



Special Meeting  
of the  
Board of Trustees

*August 26, 2021*

**Special Meeting of the  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
12:30 p.m. – Thursday – August 26, 2021**

**This meeting is being conducted in person and through videoconferencing communications pursuant to Public Act 101-0640, enacted June 12, 2020, and section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, allowing for virtual board meetings during a disaster declaration relating to public health concerns. As Chair of the Board, I have determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the disaster. As such, trustees may attend today’s meeting by audio and visual conferencing and not by physical presence.**

**AGENDA**

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call
- 2. Verification of Quorum and Appropriate Notification of Public Meeting
- 3. Meeting Agenda Approval.....Action..... i
- 4. [Review and Approval of Minutes of June 17, 2021](#) .....Action.....1
- 5. Chair's Comments/Announcements
- 6. Public Comment\*
- 7. President’s Report No. 152
  - a. [Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2021-2022](#).....Action.....12
  - b. [External Print Services](#).....Action.....13
  - c. [Campus Mobile Technology Needs](#).....Action.....14
  - d. [Bank Account – Signatory Authorization](#).....Action.....15
  - e. [Harper College University Center Strategic Partnership Agreement](#).....Action.....16
- 8. Other Matters
- 9. Next Meeting Date
- 10. Closed Session
- 11. Adjournment

\*Individuals wishing to make an appearance before the Board should consult the [Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University](#), Article II, Section 4 – *Appearances before the Board*. Appearance request forms can be completed [online](#) in advance of the meeting or will be available in the Board Room the day of the meeting. For more information contact Crystal Doyle [ccoppel@niu.edu](mailto:ccoppel@niu.edu).

**Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in the NIU Board of Trustees meetings should contact Crystal Doyle, [ccoppel@niu.edu](mailto:ccoppel@niu.edu) or (815) 753-1273, as soon as possible.**

Minutes of the  
**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Regular Meeting**  
June 17, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chair Dennis Barsema. This regular 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). Board Chair Barsema noted that some of the trustees and staff are in-person today for the Board of Trustees meeting, but their in-person attendance is voluntary. The meeting is still being conducted pursuant to Section 6 of Executive Order 2020-7. 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Present

All members of the Board of Trustees, except Student Trustee Aidan Shields was present.

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Chief of Staff and Board Liaison 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; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; Vice President for Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Interim Chief Human Resources Officer Vernese Edghill-Walden; Associate Vice President for Information Technology Matt Parks; Vice President for University Advancement Catherine Squires; Associate Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Kelly Wesener-Michael; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Dean Robert Brinkmann; Incoming College of Health and Human Sciences Dean Lynda Ransdall; Mayor of DeKalb Cohen Barnes; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Greg Beyer, Cathy Doederlein, Katy Jaekel, Natasha Johnson, Sarah Marsh, and Kendall Thu.

**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 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to amend that motion, in order to approve a consent agenda for action items 8.a.3. through 8.a.16. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Athas 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2021**

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the minutes of May 13, 2021. Trustee Gayles 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

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

Chair Barsema welcomed DeKalb Mayor Cohen Barnes, an NIU Alum, to the Board of Trustees meeting, and welcomed Mayor Barnes to make comments. Mayor Barnes spoke about his time at NIU as a student, and how he continues to support NIU in a variety of ways. Mayor Barnes noted excitement at the opportunity for the City of DeKalb and NIU to work together and build a stronger relationship.

Chair Barsema welcomed the members of the University Advisory Council who were present and acknowledged that this was Kendall Thu, Cathy Doederlein, and Sarah Marsh's last meeting as UAC representatives. Chair Barsema thanked them for their service and dedication to the University Advisory Committee and to Northern Illinois University. Kendall Thu was also congratulated on his upcoming retirement.

Chair Barsema asked if any of the UAC members had comments.

UAC Representative Thu thanked Chair Barsema for his kind words. He also thanked everyone for all the opportunities he has been offered at NIU and thanked all the students and staff he has worked with over the years. Thu mentioned the many challenges that are facing higher education right now and is confident that NIU will continue to show its leadership on all fronts while facing those challenges.

UAC Representative Doederlein thanked Chair Barsema for his kind words. She stated how she enjoyed celebrating the recent 2021 graduates and really looks forward to the planning for the fall 2021 semester and to seeing more students on campus. She further noted excitement to see the 3% salary increment for the non-represented staff item going before the Board of Trustees today. Doederlein thanked Chair Barsema for his guidance and all the board members for their support of shared governance.

