



Special Meeting  
of the  
Board of Trustees

*February 15, 2024*

**Special Meeting of the  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
12:30 p.m. – Thursday – February 15, 2024  
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 December 7, 2023](#) .....Action.....1
5. Chair's Comments/Announcements
6. Public Comment\*
7. President's Report No. 174
  - a. [Recommendation for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2023-2024](#).....Action.....5
  - b. [Fiscal Year 2025 Room and Board Pricing Recommendation](#).....Action.....6
  - c. [Fiscal Year 2025 Undergraduate Tuition Pricing Recommendation](#).....Action.....8
  - d. [Fiscal Year 2025 Graduate and Law Tuition Pricing Recommendation](#).....Action.....10
  - e. [Fiscal Year 2025 Undergraduate, Graduate, and Law Student Fee Pricing Recommendation](#).....Action.....14
  - f. [Fiscal Year 2025 Student Health Insurance](#).....Action.....19
  - g. [Lease for Residence Hall Appliance Units](#).....Action.....20
8. Other Matters
9. Next Meeting Date
10. Closed Session
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](mailto:ccoppel@niu.edu).

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

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.*

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

NAME

COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL

**Hired at the Rank of Professor with Tenure**

Aurore Candier

History

**Recommendation:** The Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for Recommendation for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2023-2024.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2025 ROOM AND BOARD PRICING RECOMMENDATION**

**Summary:** The university is presenting a pricing recommendation to establish room and board fees for FY25. The collection of room and board fees from students living in university residence halls and Northern View Community apartments supports Housing and Residential Services, Campus Dining Services, and related Auxiliary Bond obligations. These recommendations were developed to align our commitment to student affordability and success with the necessary expenditures currently required to maintain our housing and dining experiences.

The university is recommending that room and board rates increase for each room accommodation in the residence halls for FY25. This represents an average increase of 5.3% for most rate types. Neptune North and West residents have a slightly smaller rate increase (3.6%) due to the lack of air conditioning in student rooms.

**Background:** Room rate recommendations typically address service contract costs, software support, indirect costs, contractual services, general operating expenses, and debt service payments related to renovations to the residence halls and dining locations. This year, the fee will allow for service continuity, while addressing increases in food costs, minimum wage, updated contracted wages, utility costs and increases in debt service obligations. This item provides a comparison of FY24 room rates with proposed FY25 rates and discloses relative dining plan options and costs to accompany on campus residency.



Original FY24			Proposed FY25		
LOCATION	RATE	variance	LOCATION	RATE	variance
<b>NEPTUNE HALL EAST (w/AC)</b>			<b>NEPTUNE HALL EAST (w/AC)</b>		
Single-Occupancy	\$ 6,452	3.2%	Single - Occupancy	\$ 6,793	5.3%
Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,404	3.8%	Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,687	5.2%
<b>NEPTUNE HALL NORTH/WEST</b>			<b>NEPTUNE HALL NORTH/WEST</b>		
Single-Occupancy	\$ 6,452	3.8%	Single-Occupancy	\$ 6,680	3.5%
Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,404	3.8%	Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,601	3.6%
<b>GILBERT HALL</b>			<b>GILBERT HALL</b>		
Single-Occupancy	\$ 6,840	3.0%	Single-Occupancy	\$ 7,202	5.3%
Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,910	3.5%	Double-Occupancy	\$ 6,221	5.3%
<b>GRANT TOWERS</b>			<b>GRANT TOWERS</b>		
Single-Occupancy	\$ 6,840	3.0%	Single-Occupancy	\$ 7,202	5.3%
Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,910	3.5%	Double-Occupancy	\$ 6,221	5.3%
<b>STEVENSON TOWERS</b>			<b>STEVENSON TOWERS</b>		
Single-Occupancy	\$ 6,786	3.0%	Single-Occupancy	\$ 7,145	5.3%
Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,874	3.5%	Double-Occupancy	\$ 6,183	5.3%
Suite, with bathroom	\$ 5,910	3.5%	Suite, with bathroom	\$ 6,221	5.3%
<b>PATTERSON HALL</b>			<b>PATTERSON HALL</b>		
Single-Occupancy	\$ 7,308	2.8%	Single-Occupancy	\$ 7,696	5.3%
<b>Northern View Apartments</b>			<b>Northern View Apartments</b>		
2 Bedroom unit	\$ 4,040	2.6%	2 Bedroom unit	\$ 4,262	5.5%
3 Bedroom unit	\$ 3,900	2.7%	3 Bedroom unit	\$ 4,115	5.5%
Single unit	\$ 4,690	2.2%	Single unit	\$ 4,948	5.5%
<b>Other Mandatory Residential Fees</b>					
ResNet Access/Support Charge			\$95/semester	(\$3 increase)	
Residence Hall Surcharge			\$50/Semester		
Living-Learning Communities			\$50/semester		
<b>Proposed Residential Meal Plan Upgrades - Dining dollars</b>			<b>All prices are in addition to the students applicable base Room and Board Fee</b>		<b>Rate</b>
Block 12 per week with \$100 dining dollars per term			Included with room and board		
Block 15 per week with \$100 dining dollars per term					\$ 100
Block 19 per week with \$100 dining dollars per term					\$ 200

