

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Regular Meeting
June 15, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 a.m. by Board Chair Eric Wasowicz in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall.

Recording Secretary Liz Wright conducted a roll call.

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

Trustee Tim Moore: 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 Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; Vice President of Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer George Middlemist; Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram; Dean of the College of Education Laurie Elish-Piper; Dean of the College of Liberal and Performing Arts Paul Kassel; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Science Bob Brinkman; Vice President for Student Affairs Clint-Michael Reneau; Associate Vice President for Facilities Management and Campus Services John Heckmann; Chief of Police Darren Mitchell; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Brad Cripe and Katy Jaekel.

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.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to allow Trustee Athas to participate in the meeting remotely due to illness. Trustee Barsema so moved and Trustee Moore seconded. The motion was approved.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Barsema 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 7.a.2. through 7.a.12. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Herrero 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.

UAC Representative Nicholson stated she was thrilled about with the extension to President Freeman’s contract and values the stability of leadership and mission.

Chair Wasowicz thanked Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Vernese Edghill-Walden, Vice President of Research and Innovation Partnerships and Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram for their service and dedication to NIU.

Chair Wasowicz welcomed the new Senior Associate Vice President of Human Resource Services John Arcado to the Huskie family.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Wasowicz introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry welcomed Ms. Felicia Owens to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Ms. Jessica Sikora to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Mr. Michael Baron-Jeffrey to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Ms. Sarah Lindell to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Mr. Jason Williams to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Mr. Daniel Porter 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. 169

Chair Wasowicz asked President Freeman to present the President’s Report No. 169.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 7.a.1. Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2023-2024

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.a.1. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz reminded Trustee Moore that he must abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.a.1. Trustee Butler so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Wright 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 Tim Moore: Abstain

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

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

Agenda Item 7.a.2. Request for the Deletion of the Bachelor of Arts in Geography

Agenda Item 7.a.3. Request for the Deletion of the Bachelor of Science in Geography

Agenda Item 7.a.4. Request for the Deletion of the Master of Science in Geography

Agenda Item 7.a.5. Request for the Deletion of the Doctor of Philosophy on Geography

Agenda Item 7.a.6. Request to Change Name of Bachelor of Science of Science in Geology and Environmental Geosciences

Agenda Item 7.a.7. Request to Change Name of Master of Master of Science in Geology

Agenda Item 7.a.8. Request to Change Name of Doctor of Philosophy in Geology

Agenda Item 7.a.9. Graphic Design Services

Agenda Item 7.a.10. Fiscal Year 2024 NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract

Agenda Item 7.a.11. Fiscal Year 2024 Cisco Maintenance Contract

Agenda Item 7.a.12. Fiscal Year 2024 Division of Information Technology Adobe Enterprise Term License Agreement

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded. 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 7.c.1. Fiscal Year 2024 Non-Represented Staff Salary Increment Allocation Guidelines

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.c.1. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c.1. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c.2. Fiscal Year 2024 Non-Represented Faculty Salary Increment Allocation Guidelines

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.c.2. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c.2. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c.3. Appointment of Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.c.3. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c.3. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c.4. Interim Appointment of Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.c.4. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c.4. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c.5. Appointment of the Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.c.5. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c.5. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c.6. Revision – Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2023-2024

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.c.6. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz reminded Trustee Moore that he must abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c.6. Trustee Butler so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Wright 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 Tim Moore: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c.7. Charter Bus Services

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.c.7. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c.7. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c.8. On- and Off-Campus Unarmed Security Patrol

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.c.8. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c.8. Trustee Butler so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c.9. Blackbaud Award Management Scholarship Platform

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.c.9. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c.9. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c.10. Proposed Amendments to Board of Trustees Regulations Related to Graduate Assistants

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.c.10. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c.10. Trustee Butler so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c.11. Fiscal Year 2024 University Internal Budget

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.c.11. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c.11. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c.12. Legislative Audit Commission University Guidelines Change

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.c.12.

CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 106

Chair Wasowicz presented the Chair's Report No. 106.

Agenda Item 8.a. Fiscal Year 2024 Election of Board Officers and Civil Services Merit Board Representative

Chair Wasowicz presented agenda item 8.a. for approval.

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

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to amend that motion and suspend the bylaws. Trustee Butler so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion was approved.

Mr. Perry explained the process for the fiscal year 2024 elections and announced the results. Eric Wasowicz was elected as Chair for FY24, Montel Gayles was elected as Vice Chair for FY24, Dennis Barsema was elected as Secretary for FY24, John Butler was elected as Civil Service Merit Board Representative for FY24, and Veronica Herrero was elected as 5th Member for FY24.

Agenda Item 8.b. President Lisa C. Freeman Contract Extension and Proposed Terms of Extension

Chair Wasowicz presented agenda item 8.b. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.b. Vice Chair Athas so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.

Trustee Herrero left the meeting at 9:55 a.m.

Agenda Item 8.c. Resolution Honoring Trustee Robert Pritchard for Distinguished Service to the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees

Chair Wasowicz presented agenda item 8.c. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.c. Trustee Barsema so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded. 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 September 21, 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; personnel matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(1)(2)(3) and (21) of the open meetings act.

Trustee Butler so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Wright 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

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 10:15 a.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 11:32 a.m.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 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.