

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee
November 12, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 a.m. by Committee Chair Robert Pritchard. This Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee meeting is being conducted through video conferencing communications and is being conducted pursuant to Section 6 of Executive Order 2020-7 (Suspending OMA requirements of in person attendance by members of a public body). Recording Secretary Mia Hannon conducted a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Aidan Shields: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

Committee Chair Robert Pritchard: Present

Also present were President Lisa Freeman; General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram; Board Liaison and Chief of Staff Matt Streb; Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer Sarah Chinniah; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Interim Chief of Human Resources Officer Vernese Edghill-Walden; Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies Omar Ghrayeb; Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Chad McEvoy; Vice Provost for Institutional Effectiveness Carolinda Douglass; Vice President University Advancement and CEO NIU Foundation Catherine Squires; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Kelly Wesener-Michael; Associate Vice President Finance and Treasury Shyree Sanan; Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer Matthew Parks; Associate Vice President for Management and Campus Services John Heckmann; Assistant Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs Dara Little; and University Advisory Council Representatives Kathryn Jaekel, Cathy Doederlein, Greg Beyer, Sarah Marsh, Kendall Thu and Natasha Johnson.

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 Pritchard asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Committee Chair Robert Pritchard: Yes

The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Chair Pritchard asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 20, 2020. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Board Chair Barsema seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Committee Chair Robert Pritchard: Yes

The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee Chair Pritchard welcomed those in attendance and provided a brief overview of the agenda. He also recognized the members of the University Advisory Committee.

UAC Representative Kendall Thu spoke about updating the academic policies and procedures manual, the social justice committee, collecting comments for the IBHE master plan and recognizing our remarkable students, faculty, staff and leadership.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee Chair Pritchard inquired to Mr. 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 have been received.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee Chair Pritchard asked Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram to present the following university recommendations.

Agenda Item 7.a. Sabbatical Postponements to FY22 Due to COVID-19

This item requests a temporary adjustment to the limit of one sabbatical for every 25 full-time eligible employees.

Committee Chair Pritchard asked for a motion to approve item 7.a. Board Chair Barsema so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

After discussion about the number of requests that will roll-over from FY21 to FY22 and the reason for the delays of FY21 sabbaticals, Committee Chair Pritchard asked Ms. Hannon to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Committee Chair Robert Pritchard: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.b. Recommendation for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion

This item listed two names for rank with tenure.

Committee Chair Pritchard asked for a motion to approve item 7.b. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Board Chair Barsema seconded.

Committee Chair Pritchard opened the floor for discussion and then asked Ms. Hannon to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Abstain

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Committee Chair Robert Pritchard: Yes

The motion was approved.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS

Committee Chair Pritchard asked Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram to present the following informational items.

Agenda Item 8.a. Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff

This item lists all the recipients of 2020 excellence awards given to faculty and staff.

Agenda Item 8.b. Academic Calendar

This item is a change in the Spring 2021 calendar, eliminating spring break due to COVID-19 concerns.

Agenda Item 8.c. Oversight of Academic Programs

This item is a summary of program reviews conducted in 2019/2020.

OTHER MATTERS

Committee Chair Pritchard asked if there are other matters. There were none.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee will be Thursday, February 18, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Committee Chair Robert Pritchard: Yes

The motion was approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 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.