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Fiscal Year 2025 Room and Board Pricing Recommendation.

## FISCAL YEAR 2025 UNDERGRADUATE TUITION PRICING RECOMMENDATION

**Summary:** For FY25, the university recommends a 4.5% increase in base tuition, and no change in undergraduate differential tuition rates. These recommendations were developed with the goal of keeping the tuition for incoming and reentering students affordable while addressing the current academic and support needs of students. Concurrently, the university is expanding the AIM HIGH Huskie Pledge program to broaden the number of students eligible to not pay tuition costs or general fees for their first year at NIU — and potentially beyond. Currently, 43.1% of NIU undergraduates do not pay tuition or fees. With the change in the household income threshold from \$75,000 to \$100,000 to qualify, that percentage will increase.

**Background:** Prior to this recommendation for FY25, NIU held base tuition flat in seven of the last nine fiscal years, including FY24. NIU had the smallest percentage tuition increase over that time than any of the twelve Illinois public institutions.

To provide additional context, the sections below describe additional factors that influence tuition rate decisions in general as well as the proposed rates for FY25 specifically.

NIU sets tuition on a per-credit-hour basis. However, undergraduate students who enroll in 12 or more semester credit hours are charged at a flat tuition rate. Rates are set subject to the following considerations:

- Illinois Truth-in-Tuition law for undergraduates
- Differential tuition for select programs
- Residency considerations

### Truth-in-Tuition

Tuition rates for Illinois residents seeking an undergraduate degree are subject to Illinois' Truth-in-Tuition law. Under the law, entering degree-seeking undergraduate students are guaranteed the same base tuition rate for four continuous years. NIU policy adds one additional semester to this four-year guarantee. After nine continuous semesters of enrollment, the guaranteed undergraduate tuition rate adjusts to the tuition rate paid by students who entered the university one fiscal year after the date of original entry for an additional three semesters.

Hence, when NIU sets undergraduate tuition rates for FY25, those rates apply only to:

- Incoming or re-entering students;
- Non-degree-seeking students, including visiting students and post-baccalaureate students; and
- Students whose continuous enrollment has exceeded the period outlined above.

### Out-of-State and International Rates

NIU currently sets tuition for domestic, out-of-state students at the same rate as Illinois residents. The rate for international students is set at twice the in-state rate. The university may enter into agreements with international partners for cohort or pipeline programs. For such programs, the university may agree to lower tuition to no less than 1.5 times the FY25 in-state rate.

### Tuition Recommendation

The recommendation is to increase base undergraduate tuition by 4.5% for FY25. This increase is consistent with the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) which tracks how expenses change for colleges and universities, much like other measures of inflation including the Consumer Price

Index (CPI). The overall increase in tuition to students taking 12 credit hours is \$220 per semester or \$440 for Fall and Spring semesters. Additionally, current students will not see an increase due to Truth in Tuition, and institutional aid is available for incoming students that need assistance. By aligning the FY25 rate increase to HEPI, this recommendation is responsive to NIU’s access, affordability, and student success goals while maintaining the institution’s fiscal sustainability.