UAC Representative Marsh thanked Chair Barsema for his kind words and thanked all the trustees for the opportunity to serve as a UAC member. She congratulated all the faculty on their promotions and tenure.

UAC Representative Johnson spoke about some concerns staff members are having that have come out of APAC. Letters are being drafted with their concerns and will be shared at a later date.

UAC Representative Jaekel congratulated and expressed how proud she is of the faculty that are receiving promotions and tenure today. She also thanked the outgoing UAC members for their guidance and all that she has learned from them and shared that it was a wonderful experience serving on the UAC together.

Chair Barsema spoke about Dr. Carolinda Douglass and congratulated her on her retirement after 25 dedicated years to Northern Illinois University. He wished her and her husband, Ted Moen, who retired from the College of Education, well in their retirement.

Chair Barsema reflected on his time as chair of the Board of Trustees at NIU. He mentioned how he has enjoyed seeing the reputation of NIU grow locally and nationally. Chair Barsema said how it has been an extreme honor and pleasure to work with President Freeman and her leadership team, as well as, the other members of the board. Chair Barsema expressed how he is looking forward to working with the new leaders that will be elected today.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Barsema introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry indicated that there were no registered public comments.

#### **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.

Trustee Herrero gave an update on item 7.d. Illinois Board of Higher Education. President Freeman also added some comments in regard to the Strategic Plan.

Catherine Squires, Vice President for Advancement and President & CEO of the NIU Foundation, provided a verbal report for item 7.h.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 151**

Chair Barsema asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 151.

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

##### **Agenda Item 8.a.1. Request to Transition Tenure Home**

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

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 8.a.1. Vice Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Athas 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

President Freeman asked Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram, to talk about the changes to Agenda Item 8.a.1. Request to Transition Tenure Home.

Executive Vice President and Provost Ingram mentioned that this item was presented at the AASAP meeting on May 13, 2021. Since the May 13, 2021, AASAP meeting, Dr. Lan Li a professor in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences, has decided to join the College of Business as a professor in the Department of Management. An amendment is needed to add the transition of Dr. Lan Li's tenure home to the Department of Management to this item.

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the changes to agenda item 8.a.1. Trustee Gayles 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.a.2. Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2021-2022**

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

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 8.a.2. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Butler 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

President Freeman presented the items that were moved to consent agenda including:

**Agenda Item 8.a.3. Renewal of Blackboard Learn Software License**

**Agenda Item 8.a.4. Smart Guidance**

**Agenda Item 8.a.5. Beverage Program (Fiscal Year 2022-Fiscal Year 2027 with Options)**

**Agenda Item 8.a.6. Music Building – Partial Roof Replacement Capital Project Approval**

**Agenda Item 8.a.7. Convocation Center – Arena and Auxiliary Gym Lighting Upgrade Capital Project Approval**

**Agenda Item 8.a.8. Outbound Ticket Sales Vendor Agreement**

**Agenda Item 8.a.9. Air Charter Services for NIU Football Team**

**Agenda Item 8.a.10. Secondary Student Health Insurance Contract Renewal**

**Agenda Item 8.a.11. NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract**

**Agenda Item 8.a.12. Talent Acquisition/Advertising Consulting Firm Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity**

**Agenda Item 8.a.13. Campus Printer/Copier Program Contract Renewal**

**Agenda Item 8.a.14. Cisco Hardware Maintenance Contract**

**Agenda Item 8.a.15. Renewal of OnBase Software Maintenance**

**Agenda Item 8.a.16. Adobe Enterprise Term License Agreement (ETLA)**

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Vice Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Athas 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: Absent

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.

**ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**Agenda Item 8.c.1. Proposed Amendment to the University Constitution – Article 6.1.1 Definitions of University Faculty**

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

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.1. Trustee Gayles 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 8.c.2. Fiscal Year 2022 University Internal Budget**

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

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.2. Trustee Herrero 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 8.c.3. Blackboard Learn Software License**



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

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.3. Trustee Athas 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: Absent
Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes	Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 8.c.4. Appointment of Dean for the College of Health and Human Sciences**

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

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.4. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Athas 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: Absent
Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes	Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

The trustees welcomed Dr. Lynda Ransdell to NIU and the Huskie family. Dr. Ransdell thanked everyone for the warm welcome and expressed how excited she is to join the Huskie family, NIU and the College of Health and Human Sciences.

