

Minutes of the  
**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Regular Meeting**  
June 18, 2020

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m. by Board Chair Dennis Barsema virtually. Recording Secretary Liz Wright conducted a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Present

Trustee Bob Pritchard: 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 of Information Technology Matt Parks; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Kelly Wesener-Michael; Associate Vice President of Facilities Management and Campus Services John Heckmann; Senior Director of Housing and Residential Services Dan Pederson; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Alex Gelman, Jason Hanna, Jeffry Royce, Kendall Thu, Cathy Doederlein, and Sarah Marsh.

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

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to amend that motion in order to remove agenda item 8.a.9 Naperville Out-Lease with American Institutes for Research as they will not be continuing their lease at this time. Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Herrero seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

## REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the minutes of May 14, 2020. Trustee Pritchard so moved and Trustee Mershon seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

## CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Dennis Barsema welcomed the University Advisory Committee (UAC) members present and asked for their comments.

UAC Representative Thu commented about the challenging times at NIU and his confidence that the faculty, staff, and students are up to the challenge. He stated that recently, with the help of Anna Quider, the Faculty Senate sent a letter to the IL delegation urging them to support additional funding of higher education. The letter is based upon stories he received from faculty members about NIU students who persevered during the Spring semester in the midst of the pandemic through various challenges, including family members impacted: through illness, economic hardship, lack of access to technology, mental health challenges, etc.

UAC Representative Thu further stated that members of the Faculty Senate will be sending a letter to students solidifying their stand against racial injustice. He continued that students are looking for anti-racism action and the Faculty Senate will be engaged when they meet in the fall. He concluded by congratulating colleagues who have earned tenure and promotion.

UAC Representative Royce stated that it is an uncertain time to be an employee at NIU and noted an understanding that painful decisions have to be made. He encouraged the administration to focus not only on figures and personnel, but also services provided. Further, he congratulated colleagues on the reimagined shared governance item and his excitement that civil service staff representation has gone up significantly.

UAC Representative Doederlein also recognized the challenging times we are facing, but also commented on the reasons for celebration. She noted the faculty up for tenure and/or promotion today, who through rich teaching, service and scholarship, make the university better every day. She thanked them for their contributions. Further, she noted support for the new title for Dr. Edghill-Walden and her interim appointment as chief human resource officer. Additionally, she celebrated the service of Trustee Mershon and the contributions and impact of Dr. Kaplan. She thanked UAC Representatives Royce and Thu for their collaboration this year and to the NIU employees who donated their parking refunds, equal to over \$21K for the Student Emergency Fund. Finally, she noted that the SPS Council passed a resolution asking that the university strongly consider allowing voluntary options for employees to take furloughs or donate a portion of their salary to those units most in need.

UAC Representative Gelman informed the Board that this was his last meeting and that he has reflected on the last three years. He has great hopes after seeing the wise decisions being made since the beginning of his tenure, fast forward to this crisis, and remains hopeful the administration will continue to make wise decisions.

Chair Barsema thanked UAC Representative Gelman for his service to the UAC and BOT.

UAC Representative Hanna recognized and thanked UAC Representative Thu for his leadership on the shared governance item.

UAC Representative Marsh reiterated comments from UAC colleagues that the university community understands the challenges ahead and all are committed to meeting those challenges with a student first mentality.

Chair Barsema brought attention to the Huskies United fundraising event, begins at 4:25 p.m. on June 24<sup>th</sup> and goes through midnight on June 25<sup>th</sup> (a total of 1895 minutes). Huskies never quit, but sometimes they need a little help. More information about the Huskies United campaign at [dog.niu.edu](http://dog.niu.edu) (day of giving) and/or apply to become an ambassador.

