

Minutes of the  
**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations**  
**Committee Meeting**  
November 9, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Committee Chair Dennis Barsema in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall.

Recording Secretary Christina Doe conducted a roll call of the Trustees.

Trustee Rita Athas: Absent

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Committee Chair Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee Tim Moore: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; Committee Liaison and Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer George Middlemist; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper; Chief Strategy Officer and Liaison to the Board of Trustees Matthew Streb; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communication Sol Jensen; Vice President for Research and Innovative Partnerships Yvonne Harris; Vice President for Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development and Chief Engagement Officer Rena Cotsones; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer Carol Sumner; Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer John Acardo; Associate Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Matthew Parks; University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Natasha Johnson and Felicia Bohanon.

**VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

General Counsel Bryan Perry indicated the appropriate notification of the meeting has been provided pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Mr. Perry also advised that a quorum was present.

**SWEARING IN OF NEW TRUSTEE**

Committee Chair Barsema invited Board Chair Eric Wasowicz to swear in Trustee Leland Strom. The Board of Trustees welcomed Trustee Strom who then introduced himself.

**MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

The motion was approved.

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

Committee Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 24, 2023. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded.

Trustee Strom abstained from the vote.

The motion was approved.

#### **CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Committee Chair Barsema welcomed everyone and recognized the University Advisory Committee. Committee Chair Barsema asked if anyone had any comments and there were none.

The board had a full agenda for this meeting which included eleven recommendations for approval; three of which were recommended to the special meeting as those items were time sensitive.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Committee Chair Barsema introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry stated there were no requests for public comment.

#### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Committee Chair Barsema asked Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (VPCFO) George Middlemist to present the University Financial Update.

#### **VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 8.a. Annual Financial Summary as of June 30, 2023**

VPCFO Middlemist asked Andrew Rogers, Associate Vice President for Budget and Financial Planning, to present the item.

Committee Chair Barsema noted the Board is witnessing first-hand the cessation in pandemic relief funding and its impact on financials. While those funds were identified as non-structural revenue, it was a rather large revenue source. This loss, in conjunction with increasing costs and critical investments in operations, infrastructure, and personnel, really identifies how and why our deficit continues to grow.

#### **VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 8.b. Quarterly Financial Summary Fiscal Year 2024 First Quarter as of September 30, 2023**

VPCFO Middlemist asked Andrew Rogers, Associate Vice President for Budget and Financial Planning, to present the item.

Conversation ensued around the positive impact that transparency in the financial reporting has had in terms of better understanding and interpreting the financials, and not overlooking the budgeted \$32M deficit and how much work is ahead of everyone.

*Trustee Rita Athas and Trustee Veronica Herrero joined the meeting at 8:48 a.m.*

#### **VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 8.c. Annual Report of Cash and Investments for Period Ending September 30, 2023**

VPCFO Middlemist asked Jason Askin, Controller, to present the item.

Jason Askin noted a correction in the title of this report and that it is the Periodic report as the Annual report was presented in August.

#### **UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS**

Committee Chair Barsema asked VPCFO George Middlemist to present the University Recommendations.

**VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 9.a. Fiscal Year 2025 Appropriations Request**

Committee Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 9.a. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

Conversation followed pertaining to whether the requested amount is adequate and the impact not adjusting for inflation has had on the university's awarded appropriation and overall financial health. Additional conversation ensued around responsible stewardship of public funds and ensuring efficiencies as the university works to address its deficit.

The motion was approved.

**VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 9.b. Fiscal Year 2025 IBHE Capital Budget Request**

Committee Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 9.b. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Strom seconded.

The motion was approved.

**VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 9.c. Huskie Stadium Brigham Field Artificial Turf Replacement**

Committee Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 9.c. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

John Cheney, Executive Director/Senior Athletic Director, provided further information on the type of turf that is being recommended.

The motion was approved.

**VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 9.d. Chick Evans Fieldhouse Tennis Facility Upgrades Phase II**

Committee Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 9.d. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Strom seconded.

The motion was approved.

**VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 9.e. DeKalb Campus 2024 Roof Repairs**

Committee Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 9.e. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

The motion was approved.

**VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 9.f. Chilled Water Plant Chiller #4 Overhaul**

Committee Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 9.f. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Board Chair Wasowicz seconded.

The motion was approved.

**VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 9.g. Cell Tower Land Lease (NIU as Lessor)**

Committee Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 9.g. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded.

The motion was approved.

**VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 9.h. Stevenson Towers Wireless Network Expansion and Upgrade**

Committee Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 9.h. Trustee Strom so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded.

The motion was approved.

**VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 9.i. Internet Exchange Point Land Lease (NIU as Lessor)**

Committee Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 9.i. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

Brief conversation followed around the positive impact this initiative will have on local communities.

The motion was approved.

**VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 9.j. Officer Safety Equipment Refresh**

Committee Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 9.j. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Strom seconded.

The motion was approved.

**VPCFO Middlemist presented Agenda Item 9.k. Intercollegiate Athletics Air Charter Services for Basketball Teams**

Committee Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 9.k. Board Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded.

The motion was approved.

**UNIVERSITY REPORTS**

Committee Chair Barsema asked VPCFO George Middlemist to present the University Reports.

VPCFO Middlemist stated there were three updates and NIU Board regulations stipulate that the university presents regular summaries of designated activities including financial and property transactions, as well as confirmation that state and federal requirements are met. The three reports provided comprehensive written updates and are submitted in accordance with board regulations.

**Information Item 10.a. – Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Report of Transactions Involving Real Property**

**Information Item 10.b. – Fiscal Year 2023 Report of Tuition and Fee Waivers**

**Information Item 10.c. – Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000 for the Period July 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023**

**OTHER MATTERS**

There were no other matters.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee will be February 15, 2024.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Committee Chair Barsema asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded.

Committee Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doe to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Leland Strom: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Committee Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 9:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Christina Doe  
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.*

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