorary Doctorate Recommendation for Tom Skilling

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

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.3. Trustee Strom so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.c.4. Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Metropolitan Alliance of Police, Chapter 675, Police Telecommunicators

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

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

Agenda Item 8.c.5. College of Law Overview

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.5.

Agenda Item 8.c.6. Briefing on Name Image and Likeness

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.6.

Trustee Athas left the meeting at 10:37 a.m.

Trustee Athas returned to the meeting at 10:43 a.m.

CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 108

Chair Wasowicz presented the Chair's Report No. 108.

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 Butler so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion was approved.

OTHER MATTERS

Chair Wasowicz announced that on February 1, 2024 he will be stepping down at Board Chair. Vice Chair Montel Gayles will assume the position of Board Chair on February 1, 2024. At that time, Vice Chair Gayles will announce who will be serving as the Vice Chair. Chair Wasowicz thanked everyone for their support and help over the last two years.

Vice Chair Gayles commented that he is looking forward to the new role and working with everyone as Board Chair.

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 21, 2024, 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; student disciplinary cases matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(11) and (12) 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 Strom so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Vice Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Leland Strom: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 11:24 a.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 1:16 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

Vice Chair Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Absent

Trustee Leland Strom: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Vice Chair Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Absent

Trustee Leland Strom: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 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.