Minutes of the

Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University

Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel

Committee Meeting

February 20, 2025

**Call to order and roll call**

The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m. by Committee Chair Veronica Herrero. This committee meeting was conducted in person.

Recording Secretary Mia Hannon conducted a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present Committee Chair Veronica Herrero: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present Trustee Aidan O’Brien: Absent

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Present Trustee Leland Strom: Present

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Present Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Present

Also present were President Lisa Freeman; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper; Board Liaison and Chief Strategy Officer Matt Streb; Vice President for Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development and Chief Engagement Officer Rena Cotsones; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer George Middlemist; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Richard Mocarski; Vice President for Student Affairs Clint-Michael Reneau; Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer John Acardo; Professor Jinsook Kim, School of Health Studies; University Advisory Council Representatives Brad Cripe and Larissa Garcia.

**Verification of quorum and appropriate notice of public meeting**

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

**Meeting agenda approval**

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Board Chair Gayles so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded. The motion was approved.

**Review and approval of minutes of November 7, 2024**

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to approve the minutes of November 7, 2024. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Strom seconded. The motion was approved.

**Chair’s comments/announcements**

Committee Chair Herrero welcomed those in attendance and provided a brief overview of the agenda. She also recognized the members of the University Advisory Committee. Dr. Brad Cripe thanked the board on behalf of the faculty for sabbaticals and how important they are to the faculty for research, artistry and librarianship.

**Public comment**

Committee Chair Herrero inquired to General Counsel Perry if any members of the public

registered a request to address the board in accordance with state law and Board of Trustees bylaws. General Counsel Perry advised that no requests for public comment had been received.

**University reports**

Committee Chair Herrero asked Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper to present the university reports.

**Agenda Item 7.a. Annual Report on the Outcomes of Sabbatical Leaves**

EVPP Elish-Piper introduced item 7.a. EVPP Elish-Piper presented an executive summary of the sabbatical report for the 2021-2022 Academic Year.

**Agenda Item 7.b. Faculty Presentation on Sabbatical Leave**

EVPP Elish-Piper introduced item 7.b. Professor Jinsook Kim from the School of Health Studies gave a faculty sabbatical presentation.

**University recommendations**

Committee Chair Herrero asked Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper to present the university recommendations.

**Agenda Item 8.a. Recommendations for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for the 2025-2026 Academic Year**

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

**Agenda Item 8.b. Request for the Deletion of the Master of Science in Early Childhood Education**

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

**Agenda Item 8.c. Request for the Deletion of the Master of Science in Teaching**

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

**Agenda Item 8.d. Request for New Minor in Accountancy**

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to approve item 8.d. Trustee Barsema so moved, Board Chair Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

**Other matters**

Committee Chair Herrero asked if there were any other matters. There were none.

**Next meeting date**

The next meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee will be Thursday, May 8, 2025.

**Adjournment**

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to adjourn. Board Chair Gayles so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded.

Committee Chair Herrero asked Ms. Hannon to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes Committee Chair Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes Trustee Aidan O’Brien: Absent

Committee Vice Chair John Butler: Yes Trustee Leland Strom: Yes

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Yes Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mia Hannon

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.*