#### **Agenda Item 8.c.5. Establishment of Position of Vice President for Student Affairs and Appointment of Interim to Position**

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

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.5. 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: Absent
Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes	Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 8.c.6. Resolution to Adopt Deferred Compensation Plan Offered by the State Universities Retirement System and Employer Participation Agreement**

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

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.6. Trustee Gayles 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.c.7. Fiscal Year 2022 Non-Represented Staff Salary Increment Allocation Guidelines**

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

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.7. Trustee Athas 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.c.8. Appointment of Interim Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for International Affairs**

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

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

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.c.9. Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for International Affairs Search Update**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.9.

*Break at 11:07 a.m./Resume at 11:20 a.m.*

*Trustee Herrero stepped out at 11:08 a.m.*

*President Freeman stepped out at 11:20 a.m.*

### **Agenda Item 8.c.10. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Overview**

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.10. Robert Brinkmann, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences presented an overview of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

*President Freeman returned at 11:33 a.m.*

Chair Barsema presented the Chair's report No. 98.

**Agenda Item 9.a. Fiscal Year 2022 Election of Board Officers and Civil Service Merit Board Representative**

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

Board Chair Barsema took a moment to thank the officers of the executive committee and the Civil Service Merit Board Representative from this past year. He thanked them for all their service and hard work and their dedication to Northern Illinois University.

*Trustee Herrero has been marked as absent for the Fiscal Year 2022 Election of Board Officers and Civil Service Merit Board Representative*

General Counsel Perry asked if there were any comments or nominations for any of the offices.

Trustee Butler made a nomination for Trustee Athas for the Vice Chair position and hoped the other trustees would support his nomination. Trustee Athas accepted the nomination.

Board Chair Barsema made a nomination for Vice Chair Wasowicz for the Chair position. Vice Chair Wasowicz thanked Board Chair Barsema and accepted the nomination.

Trustee Pritchard made a nomination for Trustee Gayles for the Secretary position. Trustee Gayles thanked Trustee Pritchard and accepted the nomination.

Vice Chair Wasowicz made a nomination for Trustee Pritchard for the 5<sup>th</sup> Member of the Executive Committee position. Trustee Pritchard thanked Vice Chair Wasowicz and accepted the nomination.

Board Chair Barsema made a nomination for Trustee Butler for the Civil Service Merit Board Representative position. Trustee Butler thanked Board Chair Barsema and accepted the nomination. Trustee Pritchard seconded that nomination.

Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry explained the process of the election and the voting procedures. The trustees have been provided paper ballots and Trustee Herrero has been provided Qualtrics surveys should she return to the meeting in time to vote 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 and the paper ballots. The majority of the board must approve each officer position, so they will be done one at a time. Once the voting is complete, Ms. Doyle and General Counsel Perry will count the votes and General Counsel Perry will read 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 position 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 and ballot include a question that asks the board member to type or write in their name before submitting and will not allow submissions without filling in a name.

Board Chair Vote: General Counsel Perry announced that Trustee Wasowicz was elected as Chair for Fiscal Year 2022.

Vice Chair Vote: General Counsel Perry announced that Trustee Athas was elected as Vice Chair for Fiscal Year 2022.

*Trustee Herrero returned at 12:07 p.m. and participated in the election*

Secretary Vote: General Counsel Perry announced that Trustee Gayles was elected as Secretary for Fiscal Year 2022.

Civil Service Merit Board Representative Vote: General Counsel Perry announced that Trustee Butler was re-elected as the Civil Service Merit Board Representative for Fiscal Year 2022.

5<sup>th</sup> Member of the Executive Committee Vote: General Counsel Perry announced that Trustee Pritchard was elected as 5<sup>th</sup> Member of the Executive Committee for Fiscal Year 2022.

**Agenda Item 9.b. Resolution Honoring Student Trustee Aidan Shields Distinguished Service to the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees**

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

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 9.b. Vice Chair Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded.

Trustee Butler read the following resolution into the record.

