

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Special Meeting
February 13, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Board Chair Dennis Barsema in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Liz Wright conducted a roll call. Members present were Rita Athas, John Butler, Montel Gayles, Madalynn Mershon, Bob Pritchard, Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz, and Board Chair Dennis Barsema. Trustee Veronica Herrero was absent.

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; General Counsel Bryan Perry; Board Liaison Matt Streb; Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram; Vice President for Administration and Finance Sarah McGill; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Vice President of Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Kendall Thu, Jeffry Royce, and Jason Hanna.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

General Counsel Perry indicated the 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 Dennis Barsema asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2019

Chair Dennis Barsema asked for a motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 2019. Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Athas seconded. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Dennis Barsema welcomed members of the University Advisory Council and invited them to make remarks.

UAC Representative Thu noted that he and Professor Scherer were the original founders of the Environmental Studies program to provide Professor Scherer with additional kudos, following his presentation at the Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee.

Chair Barsema thanked Professor Thu for his contributions to that program as well. He continued to thank the vice chairs and chairs of committee for their work during committee day.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Dennis Barsema asked General Counsel Perry if any timely requests to address the meeting were received. General Counsel Bryan Perry responded that there were no requests for public comment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO 139

Agenda Item 7.a. Honorary Doctorate Recommendation

Chair Dennis Barsema asked President Freeman to present agenda item 7.a.

President Lisa Freeman stated that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee reviewed this item in the morning and have forwarded to the full Board for approval. The recommendation is to award Dr. Sherret S. Chase, a notable plant geneticist, an Honorary Doctorate of Science.

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the recommendation. Trustee Pritchard so moved and Trustee Wasowicz seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.b. Research and Innovation Partnerships Intellectual Property Counsel

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.b. which is a request for permission for the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships to enter into agreements with intellectual property legal firms. President Freeman summarized that this is to protect the intellectual property developed by NIU faculty by knowledgeable and appropriate legal counsel. The university recommended Board of Trustees approval with the understanding that services will not exceed \$250,000 per year, or \$2,250,000 in the aggregate, from March 1, 2020-June 30, 2028.

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the recommendation. Trustee Athas so moved and Trustee Wasowicz 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 5, 2020.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Barsema stated that no closed session would be needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dennis Barsema asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Butler so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Wright
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.