**Fiscal Year 2024 Tuition**

Base Domestic Tuition	Per Credit Hour Rate	Capped Tuition at
	1 – 11	12 or more Credit Hours
Undergraduate Tuition	\$360.80	\$4,895.06
Undergraduate Tuition Full-Time, Full Year (2 terms)	N/A	\$9,790.12

**Fiscal Year 2025 Tuition Recommendations**

Base Domestic Tuition	Per Credit Hour Rate	Capped Tuition at
	1 – 11	12 or more Credit Hours
Undergraduate Tuition	\$377.04	\$5,115.34
Undergraduate Tuition Full-Time, Full Year (2 terms)	N/A	\$10,230.68

**Differential Tuition**

For select programs, NIU charges differential tuition. These differentials reflect the added value and added costs associated with those programs. The differential rate is added to the base and becomes the tuition rate charged for that program, subject to the policies previously listed. Differential rates are stated on a per-credit-hour basis. The maximum differential rate is capped at twelve times the per-credit-hour rate. Differential rates are re-validated annually.

**Undergraduate Differential Tuition per Credit Hour Rates**

Program	FY24 Differential	FY25 Differential
<b>College of Engineering &amp; Engineering Technology</b>		
All programs	\$50	\$50
<b>College of Health &amp; Human Sciences</b>		
Nursing (pre-licensure, not including pre-majors or RN to BSN)	\$15	\$15
<b>College of Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences</b>		
Computer Science (including pre-majors)	\$40	\$40

**The Rationale for Differential Tuition**

Differential tuition rates are reviewed annually to ensure that the rates are competitive and are not adversely impacting enrollments. This year, College of Engineering & Engineering Technology, Nursing, and Computer Science are maintaining their existing rates.

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Fiscal Year 2025 Undergraduate Tuition Pricing Recommendation.

## FISCAL YEAR 2025 GRADUATE AND LAW TUITION PRICING RECOMMENDATION

**Summary:** For FY25, the university recommends a 0% increase in base and differential tuition for graduate students and for law students. These recommendations were developed with the goal of keeping tuition as low as possible, while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

**Background:** NIU has developed a refined set of tuition rates to reflect the multiple student populations. To bring clarity to this array of rates, first described is the rate structure and then the rates for FY24 and the rates proposed for FY25.

NIU sets tuition on a per-credit-hour basis. For the Juris Doctorate program and most graduate programs, students who enroll in 12 or more semester credit hours are billed at a maximum rate that is 12 times the per-credit-hour rate. The FY25 rates indicated below apply to both new and returning graduate students and law students. Rates are set separately for graduate students and law students, subject to the following considerations:

- Bundling tuition and fees for graduate and law students
- Differential tuition for select programs
- Residency considerations

### Out-of-State and International Rates

NIU currently sets tuition for domestic, out-of-state students at the same rate as Illinois residents. The rate for international students is set at twice the in-state rate, subject to the following considerations:

- Within the integrated charge for graduate students, the instructional charge is doubled for international students, but the institutional charge is not;
- International students appointed as graduate assistants or fellows are billed at the domestic law or graduate student rate; and
- The university may enter into agreements with international partners for cohort or pipeline programs. For such programs, the university may agree to lower the instructional charge to no less than 1.5 times the FY25 in-state rate.

### Differential Tuition

For select programs, NIU charges a differential tuition. These differentials reflect the added value and costs associated with those programs. The differential rate is added to the base and becomes the tuition rate charged for that program, subject to the policies previously listed. Differential rates are stated on a per-credit-hour basis. The maximum differential rate is capped at 12 times the per-credit-hour rate. Differential rates are re-validated annually.

### Tuition Recommendation

The recommendation is to keep base tuition flat for graduate students and law students. This recommendation is in accordance with NIU's goal to maintain affordable tuition for graduate and law students.

### Fiscal Year 2025 Tuition Recommendations

Graduate Domestic Tuition per Semester	FY24		FY25	
	Per Credit Hour 1-11	12 or more Credit Hours	Per Credit Hour 1-11	12 or more Credit Hours

Instructional Charge (Base)	\$369.24	\$4,430.88	\$369.24	\$4,430.88
Instructional Charge (Base) – Full Year (2 terms)	N/A	\$8,861.76	N/A	\$8,861.76

College of Law Domestic Tuition per Semester	FY24		FY25	
	Per Credit Hour 1-11	12 or more Credit Hours	Per Credit Hour 1-11	12 or more Credit Hours
Instructional Charge (Base)	\$689.53	\$8,274.36	\$689.53	\$8,274.36
Instructional Charge (Base) – Full Year (2 terms)	N/A	\$16,548.72	N/A	\$16,548.72