Chair Barsema stated in light of the recent events, he wanted to share comments from a video he recently recorded for the College of Business graduation. Although it was recorded in May, it touches on social and racial equality and justice. “Like all families, ours is grounded in a strong sense of core values. Being a member of the NIU family means that you embrace a commitment to social justice. You believe that all people should have access to the same opportunities you’ve enjoy. It means that you are a person of principle and integrity. And that you accept your responsibilities as a member of a larger world. In your time with us on our campus, I know that you have stretched your minds, now I urge you to stretch out your hands and hearts to others. To be a member of the NIU family it means that you care about others and are committed to holding the dignity of all people, including those most different from yourself. That you won’t empower hate, but rather you would embrace diversity and spread goodness, quality, and love to others – even if you don’t always get it in return.”

Chair Barsema said that the death of George Floyd, as well as many others, should not have happened. Black lives matter. This is a time of real social and legislative change and for all to take action, to have real discussions with family, friends, colleagues, and communities about racial justice and equality. As trustees, we are proud to support a diverse campus that embraces diversity and inclusivity.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Barsema introduced the public comment portion of the meeting.

General Counsel Perry indicated that there was no request for public comment.

#### **REPORTS OF THE BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS**

Chair Barsema reminded everyone that the reports of the Board Committees and the Board Liaisons are information only.

Vice President Squires presented the NIU Foundation report.

*Trustee Herrero departed meeting at 9:55 a.m.*

Board discussion followed.

Vice Chair Wasowicz highlighted the Athletics Victor E. Bash and the excellent way it has been done and congratulated the team that put the event together. Vice President Squires noted that all credit should go to Associate Vice President Frazier and his team.

Trustee Gayles asked about the diversity of the alumni association and the upcoming merger. Vice President Squires clarified and noted that they will continue to prioritize diverse perspectives.

Chair Barsema asked about the fundraising pace during the current market, which seems to be improving. Vice President Squires noted that they are paying close attention to how alumni and donors feel about moving forward with a campaign and may want to get their feedback as an interim step. Trustee Pritchard commented that there is great support for NIU, and he understands the need to proceed with caution, but keep moving forward.

Chair Barsema noted that in addition to UAC Representative Gelman, UAC Representative Royce and Hanna are transitioning off and he thanked them for their contributions and continued involvement at NIU and with the Board of Trustees.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 143**

Chair Barsema asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 143.

President Freeman thanked the members of the UAC, the Board Chair, and members of the Board for their comments. Our university's vision, mission, and values are not just words on website but things that Huskies carry in their hearts and a framework that drives our actions. She shared the confidence expressed that NIU will weather the storm by COVID-19. Further, President Freeman expressed confidence that we will be able to take the necessary steps to dismantle racism and remove structural inequity from our community.

President Freeman noted that since her statement, she and members of her leadership team have been listening, having difficult conversations, and doing so to ensure the antiracist and equity-minded agenda that is put forward respects the ideas and needs of our community. She thanked the community for coming together to support the creation of this agenda and moving it forward.

### **UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES**

#### **Agenda Item 8.a.1. Request for New Degree Program in Specialist in School Psychology**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.1. for approval.

Trustee Pritchard so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 8.a.2. Appointment of Dean, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.2. for approval.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Mershon seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.a.3. Appointment of Dean, College of Law**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.3. for approval.

Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.a.4. Amendment – Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.4. for approval.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

Chair Barsema congratulated all of the faculty members receiving tenure and/or promotion.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Abstain

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.a.5. FY21 Cisco Hardware Maintenance Contract**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.5. for approval.

Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

Trustee Gayles asked whether this included in person and/or virtual support. CIO Parks responded that this is 24/7 enterprise support virtually.

Trustee Pritchard clarified the approval amount.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 8.a.6. FY21 Division of Information Technology Campus Printer/Copier Program Contract Renewal**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.6. for approval.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 8.a.7. FY21 NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.7. for approval.

Trustee Athas so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 8.a.8. FY21 Intercollegiate Athletics Secondary Student Health Insurance Contract Renewal**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.8. for approval.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Butler seconded.

