

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Special Meeting
November 18, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Board Chair Eric Wasowicz in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall.

Recording Secretary Crystal Doyle conducted a roll call.

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Board Liaison and Chief of Staff Matt Streb; Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram; Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer 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; Vice President for University Advancement Catherine Squires; Vice President and Director of Athletics and Recreation Sean Frazier; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Felicia Bohanon, and Holly Nicholson.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

General Counsel Bryan 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 Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 23, 2021

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the minutes of September 23, 2021. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

UAC Representative Nicholson spoke on concerns from fellow civil service coworkers. Some of the concerns that were mentioned were employee morale, pay increases, promotions, ineffective managers, workload, and diversity in civil service positions. Addressing staff salaries must be the

highest priority and is willing to help in any way that is needed. Ms. Nicholson stressed that we need to find solutions to the issues around campus.

UAC Representative Bohanon commented that the Supportive Professional Staff agrees and is very supportive of the comments that UAC Representative Nicholson made. Ms. Bohanon mentioned that SPS has a lot of the same concerns and is also willing to help in any way that is needed to try and find solutions to the problems.

Chair Wasowicz assured UAC Representatives Nicholson and Bohanon that the issues they commented on will be addressed and hopefully solutions can be found. Chair Wasowicz applauded President Freeman and her team with all the work they have done on the Strategic Plan and Goals. Chair Wasowicz is hopeful they can take NIU to new and higher levels of being able to provide a better institution for the students, faculty, and staff.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Wasowicz introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry stated that there was one public comment and invited Ms. Rave Meyer to the podium.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 155

Chair Wasowicz asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 155.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.a. EAB Undergraduate Recruitment Services

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.a. Vice Chair Athas so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion was approved.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.b. On- and Off-Campus Unarmed Security Patrol

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.b. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.c. Bowl Game Participation Expense

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.d. Appointment of Vice President and Director of Athletics and Recreation

The trustees were all very supportive and very happy to see this appointment for Sean Frazier.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.d. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.e. Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Metropolitan Alliance of Police #414 Security Guards

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.e. Trustee Butler so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.f. Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Teamsters Local #330 Transportation Department

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.f. Vice Chair Athas so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.g. Collective Bargaining Agreement for the International Union of Operation Engineers Local #399 Heating Plant

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.g. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded. The motion was approved.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.h. Collective Bargaining Agreement for the International Union of Operation Engineers Local #150 Grounds Department

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.h. Trustees Gayles so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded. The motion was approved.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.i. Real Estate Property Sale – Art Annex

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.i. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion was approved.

President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.j. Academic Year 2021-22 (Fiscal Year 2022) University Goals

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.j. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Vice Chair Athas 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 December 7, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Wasowicz 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; real estate matters as generally described under section 2(c)(5) and (6) 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 Barsema so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 2:28 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 5:19 p.m.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to adjourn. Vice Chair Athas so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:22 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.