## Graduate Differential Tuition

The per credit hour rates for FY24 and the proposed rates for FY25 are detailed below:

Program	FY24 Differential	FY25 Differential	Increase (or Decrease)
<b>College of Business</b>			
Graduate Certificate in Accountancy	\$325	\$325	\$0
Master of Accountancy	\$325	\$325	\$0
Master of Accounting Science	\$325	\$325	\$0
Master of Science in Taxation	\$325	\$325	\$0
Graduate Study in Enterprise Management Using SAP Analytics	\$200	\$200	\$0
Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics	\$200	\$200	\$0
Master of Science in Finance	\$400	\$400	\$0
Evening MBA	\$400	\$400	\$0
Global MBA	\$400	\$400	\$0
Graduate Certificate in Management Information Systems	\$200	\$200	\$0
Master of Management Information Systems	\$200	\$200	\$0
Master of Science in Digital Marketing	\$400	\$400	\$0
Foundations of Accountancy Certificate	\$325	\$325	\$0
Certificate of Graduate Study – Advanced Study in Accounting Analytics	\$325	\$325	\$0
Certificate of Graduate Study – Advanced Study in Accountancy	\$325	\$325	\$0
Master of Science in Data Analytics	\$400	\$400	\$0
Graduate Study in Data Science for Business	\$400	\$400	\$0
<b>College of Education</b>			
EdD in Curriculum & Instruction	\$65	\$65	\$0
EdD in Education Administration	\$65	\$65	\$0
PhD/EdD in Instructional Technology (face-to-face)	\$40	\$40	\$0
PhD/EdD in Instructional Technology (online)	\$40	\$40	\$0
MSED in Instructional Technology (face-to-face)	\$20	\$20	\$0
MSED in Instructional Technology (online)	\$25	\$25	\$0
EdD in Community College Leadership	\$80	\$80	\$0
EdS in Educational Administration, Superintendent Preparation (online)	\$25	\$25	\$0
MSED in Kinesiology & Physical Education	\$35	\$35	\$0
Master of Science in Athletic Training	\$35	\$35	\$0
Master of Science in Sports Management	\$35	\$35	\$0
Executive EdD in Adult & Higher Ed Weekend Cohort (online)	\$80	\$80	\$0
<b>College of Engineering &amp; Engineering Technology</b>			
All programs	\$50	\$50	\$0
<b>College of Health &amp; Human Sciences</b>			
Master of Speech-Language Pathology	\$160	\$160	\$0
Doctor of Audiology	\$185	\$185	\$0
Doctor of Physical Therapy	\$225	\$225	\$0
Doctor of Health Sciences (online)	\$553	\$553	\$0
Graduate Certificate in Eating Disorders (online)	\$180	\$180	\$0
Doctor of Nursing Practice	\$240	\$240	\$0
Master of Public Health (online)	\$200	\$200	\$0
Master of Family Nurse Practitioner (online)	\$240	\$240	\$0
<b>College of Liberal Arts &amp; Sciences</b>			
Computer Science MS	\$60	\$60	\$0
Master of Public Administration (online)	\$90	\$90	\$0
Graduate Certificate in Public Management	\$90	\$90	\$0

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Fiscal Year 2025 Graduate and Law Tuition Pricing Recommendation.

## FISCAL YEAR 2025 UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE, AND LAW STUDENT FEE PRICING RECOMMENDATION

**Summary:** The following item presents a pricing recommendation that addresses Northern Illinois University's undergraduate, graduate, and law fees for FY25. These recommendations were developed by a committee comprised of faculty, staff, and students with the goals of keeping attendance costs for students affordable while addressing the current academic and support needs of students.

**Background:** The university has numerous student activities, programs, services, and operations that are supported to various degrees by the assessment of dedicated-use student charges. These charges are aggregated into a more manageable number of fees. This item describes the purpose of each charge, then provides a summary of the fee rates for FY24 and recommendations for FY25.

### **Undergraduate, Graduate, and Law Fee Categories**

**Student Support Services Fee** is comprised of the following charges:

**Student Activities and Services Charge** supports the student government, student programming, campus-wide programming initiatives (Welcome Days, Homecoming, Open Houses, etc.) and the activities of student recognized organizations. These charges are also allocated to departments to maintain and improve student services.