**WHEREAS**, Aidan Shields has faithfully served as a student member of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to his appointment as Student Trustee, Aidan Shields served as the Director of Athletics and Recreation in the NIU Student Government Association; and, in that role, served on a variety of committees working to promote NIU Athletics and improve the wellness of individuals within the university, including the Athletic Board and the Health and Wellness Steering Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, as a member of the Board of Trustees, Aidan Shields 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**, Aidan Shields served in the role of Student Trustee during the global coronavirus pandemic, an exigency that required urgent and unprecedented institutional planning and the facilitation of such activity remotely – a unique and challenging situation for campus leadership and university governance; and

**WHEREAS**, Aidan Shields is also a proud member of the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity and served that organization as Recruitment Chairman (2018), New Member Educator (2018-2019), Vice President (2019), and President (2020); was active in that organization's Tugs team (in 2021); and sought to advance Greek life at NIU through these and other leadership endeavors; and

**WHEREAS**, during his experience as a student at Northern Illinois University, Aidan Shields completed a Bachelor of Science in Marketing with a Certificate in Digital Marketing; and

**WHEREAS**, we, as his colleagues on the Board of Trustees, want to express our appreciation for Aidan's service to the NIU students and community, congratulate him on his achievement of his undergraduate degree, and wish him continued success in his 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 Aidan Shields for his distinguished service to Northern Illinois University.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution be presented to Aidan Shields 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 Aidan Shields.

Adopted in a meeting assembled this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

Board members thanked Trustee Shields for his service.

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 Shield: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

Chair Barsema noted for the record that the December 9, 2021, Board of Trustees meeting has been moved to December 7, 2021. This change will be made on the Board of Trustees website.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Chair Barsema announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held September 23, 2021, at 9 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 Gayles so moved, and Trustee Athas 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting closed at 12:26 p.m.

At 1:04 p.m. the Board returned from closed session.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Present

The motion was approved.

## ADJOURNMENT

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Athas 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: Absent

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 1:05 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.*

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR  
FACULTY TENURE AND/OR PROMOTION EFFECTIVE 2021-2022**

**Summary:** Dr. Garry Sunter has been hired as the chair of the Department of Biological Sciences with the rank of professor with tenure. Dr. Sunter comes to NIU from the University of Texas-San Antonio where he served as chair and professor of the Department of Biology.

NAME

COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL

**Hired at the Rank of Professor with Tenure**

Garry Sunter

Biological Sciences

**Recommendation:** The Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval for the request for Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2021-2022.

## **EXTERNAL PRINT SERVICES**

**Summary:** The university has determined that partnering with an external service provider for print services will enhance service delivery to campus, create greater efficiencies, and allow for the best use of university resources. The university is requesting approval to enter into an agreement with RR Donnelley to assume responsibility for campus print services. The initial award is a two-year term plus three optional renewal years, with a value not to exceed \$7.5M over the five years.

**Background:** In June 2019, the university embarked on a request for proposal (RFP) to research whether transitioning print services to an outside vendor would be advantageous in terms of service delivery and operational efficiencies. Several campus stakeholders were consulted throughout the RFP process, and each helped identify the level of service requirements from an external vendor and the potential impacts an external partnership may have across campus and on the printing culture in general. The RFP committee evaluated the vendor responses and concluded that RR Donnelley was the best choice in terms of service offerings, customer service and price points within a reasonable proximity to campus. RR Donnelley is a trusted partner who can perform printing services more efficiently, some at a lower cost than what the university currently pays.

The print shop has been an important part of campus for its 70-plus years of operation, but several factors led to the recommendation of partnering with RR Donnelley. While NIU relies on printing services to enable the work to be done, it is not core to the university's mission, and faculty and staff are printing fewer materials every year. Without having print services onsite, the university will see a further, appropriate reduction in the amount of printed materials as units pursue other means to distribute materials. This is in line with the university's progress towards automated and streamlined processes, and an effort which will recognize savings primarily in the forms of lower print volume and equipment upkeep. A number of specialized printing and mailing machines NIU uses in the print shop are costly and need to be replaced. Further, eighty percent of orders in the existing print shop are for fewer than 500 pieces, with the vast majority of those producing fewer than 100. Improvements in technology have provided simpler, more efficient ways to produce the educational materials, forms, tests, advertisements, and other items that campus has relied upon the shop to provide in the past. RR Donnelley has access to greater printing efficiencies and equipment, and the university has existing resources available to assist campus in exploring creative, accessible ways to create reports, promote events and programs, and handle other tasks electronically.

These electronic capabilities, in combination with transitioning print services to RR Donnelley, will ensure NIU is meeting the printing needs of its students, faculty, and staff in the most efficient manner and one which affirms the university's trajectory towards more modernized operations.

**Funding:** Various sources, based on campus use; estimated not to exceed (NTE) \$7.5M over five years.

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval for the request of External Print Services.