Trustee Gayles asked for clarification regarding which student athletes this includes. President Freeman clarified that it is all athletes that compete in NCAA MAC competition. And further clarified for Chair Barsema, that this item does not include eSports as they are a separate 501c3, not included in the NCAA.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.a.10. Out-Lease with Illinois Department of Agriculture**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.10. for approval.

Trustee Prichard so moved and Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES**

President Freeman asked whether any Trustees wanted to revisit information items forwarded from the committees. Hearing none, she continued to the items directly from the President.

*10:45 break/meeting resumed at 10:55*

### **ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT**

#### **Agenda Item 8.c.1. Proposed Amendments to Board Regulations Related to Return from Parental Leave for Non-Represented Faculty**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.1. for approval.

Trustee Athas so moved and Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

Vice Chair Wasowicz clarified that this item is making things equal. President Freeman concurred, non-represented faculty will have the same benefit as represented faculty.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 8.c.2. Appointment of Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.2. for approval.

Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Mershon seconded.

Board members expressed their enthusiasm for Dr. Edghill-Walden's appointment as Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and gratitude for the work she has done and continues to do since her arrival at NIU.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.c.3. Media Buying Service**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.3. for approval

Trustee Athas so moved and Trustee Butler seconded.

Trustee Pritchard asked that Vice President Jensen update the Board in the future on the progress/impact of this contract.

Trustee Gayles noted that the diversity of the contractors/vendors is important and appreciated that it was included.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.c.4. Fiscal Year 2021 Room and Board Fee Recommendation Update**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.4. for approval.

Trustee Pritchard so moved and Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

Board discussion followed.

Board members clarified the following: HSC will offer an option for rooms if needed as stated in the item; the total units of housing that will be available are about 2,795 and normally, it would have been 3,795; students will be reassigned to housing and it is unlikely that students will all be able to get their first choice depending on the availability of rooms, but students who contracted earlier will get better options; communal space will follow CDC and IDPH guidance and promote face masks, hygiene, furniture arrangements that promote social distancing, and close areas only if needed – the priority will be to keep students safe and provide a good experience. Guidance from the IBHE will be forthcoming; the university is still determining final guidance on what health measures make sense (for example, symptom reporting, temperature taking, tracing, etc.) and has a work group considering how these measures apply to various types of students and will be releasing a report soon; students will still be charged the double rate for single rooms in an



effort to put students safety and wellbeing first; and NIU will have a campaign to promote a safe and caring community.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.c.5. Fiscal Year 2021 Transact Campus, Inc. Software and Hardware Renewal**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.5. for approval.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Mershon seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.c.6. Fiscal Year 2021 Preliminary Internal Budget**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.6. for approval.

Vice President Chinniah walked the Trustees through the FY21 preliminary internal budget item.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Athas seconded.

Board discussion followed.

Board members commended the leadership on being very conservative on the proposed budget in the midst of the unknowns of the pandemic. Further, Vice President Chinniah, her team, and the senior leadership team were thanked for their work during this challenging time. The budget will continue to be monitored and will likely be revised when it comes back to the Board again in September and should continue to be monitored quarterly. It was noted, that this initial budget gap is not sustainable.

Board Chair Barsema encouraged the Huskie community to continue to work together to narrow the current \$38.8MIL deficit and thanked the community for all of the hard decisions that had already been made.

*Trustee Herrero returned at 11:52 a.m.*

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.c.7. Appointment of the Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.7. for approval.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Herrero seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.c.8. Proposed Amendments to the University Constitution – Reimagined Shared Governance**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.8.

UAC Representative/Faculty Senate President Thu shared some of the background/history on the path to the proposal being shared at the meeting. He continued to thank UAC Representatives Royce and Doederlein, 2019-20 Speaker of the Senate Pearson, President Freeman, and University Council administrative support, Pat Erickson.

Dr. Thu presented and explained the shared governance structure and changes outlined in the Board of Trustees meeting report.

Chair Barsema proposed that the Board consider making a motion to suspend Article IV. Section 8 of the Board of Trustees Regulations, which require the item to have been presented in writing at a regular meeting immediately proceeding the meeting of approval. This would allow the Board to vote on this item. He asked for a motion to suspend the Board of Trustees Regulations as mentioned.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Athas seconded.