*Undergraduate – Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$5.10)*

*Graduate – Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$2.60)*

*Law – Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$3.65)*

**Holmes Student Center Charge** supports the operational costs of Holmes Student Center (HSC) and student programs provided in the facility. This is the first increase since 2017 and supports the expansion of programming and resources for student activities and events, as well as costs associated with labor and debt servicing of the HSC.

*Fee increases from \$11.80 (FY24 level) to \$14.15 (FY25 level). Increase of \$2.35.*

**Health and Wellness Charge** allows students to use Health Services with little to no direct cost to students and helps fund programming that promotes wellness and healthy lifestyle choices and related state and federally mandated education and awareness campaigns. The fee increase is necessary to fund fully the cost of services.

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$2.75).*

**Student Health Center Charge** allows students use of services provided, by the Northwestern Medicine Student Health Center at NIU, and enhanced on-campus services, including medical testing/screening and psychiatric and mental health care.

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$5.40).*

**Grants-in-Aid Charge** supports an institutional merit-based scholarship program, as well as supporting a needs-based Financial Aid fund for students, by which state institutions are eligible for matching funds from the State of Illinois per statutory requirements.

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$1.40).*

**Campus Recreation Charge** is used for financing, constructing, maintaining, and improving new and existing recreational sports facilities and programs, including the sport



club operations. The fee increase, the first since 2018, is to support the refresh of equipment and spaces to ensure functionality and safety, as well as increases in costs associated with operations and staffing.

*Fee increases from \$8.00 (FY24 level) to \$9.00 (FY25 level). Increase of \$1.00.*

**Northern Star** is the student-run newspaper and provides free access to the campus community.

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$0.27).*

**Arts and Culture Fee** enhances the University's arts culture and provides students with a means to enjoy the School of Music and School of Theater and Dance productions at little to no direct cost to the student.

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$0.80).*

**Cultural Diversity Programming Fee** is used to develop and support cultural programming resources for students by NIU's diversity resource centers. Programming addresses the intersecting identities of students, including race, ethnicity, gender identity, class, nationality, sexual orientation, social justice, and others and may include high-impact speakers, films, lecture series, exhibits, Heritage Month Celebrations, and more.

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$0.80).*

**University Advancement Fee** is comprised of the following charges:

**Capital Improvement Charge** provides funding for educational and support facilities for students, faculty, and staff in a manner that maximizes the effectiveness of the capital investments, maximizes the use of all existing facilities, and promotes orderly, planned campus development. Support for projects related to existing facilities are included in this charge. The fee increase will support renovations and repairs in high-impact student spaces such as study areas, classrooms, student engagement areas and other such spaces.

*Fee increases from \$15.35 (FY24 level) to \$15.65 (FY25 level). Increase of \$0.30.*

**Transportation Access Charge** funds the Huskie Bus System, the Huskie Line, parking lot lights, security and maintenance, and the creation of additional parking and transportation services. This charge also supports the University's Huskie Line bus and Freedom Mobile paratransit services. All fee-paying students are eligible to utilize Huskie buses without being charged fares. An increase in costs necessitates an increase in the fee.

*Fee increases from \$7.70 (FY24 level) to \$7.80 (FY25 level). Increase of \$0.10.*

**Athletic Fee** is comprised of the following charges:

**Athletic Program Charge** supplements the University's diverse athletic programs and provides students with a means to enjoy the athletic events without direct cost to the student. The fee increase will support scholarships for all sponsored-sport programs and programs to address specific needs of student-athletes. This is the first proposed fee increase since at least 2014.

*Fee increases from \$22.29 (FY24 level) to \$22.74 (FY25 level). Increase of \$0.45.*

**Convocation Center Charge** helps fund the operational costs of the Convocation Center and supports student athletic, academic, and social events. The fee increase will support necessary maintenance, a rise in staffing costs, and debt servicing of the Convocation Center. This is the first proposed fee increase since at least 2014.

*Fee increases from \$8.20 (FY24 level) to \$8.50 (FY25 level). Increase of \$0.30.*

**Huskie Stadium Charge** helps fund the operational costs of Huskie Stadium and provides support for student activities and programs that are held in the stadium. The increase in fee will help address an increase in operational costs, maintenance needs, and debt servicing of Huskie Stadium. This is the first proposed fee increase since at least 2014.

