

Minutes of the  
**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Special Meeting**  
November 12, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. by Board Chair Dennis Barsema virtually. This Special meeting was conducted through video conferencing communications pursuant to Section 6 of Executive Order 2020-7 (Suspending Open Meetings Act requirements of in person attendance by members of a public body). Recording Secretary Crystal Doyle conducted a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Trustee Aidan Shields: Present

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Present

All members of the Board of Trustees were present.

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 Chinniah; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Associate Vice President for Information Technology Matt Parks; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Cathy Doederlein and Kendall Thu.

**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 Barsema asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Vice Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 17, 2020. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Vice Chair Wasowicz seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

UAC Representative Kendall Thu commended President Freeman on the NIU goals and the inclusive process that included input from shared governance. The FY21 goals are already shaping some of the work that is being done in shared governance, particularly on the social justice committee.

Chair Barsema made brief remarks.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Barsema introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry indicated that there was no request for public comment.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 146**

Chair Barsema asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 146.

#### **President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.a. FY21 Goals for Northern Illinois University and President Lisa Freeman**

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

Board members expressed gratitude, pride, and excitement about the inclusiveness of the goal setting process, updated timeline, and future for NIU. President Freeman thanked Board members and the members of the University community that helped create the FY21 goals.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

#### **President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.b. FY21 Recommendation for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion**

President Freeman noted that the FY21 Recommendation for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion item was discussed in detail at the AASAP meeting earlier today.

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

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Abstain

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.c. DeKalb Campus – Central Campus Roadway Improvements**

President Freeman noted that the DeKalb Campus – Central Campus Roadway Improvements item was discussed in detail at the FACFO meeting earlier today.

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

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Abstain

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

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 December 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Barsema 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: personnel matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(1)(2)(3) and (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; and closed session minutes matters as generally described under section 2(c)(21) of the open meetings act.

Trustee Herrero so moved, and Vice Chair Wasowicz seconded.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to take a roll call vote to close the public meeting.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 1:34 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 3:03 p.m.

Chair Barsema asked Dr. Streb to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Trustee Aidan Shields: Present

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Present

The motion was approved.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Athas so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

Chair Barsema asked Dr. Streb to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 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.*