Trustee Pritchard noted the careful consideration needed to suspend Board Regulations and that he confirmed with the General Counsel that this suspension is aligned with other university policies.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve agenda item 8.c.8.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded.

Board discussion followed to clarify the impact of these changes.

Trustee Butler clarified how this would impact tenure decisions that are split/or otherwise need to normally go to the UCPC, now that there is a Faculty Senate Personnel Committee. Dr. Tu responded that the UCPC, which is the final body to approve tenure/promotion and sabbatical continues in its same function, however, the name has changed to the Faculty Senate Personnel Committee. The body known as the UCPC in title, was retained for non-faculty/non-tenure track related matters. The UCPC reports out on its own, the same thing will happen at the Faculty Senate Personnel Committee.

Trustee Butler also noted the ambiguous language related to how the faculty personnel advisor fits within this revised shared governance system. It was noted that the personnel advisor position does need to be clarified moving forward. Finally, as the policy is operationalized it needs to be clear to those in the personnel processes.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.c.9. Non-Accumulative Sick Leave**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.9.

### **Agenda Item 8.c.10. Student Emergency Fund Presentation**

Vice President Edghill-Walden, Associate Vice Provost Kersh, Director Olson, and Director Hardy presented an informational item on the Student Emergency Fund.

Prior to the start of the presentation, Vice President Edghill-Walden expressed her gratitude for her recent appointment to Vice President and her sincere thanks to Vice President Kaplan for her leadership. She continued to thank the President, the Board, the university leadership and the campus for their support. The presentation followed.

Kersh acknowledged Cathy Doederlein, Sandy Lopez, Anne Edwards, Brandon Lagana, Tamara Boston, and Michaela Holtz for their contributions in review of the applications and continued participation moving forward.

Chair Barsema thanked the group for their presentation and discussion followed.

Trustee Herrero thanked the faculty and staff that have contributed to the emergency fund and noted that it really shows who we are as Huskies. She asked for clarification on how funding amounts were disbursed.

Associate Vice Provost Kersh responded that the team identified categories of need with an associated amount. If multiple needs were identified, then students could receive up to the full amount. For the re-launched program, support for re-enrollment is being prioritized. Students have been notified via email, campus announcements, social media, advisors told students, etc. Both graduate and undergraduate students applied and received funding.

Chair Barsema noted the disproportionate impact COVID-19 has had on minorities, and the impact even \$500 can have. He asked whether students who applied for funding can be followed up with.

Associate Vice Provost Kersh said that the Center for Student Assistance is doing outreach to students that need additional support perhaps connecting with their advisor or other types of nonfinancial support including Career Services support for graduates who received funding in the spring.

*Break at 1:06 p.m./Resume at 1:15 p.m.*

## **CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 94**

Chair Barsema presented the Chair's report.

### **Agenda Item 9.a. Amendment to the Goals and Evaluation Timeline in the Presidential Contract**

Board Chair Barsema presented agenda item 9.a. for approval.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

Trustee Butler noted that he is very supportive of the changes. He did, however, note that while enrollment data is important, the evaluation is a holistic and includes all facets of the role of president. Another concern is that the student trustee would just be at the beginning their term if the evaluation takes place in the fall. It is imperative that the student trustee be given a holistic idea of what the performance involves through the other members on the board.

Trustee Wasowicz commented that this is the right timeline because of the various reporting dates (academic year, fiscal year, calendar year).

Trustee Herrero stated that the goals set for the president and the university are very important. They show how important student outcomes are because the timeline is being adjusted to include waiting until that information is available. She also noted that having the data will allow celebration when goals are met.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 9.b. Fiscal Year 2021 Election of Board Officers and Civil Service Merit Board Representative**

General Counsel Perry stated that due to the COVID-19 pandemic and consistent with the Governor's Restore Illinois Plan, the Board has been unable to meet in person at this time, so this year's Fiscal Year 2021 election will be held electronically.

