Minutes of the

**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**

**Special Meeting**

February 20, 2025

**Call to order and roll call**

The meeting was called to order at 12:37 p.m. by Board Chair Montel Gayles 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: Present Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

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

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Present Board Chair Montel Gayles: Present

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 Research and Innovation Partnerships Richard Mocarski; Vice President of Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer George Middlemist; 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 for Student Affairs Clint-Michael Reneau; Interim Chief of Police Jason John; Assistant Director, Employee and Labor Relations Darek Williams; 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**

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

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to amend that motion, in order to approve a consent agenda for action items 7.a. through 7.c. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion was approved.

**review and approval of minutes of December 12, 2024 and January 7, 2025**

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the minutes of December 12, 2024. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Strom seconded.

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the minutes of January 7, 2025. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Strom seconded.

**chair’s comments/announcements**

Chair Gayles welcomed the members of the University Advisory Council who were present.

**public comment**

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

**PResident’s report no. 185**

Chair Gayles asked President Freeman to present the President’s Report No. 185.

President Freeman presented the items that were moved to the consent agenda including:

**Agenda Item 7.a. Fiscal Year 2026 Room and Board Fee Recommendation**

**Agenda Item 7.b. Fiscal Year 2026 Undergraduate Tuition Pricing Recommendation**

**Agenda Item 7.c. Fiscal Year 2026 Graduate Tuition Pricing Recommendation**

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.d. Fiscal Year 2026 Law Tuition Pricing Recommendation**

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.d. for approval.

Due to a conflict Chair Gayles had to abstain.

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.d. Trustee Athas so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

Chair Gayles asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Yes Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

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

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes Board Chair Montel Gayles: Abstain

The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.e. Fiscal Year 2026 Undergraduate, Graduate, and Law Student Fee Pricing Recommendation**

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.e. for approval.

Due to a conflict Chair Gayles had to abstain.

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.e. Trustee Strom so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

Chair Gayles asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Yes Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

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

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes Board Chair Montel Gayles: Abstain

The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.f. Fiscal Year 2026 Student Health Insurance**

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.f. for approval.

Due to a conflict Chair Gayles had to abstain.

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.f. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

Chair Gayles asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Yes Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

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

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes Board Chair Montel Gayles: Abstain

The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.g. Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Metropolitan Alliance of Police NIU Sergeants, Chapter 292**

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.g. for approval.

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.g. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded. 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**

Chair Gayles 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) and (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 Athas so moved, and Trustee Strom seconded.

Chair Gayles asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Yes Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

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

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes Board Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 12:52 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 2:24 p.m.

Chair Gayles asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Yes Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

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

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes Board Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

**Adjournment**

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Strom so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

Chair Gayles asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Yes Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

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

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes Board Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 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.*