Minutes of the

**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**

**Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel**

**Committee Meeting**

May 8, 2025

**Call to order and roll call**

The meeting was called to order at 8:39 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: Absent *(arrived at 8:40 a.m.)* Committee Chair Veronica Herrero: Present

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

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; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer Carol Sumner; Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer John Acardo; Dean, Graduate School James Ahern; Dean, College of Education Mary Earick; Executive Director of College-Based Advancement Ray Earl-Jackson; University Advisory Council Representatives Ben Creed 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.

*Trustee Athas arrived at 8:40 a.m.*

**Meeting agenda approval**

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

**Review and approval of minutes of February 20, 2025**

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 20, 2025. 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. Ben Creed extended a welcome to the two new Deans on behalf of UAC members and mentioned how important tenure and promotion is, recognizing all the hard work and commitment of the faculty.

**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 recommendations**

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

**Agenda Item 7.a. Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2025-2026**

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to approve item 7.a. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Board Chair Gayles 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: Abstain

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

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Yes Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.b. Appointment of Dean of the College of Education**

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to approve item 7.b. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Committee Vice Chair Butler seconded. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.c. Appointment of Dean of the Graduate School**

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

**Agenda Item 7.d. Appointment of Vice President for Philanthropy and Alumni Engagement**

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to approve item 7.d. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Board Chair Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

**University reports**

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

**Agenda Item 8.a. Annual Academic Program Report**

EVPP Elish-Piper introduced item 8.a. Annual Academic Program Report

**Agenda Item 8.b. Human Resource Services Updates**

EVPP Elish-Piper introduced item 8.b. Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resource Officer John Acardo gave a presentation on HRS Updates to Board of Trustees.

**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, August 28, 2025.

**Adjournment**

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to adjourn. Board Chair Gayles so moved, and Trustee Barsema 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: Yes

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 10:30 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.*