

Minutes of the  
**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Regular Meeting**  
September 21, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 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: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Absent

Trustee John Butler: Present

Vice Chair 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 Strategy Officer and Board Liaison Matt Streb; Trustee Dennis Barsema; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Yvonne Harris; Vice President of Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer George Middlemist; 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; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Felicia Bohanon, Benjamin Creed, Brad Cripe, Katy Jaekel 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.

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

**MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST 24, 2023**

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 24, 2023. Vice Chair Gayles 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.

UAC Representative Jakel was very excited that once again NIU has earned the 2023 Best of the Best LGBTQ College and University. Thank you for everyone on campus that helped NIU earn this award and everyone who helps and supports the LGBTQ community.

Chair Wasowicz mentioned that NIU is actively bargaining with representatives from AFSCME Local 1890, and progress is being made. There is more to be done and decisions to be made.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Wasowicz introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry welcomed Ms. Krystyna Kamka to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Ms. Rebecca Rahe to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Mr. Patrick Sheridan to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Ms. Lesley Schoo to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Ms. Nicole Adams to the podium. General Counsel Perry welcomed Ms. Rave Meyers 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.

Trustee John Butler provided a verbal report on agenda item 7.e.

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

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 171**

Chair Wasowicz asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 171.

### **UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES**

#### **Agenda Item 8.a.1. Bowl Game Expenses**

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

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.a.1. Vice Chair Gayles 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 8.c.1. ReUp Stop Out Recruitment Initiative**

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

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

**Agenda Item 8.c.2. Collective Bargaining Agreement for the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150**

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 Vice Chair Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 8.c.3. Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Mid-America Carpenters Regional Council, Local Union 790**

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

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

**Agenda Item 8.c.4. Chessick Practice Center and Yordon Academic and Athletic Performance Center Acquisition Approval**

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

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

**Agenda Item 8.c.5. Graduate School Update**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.5.

*Break at 11:15 a.m. Returned at 11:25 a.m.*

**Agenda Item 8.c.6. Community College Transfer Update**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.6.

**CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 107**

Chair Wasowicz presented the Chair's Report No. 107.

**Agenda Item 9.a. Board of Trustees 2024 Meeting Dates Approval**

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

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.a. Trustee Moore so moved, and Vice Chair 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 December 7, 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; 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 Moore so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

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

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

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 12:09 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 4:31 p.m.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present	Trustee Dennis Barsema: Absent
Trustee John Butler: Present	Vice Chair 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 Gayles so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Present	Trustee Dennis Barsema: Absent
Trustee John Butler: Present	Vice Chair 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 4:32 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.*