General Counsel Perry said that according to the Bylaws the Board Chair should allow individuals to make statements of public expressions of interest, vision, or acknowledgement.

Board Chair Barsema invited Board members to make comments relative to any of the elected positions. He continued that he would be honored to serve a second term as Board Chair should the board see fit.

Vice Chair Wasowicz commented that he would support that and be honored to serve a second term as the Vice Chair.

Trustee Pritchard said that it has been a privilege to serve as secretary and he would be honored to continue in the role.

Trustee Butler expressed support for current leadership of the board and noted the effectiveness of the board's operations at this time. He would be willing to continue to serve in the Merit Board Representative role.

Trustee Athas stated that the current team is doing an excellent job. She proposed consideration of two-year terms moving forward.

Trustee Gayles echoed support of the current leadership team. Board Chair Barsema commented that he would support Trustee Gayles remaining the 5<sup>th</sup> Member of the Executive Committee.

General Counsel Perry reviewed the voting procedure. The trustees have been provided with Qualtrics surveys for each of the five positions: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Civil Service Merit Board Representative, and 5<sup>th</sup> Member of the Executive Committee. The name of each eligible Board member has been included in the survey. The majority of the board must approve each office position, so they will be done one at a time. Once the voting is complete, Ms. Wright notified General Counsel Perry who reads the results out loud. NIU law states that the positions of Chair and Secretary must be done anonymously, however, the Attorney General states that the votes must be public. To accommodate both, the positions of Chair and Secretary will not record who voted and be completely anonymous. The positions of Vice Chair, Civil Service Merit Board Representative, and 5<sup>th</sup> Member of the Executive Committee must record who voted for whom, so the surveys include a question that asks the board member to type their name before submitting and will not allow submissions without filling in a name.

**Board Chair Vote:** General Counsel Perry announced that the student trustee is not eligible for this position. Trustee Barsema was re-elected as Board Chair for Fiscal Year 2021.

**Vice Chair Vote:** General Counsel noted that Board Chair and the student trustee are not eligible for this position. He announced that Trustee Wasowicz was re-elected as Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2021.

**Secretary Vote:** General Counsel Perry noted that the Chair and Vice Chair are not eligible for this position. He announced that Trustee Pritchard was selected as Secretary for Fiscal Year 2021.

**Civil Service Merit Board Representative Vote:** General Counsel Perry announced that Trustee Butler was re-elected as the Merit Board Representative for Fiscal Year 2021.

5<sup>th</sup> Member of the Executive Committee Vote: General Counsel Perry noted that the Board Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Civil Service Merit Board Representative are not eligible for this position. He announced that Trustee Gayles was re-elected.

**Agenda Item 9.c. Resolution Honoring Madalynn Mershon's Distinguished Service to the Northern Illinois Board of Trustees.**

Trustee Butler read the following resolution into the record.

**WHEREAS**, Madalynn Mershon has faithfully served as a student member of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees from July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to her appointment as Student Trustee, Madalynn Mershon served as the Director of Academic Affairs in the NIU Student Government Association, during that body's 50th session; and, in that role, served on a variety of committees working to improve student life and academics, including working with the Academic Planning Council on online and hybrid courses, and serving on the Textbook Affordability Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, as a member of the Board of Trustees, Madalynn Mershon contributed valuable insight and information regarding the student perspective, serving as a member of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee; the Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee; and the Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Madalynn Mershon is also a proud member of the Alpha Phi Sorority and served that organization as the Vice President of Risk Management from January 2018 to December 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, during her experience as a student at Northern Illinois University, Madalynn Mershon completed a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a Certificate in Criminology; and

**WHEREAS**, we, as her colleagues on the Board of Trustees, want to express our appreciation for Madalynn's service to the NIU students and community, congratulate her on her achievement of her undergraduate degree, and wish her continued success in her professional career.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University in formal meeting herein assembled extends its grateful appreciation to Madalynn Mershon for her distinguished service to Northern Illinois University.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution be presented to Madalynn Mershon and a copy of this document be placed in the official files of the Board of Trustees as part of the permanent record of the University and the great State of Illinois and as a lasting tribute to the accomplishments of Madalynn Mershon.