## **CAMPUS MOBILE TECHNOLOGY NEEDS**

**Summary:** As campus leaders consider the return-to-work plan, the technology needs of faculty and staff emerge as an urgent concern requiring attention. The purchase and deployment of laptops and other mobile technology are imperative to encourage a nimble and effective workforce. With the use of COVID-19 relief funding, the university is requesting to purchase roughly 250 laptops and related equipment up to \$350,000 in total value.

**Background:** When campus operations were abruptly required to transition to a remote environment, many faculty and staff were not equipped with necessary technology to effectively perform their job responsibilities. During the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Division of Information Technology procured three bulk shipments of laptops to deploy to users and areas with the greatest need, but these purchases did not come close to filling campus needs nor were they part of a comprehensive technology refresh plan. This request for approximately 250 devices will be deployed on an equitable basis across campus and will be accompanied by preliminary multi-year plans to address future technology needs.

**Funding:** Institutional Local Funds \$350,000

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval for the request of Campus Mobile Technology Needs.

## **BANK ACCOUNT – SIGNATORY AUTHORIZATION**

**Summary:** The Treasurer of the Board of Trustees (the Vice President of Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer), the Associate Vice President of Finance and Treasury, the University Controller, and the University Deputy Controller are being submitted as authorized signatories for all treasury operations, including authorized signatories for university bank accounts. This designation is consistent with prior authorizations.

**Background:** On February 15, 2018, the Board of Trustees designated four positions with signatory authorization over all treasury operations. These positions were the Treasurer of the Board of Trustees (Vice President of Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer), the Associate Vice President of Finance and Budget (now, the Associate Vice President of Finance and Treasury), the University Controller, and the Director of Treasury Operations. The Director of Treasury Operations position has been vacated effective July 31, 2021 and will not be refilled. The treasury duties will be assumed by the Deputy Controller and as such the university's signatory authorization needs to be updated to reflect this reorganization.

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval for the request of Bank Account – Signatory Authorization.

## HARPER COLLEGE UNIVERSITY CENTER STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

**Summary:** NIU is currently offering select bachelor's degree programs at the Harper College University Center. This is a unique degree completion partnership with one of our premiere community college partners and expands NIU to an audience of transfer students that are often place-bound, yet seek bachelor degree attainment. The partnership agreement includes a tuition-sharing revenue model wherein the university serves a financial pass-through function to compensate Harper College for the agreed upon tuition share. Academic Affairs requests permission to continue the strategic partnership agreement with the Harper College University Center, including tuition-sharing payments to Harper College in accordance with the terms of the partnership agreement.

**Background:** As part of NIU's Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, increasing targeted recruitment efforts and prioritizing access are strategic imperatives. This strategy requires strong partnerships and seamless transfer pathways for transfer students and location-bound students. We continuously seek to identify new and creative collaborations with our community college partners that facilitate pathways to bachelor degree attainment in seamless and cost-effective ways. Since 2017, NIU has worked in partnership with Harper College to create transfer pathways and make certain NIU courses available on the Harper campus. In September 2020, an updated partnership agreement between The Harper College University Center and NIU was developed to continue this important partnership. Through this partnership, NIU is currently offering bachelor's degree programs in Computer Science, Marketing, and Psychology at the Harper College University Center. The degree pathways include in-person courses held at Harper College as well as certain online or hybrid course offerings. All courses, including the in-person courses taught at Harper, are taught by NIU faculty. Additional degree programs may be added during the partnership through mutual agreement. Since Fall 2018, NIU has welcomed nearly 120 students and graduated the first cohort of 19 individuals in May 2021.

Under the tuition-sharing model, students enrolled through the partnership are enrolled in NIU courses and are billed tuition by NIU applicable to the courses or programs the student is pursuing. NIU shares a portion of the tuition revenue collected with Harper College. The amount shared with Harper for bachelor's degree programs is 15% of the collected tuition revenue for in-person courses held at the Harper College University Center, and 10% of the collected tuition revenue for all other modalities. For graduate degrees, 15% of the collected tuition revenue will be shared with Harper. Differential tuition, NIU scholarships, and fees are not part of the tuition-share.

The term of the current partnership agreement is five years, comprised of an initial three-year term commencing September 2, 2020 and ending September 1, 2023, with the option to renew for two additional one-year terms. The projected total in tuition-share payments to Harper College over the five-year agreement term is estimated to be \$510,000.

**Funding:** Appropriated/Income Funds - \$510,000

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval for the request of the Harper College University Center Strategic Partnership Agreement.