*Fee increases from \$2.40 (FY24 level) to \$2.65 (FY25 level). Increase of \$0.25.*

**Graduate Program Support** contains the following charges:

**Graduate Colloquium Charge** supports the Graduate Colloquium program, which brings scholars, artists, professionals, and public figures to lecture or perform at NIU.

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$2.00).*

**Career/Professional Development Charge** supports career/professional development workshops, seminars, and coursework for graduate students.

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$4.00).*

**Graduate Outreach Charge** supports infrastructure provided by the Division of Academic Affairs that is needed to deliver online and on-campus graduate courses.

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$18.00).*

**Law Program Support** contains the following charges:

**Law Student Bar Charge** supports the Student Bar Association and student organization activities at the College of Law.

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$2.35).*

**Law Excellence Charge** provides enhancements to College of Law course offerings and experiential learning opportunities such as clinics, mock trials, and moot court. The fee increase will fund activities that support law student professional development, including preparation courses and materials for the current Bar Examination and development of strategies to support the 2026 NextGen Bar Examination. The fee also supports internships, clerkships and clinical rotations.

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$160.00).*

**Academic Program Enhancement and Instructional Surcharge** is assessed in order to meet the ever-emerging demands for cutting edge academic programs and services for NIU students. Critical areas for funding include technology upgrades as well as support for identified academic strategic planning initiatives designed to strengthen, direct, and further improve academic programs, research, and the academic experience of students.

*Undergrad – Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$125 per semester for students enrolled for six or fewer credit hours, or \$250 per semester for seven or more credit hours).*

*Grad/Law Tech Surcharge– Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$22.00 per credit hour).*

**Regional Delivery Fee** is assessed to undergraduates to support the delivery of off-campus courses by the Division of Academic Affairs.

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$50.00 non-School of Nursing courses).*

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$100.00 School of Nursing courses).*

**Outreach Fee** is assessed to support infrastructure provided by the Division of Outreach, Engagement & Regional Development that is needed to deliver regional courses (e.g., operations of NIU regional centers, rental of non-NIU facilities).

*Fee remains constant at FY24 level (\$56.00).*

**Central Service Fee** is an existing fee that supports services, contracts, and operations of the University including software licenses, debt service, and audit expenses. This fee is assessed only to online graduate students in certain programs who are not otherwise assessed the Athletic, Student Support Service, University Advancement, and some Graduate Program Support fees. It mirrors the total fees generally assessed to graduate students.

*Fee increases from \$91.76 (FY24 level) to \$96.51 (FY25 level). Increase of \$4.75.*

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Fiscal Year 2025 Undergraduate, Graduate, and Law Student Fee Pricing Recommendation.

**FY24 Rates and Recommendations for FY25 Rates – Summary**

Undergraduate, Graduate, and College of Law Fees	Per Credit Hour Rate (12 Hours Max. Rate)								
	Undergraduate			Graduate			Law		
	FY24	FY25	Difference	FY24	FY25	Difference	FY24	FY25	Difference
Athletic	\$32.89	\$33.89	\$1.00	\$32.89	\$33.89	\$1.00	\$32.89	\$33.89	\$1.00
Student Support Services	\$36.32	\$39.67	\$3.35	\$33.82	\$37.17	\$3.35	\$34.87	\$38.22	\$3.35
University Advancement	\$23.05	\$23.45	\$0.40	\$23.05	\$23.45	\$0.40	\$23.05	\$23.45	\$0.40
Graduate Program Support	-	-	-	\$24.00	\$24.00	-	-	-	-
Law Program Support	-	-	-	-	-	-	\$162.35	\$162.35	-
Grad/Law Technology Surcharge	-	-	-	\$22.00	\$22.00	-	\$22.00	\$22.00	-
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$92.26</b>	<b>\$97.01</b>	<b>\$4.75</b>	<b>\$135.76</b>	<b>\$140.51</b>	<b>\$4.75</b>	<b>\$275.16</b>	<b>\$279.91</b>	<b>\$4.75</b>

Academic Program Enhancement Support*	\$250.00	\$250.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Regional Delivery**	\$50.00	\$50.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Outreach***	\$56.00	\$56.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Central Service****	-	-	-	\$91.76	\$96.51	\$4.75	-	-	-

\*Charged as a \$125 flat fee per term for undergraduates enrolled in six or fewer credit hours and \$250 for undergraduates enrolled in seven or more credit hours

\*\*Assessed to undergraduates for off campus courses. The Regional Delivery Fee for courses in the School of Nursing is \$100.

