Minutes of the

**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**

**Special Meeting**

January 7, 2025

**Call to order and roll call**

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Trustee Dennis Barsema in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall.

Recording Secretary Crystal Doyle conducted a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Vice Chair John Butler: Absent Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Aidan O’Brien: Present Trustee Leland Strom: Present

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Present Board Chair Montel Gayles: Absent

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper; Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer George Middlemist; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Richard Mocarski; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer Carol Sumner; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Vice President and Director of Athletics and Recreation Sean Frazier; Deputy Athletic Director and Executive Associate Athletic Director of Operations John Cheney; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Felicia Bohanon 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**

Trustee Barsema stated that before the we take a motion to approve the agenda, a typographical error needs to be corrected. The installment amount should read $333,333.35 and not $333,33.35.

Trustee Barsema asked for a motion to amend the item to the correct amount of $333,333.35 Trustee Strom so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded. The motion was approved.

Trustee Barsema asked for a motion to approve the amended meeting agenda. Trustee O’Brien so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

**chair’s comments/announcements**

Trustee Barsema welcomed the members of the University Advisory Council who were present.

Trustee Barsema thanked everyone who was able to be in attendance today.

**public comment**

Trustee Barsema introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry stated that there were no registered public comments.

**PResident’s report no. 184**

Trustee Barsema asked President Freeman to present the President’s Report No. 184.

**Agenda Item 6.a. Membership Fee for Northern Illinois University to Join the Mountain West Conference**

President Freeman presented agenda item 6.a. for approval.

Trustee Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 6.a. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Strom seconded.

Trustee Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Absent Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Aidan O’Brien: Yes Trustee Leland Strom: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes Board Chair Montel Gayles: Absent

The motion was approved.

**Other Matters**

There were no other matters.

**next meeting date**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held March 20, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

**Closed Session**

Trustee Barsema stated the Board did not need to go into closed session.

**Adjournment**

Trustee Barsema asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Strom so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:16 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.*