Adopted in a meeting assembled this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

Board members thanked Trustee Mershon for her service.

**Agenda Item 9.d. Resolution Honoring Dr. Anne C. Kaplan for Distinguished Service to Northern Illinois University.**

Trustee Butler read the following resolution into the record.

**WHEREAS**, service to others within one's community and responsible governance, civic engagement, and positive community relations are pursuits worthy of the highest praise, and wise stewardship is critical to the vitality and economic sustainability of institutions of higher education in the State of Illinois; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Anne C. Kaplan has faithfully served Northern Illinois University for 46 years, creating programs, managing functions, and nurturing both causes and people; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Kaplan has served as a skilled strategic advisor to deans, provosts, and presidents throughout her long career; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Kaplan was instrumental in creation of the structure, operating principals, and administrative support for the NIU Board of Trustees since its inception 24 years ago and has been a source of wise counsel for the 51 trustees who have served on the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, the process she created four decades ago for evaluating academic programs continues to this day to ensure that an NIU education is always up-to-date and gives students the skills they need to succeed in a rapidly changing workplace; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Kaplan's behind-the-scenes strategic planning skills were applied to many different initiatives, creating such disparate achievements as the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology and the Center for Burma Studies; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Kaplan consistently lent her expertise to quality of life issues on campus including child care, health care, improved salaries for clerical staff, resources for the LGBT community, affirmative action, and a variety of issues affecting women; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Kaplan has been a stalwart advocate for place bound adult learners and has advanced the cause of continuing and off-campus education through more than four decades of successive university leadership and was instrumental in the establishment of three regional educational centers; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Kaplan developed and has successfully nurtured the Division of Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development (OERD) for two decades; and

**WHEREAS**, under Dr. Kaplan's direction, OERD has developed a robust P-20 Center; has successfully managed the regional centers in Hoffman Estates, Rockford, and Naperville and the Lorado Taft Field Campus in Oregon; built connections with municipalities throughout the region via the Center for Governmental Studies; obtained what remains NIU's largest-ever grant to build a broadband network throughout northern Illinois; met the information and

entertainment needs of 100,000 weekly listeners to Northern Public Radio; and was instrumental in bringing about the Northern Illinois Center for Non-Profit Excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, this large portfolio of programs has steered NIU in a direction that seeks deeper connection to its community and region, builds communities and supports the people who live there, and makes more visible NIU's impact, and has resulted in Carnegie Foundation designation as an Engaged University and NIU's receipt of the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities' prestigious Innovation and Economic Prosperity Award; and

**WHEREAS**, dozens of women and men consider Anne Kaplan to have been an invaluable guide and mentor in their own NIU careers;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University in formal meeting herein assembled extends its grateful appreciation to Dr. Anne C. Kaplan for her distinguished service to Northern Illinois University from 1974 to 2020.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution be presented to Dr. Anne C. Kaplan and a copy of this document be placed in the official files of the Board of Trustees as part of the permanent record of the university and the great State of Illinois and as a lasting tribute to the accomplishments of Anne C. Kaplan.

Adopted in a meeting assembled this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2020.

Board members shared the impact that Vice President Kaplan has had on them, as well as the university. They thanked her for all she has done for the university and the community.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

No other matters were discussed.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Chair Dennis Barsema announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held September 17, 2020.

#### **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 Gayles so moved and Trustee Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.



Chair Barsema asked Ms. Wright 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 Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting closed at 2:23 p.m.

At 3:54 p.m. the Board returned from closed session.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Absent

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded.

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

Trustee Rita Athas: Absent

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Madalynn Mershon: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Wright

Recording Secretary

*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.*