\*\*\*Assessed to undergraduates to support infrastructure provided by the Division of Outreach, Engagement, & Regional Development.

\*\*\*\*Assessed to graduate students in certain online programs to support University infrastructure and operations.

## FISCAL YEAR 2025 STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

**Summary:** The university offers group health insurance to students, funded solely by student health insurance fees. For participating students, their fees are collected and submitted to the broker or insurer as a “pass through” expense by the university. Students may waive their participation in this plan if they have proof of other, comparable health insurance. As a participating institution of the Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative (IPHEC), the university used the selected insurance broker to source and secure a student health insurance plan and program for FY25. The quoted rate for FY25 will reflect a 6.3% increase in premium for students who participate in the coverage, not to exceed \$1,378 per semester or \$2,756 per academic year. The carrier has also included in this year’s quote financial assistance of \$50K maximum for the university in order to offset administrative costs associated with the program, which are otherwise supported by student fees.

**Background:** Total premiums collected by NIU on behalf of students is on target to increase from FY23 to FY24 due to increased student participants, but the program recently experienced an unfavorable loss ratio (premiums collected/claims paid), which helps account for FY25’s increase in cost per student. Participation in the plan continues to fluctuate in the wake of COVID-19 impacts like remote learning, loss of alternative coverage options, and higher education enrollment decline. The FY25 program will move to a new carrier as they quoted the comprehensive coverage at the most advantageous price for participating students. Final plan and premium negotiations are ongoing, and any additional savings would be passed along to students in Fall 2024. The FY25 plan and program coverages, terms, and conditions will remain comparable with FY24.

	<b>Health Insurance Provider</b>	<b>Purchase Order Requested Amount</b>	<b>Amount Paid to Insurance Provider</b>	<b>Students Enrolled in Student Health Insurance Fall Semester*</b>	<b>Semester Premium*</b>
FY25	United Healthcare	\$ 9,000,000			\$ 1,378
FY24	Aetna	\$ 9,000,000	\$5,720,737 (projected)	2,225	\$ 1,296
FY23	Aetna	\$ 8,500,000	\$4,778,917	1,997	\$ 1,329.50
FY22	Aetna	\$ 8,800,000	\$ 7,479,895	3,363	\$ 1,224
FY21	Aetna	\$ 7,250,000	\$ 4,850,859	1,825	\$ 1,114

\* Students are charged separately for Fall and Spring terms.

**Funding:** Agency Funds

*Marsh and McLennan Companies – New York, NY.....\$9,000,000*

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Fiscal Year 2025 Student Health Insurance.

## **LEASE FOR RESIDENCE HALL APPLIANCE UNITS**

**Summary:** Housing and Residential Services request permission to issue an order for a new six-year lease, with two additional one-year renewal options, for student room appliances with a total not to exceed \$1.4M.

**Background:** Housing and Residential Services wishes to partner with Campus Fridge, Etc. under exemption (30 ILCS 500/1-13(b)(2)), to provide a combination refrigerator, freezer and microwave unit (brand name Microfridge) for residence hall student rooms under an annual lease agreement. The university currently owns similar appliances, but they have gone past their usefulness. Current units average between 12-15 years of age which is well beyond their usefulness. Repair and upkeep have become costly given the age and number of units (2,400).

The annual lease pricing per unit will be \$74.89 paid through student room rent for a total of \$179K per year with a full commitment of just under \$1.1M for duration (6 years). The two additional one-year renewal options would include a full warranty and will reduce the per unit price to \$59. The total per year would be a little over \$141K for a two-year total of \$283K, which adds to the overall total coming to \$1.4M. The leasing program includes a full warranty on all units for the length of the lease (including the out years), with a repair and replacement plan covered by the vendor. The leasing also includes the removal and recycling of the units currently owned by NIU.

**Funding:** Institutional Funds

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Lease of Residence Hall Appliance Units.