

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs
Committee Meeting
May 13, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 10:48 a.m. by Committee Chair Rita Athas. The Committee meeting was conducted through video conferencing communications and was conducted pursuant to Section 6 of Executive Order 2020-7 (Suspending OMA requirements of in person attendance by members of a public body). Recording Secretary Jessica Cima conducted a roll call of the Trustees.

Trustee John Butler: Present	Trustee Montel Gayles: Present
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present
Trustee Aidan Shields: Present	Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Present
Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Present	Committee Chair Rita Athas: Present

Also present were President Lisa Freeman; Committee Liaison and Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Gerald Blazey; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Chief of Staff and Liaison to the Board of Trustees Matt Streb; Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations Anna Quider; Dean of University Libraries Fred Barnhart, and Professor of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences Walker Ashley.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

General Counsel Bryan Perry indicated the appropriate notification of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. General Counsel Perry also advised that a quorum was present.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Committee Chair Athas asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Shields seconded. The motion was approved.

Committee Chair Athas asked Ms. Cima to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes
Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes	Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes
Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes	Committee Chair Rita Athas: Yes

The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Chair Athas asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 18, 2021. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Board Chair Barsema seconded. The motion was approved.

Committee Chair Athas asked Ms. Cima to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

Committee Chair Rita Athas: Yes

The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee Chair Athas reported that the Committee would be receiving reports from State and Federal Relations regarding the status of legislation and funding. Committee Chair Athas noted that Dr. Gerald Blazey, Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships recently testified to the House Subcommittee on Research and Technology regarding the NSF for the Future Act. Committee Chair Athas welcomed the members of the University Advisory Committee and requested comments. No comments were submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

UNIVERSITY REPORTS

Committee Chair Athas asked Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Dr. Gerald Blazey, to provide an update from the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships. Dr. Blazey, reported on his recent congressional testimony to the House Subcommittee on Research and Technology regarding the NSF for the Future Act. Dr. Blazey summarized his testimony, in three primary points: Universities with profiles like NIU deliver high quality research, collectively they have an important role in research opportunities for students of all backgrounds, and the distribution of federal research dollars must be adjusted so that all students have opportunities. Dr. Blazey reported that total external funding for the first three quarters of FY21 was \$45 million.

Agenda Item 7.a. State Legislative Report

Chief of Staff and Liaison to the Board of Trustees Dr. Matt Streb, provided the State Legislative Report. Dr. Streb reported on IL Senate Bill 0815 Illinois School Student Records Act, which amends a previous bill and makes a technical change in a section concerning the short title. Dr. Streb also reported on IL Senate Bill 1832, which amends the Public Community College Act and allows the board of trustees of a community college district to establish and offer a baccalaureate degree in early childhood education and a Professional Educator License with endorsements in early childhood education and early childhood special education under certain conditions.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Federal Legislative Report

Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations Dr. Anna Quider reported that she received positive feedback from other universities, think tanks, and congressional offices regarding Dr. Blazey's testimony to the House Subcommittee on Research and Technology. She also reported on the recently introduced, Endless Frontier Act, which proposes a \$95 billion investment in the National Science Foundation over five years. Dr. Quider also reported that the House of Representatives

has agreed to reinstate congressionally directed spending, formerly known as earmarks, in a limited capacity called Community Project Funding, or CPF. Congressman Kinzinger selected NIU's proposal entitled "Understanding and Mitigating Future Weather and Climate Risks" as one of his ten CPF projects. Dr. Quider also reported that the US Department of Education released the official institutional allocations from the American Rescue Plan Act. NIU's allocation for student aid is \$21,079,014 and NIU's allocation for institutional aid is \$21,033,973, for a total award of \$42,112,987.

Agenda Item 7.c. – Sponsored Programs Administration Quarterly Report

The Committee received the sponsored program administration quarterly written report submitted by Assistant Vice President Dara Little.

Agenda Item 7.d. – Open Access Presentation

Dean of University Libraries Fred Barnhart reported on Open Access, which is a publishing model for scholarly communication that makes research information available to readers at no cost, as opposed to the traditional subscription model in which readers have access to scholarly information by paying a subscription. He noted that since 2013 the federal government required federally funded research to be published open access and usually within 6 months to a year. Dean Barnhart reported that NIU has its own institutional repository, called the Huskie Commons, which is maintained and curated by the University Libraries and has nearly 10,000 articles in it. The Huskie Commons helps researchers meet the federal grant requirement for open access publishing. He further noted that the Library and the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships are cooperating to provide grants to cover author publishing charges for open access.

Agenda Item 7.3. – Faculty Presentation

Professor of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences Walker Ashley reported on NIU's Weather, Climate, and Society Research Group, which studies how much climate change and societal change are contributing to natural disasters. Specifically, the research group is trying to determine the contribution of factors through a relatively new area of study called attribution science, which uses numerical modeling to understand how and to what extent weather events are being affected by climate change. NIU is particularly focused on severe storms that include tornadoes, hail, downbursts, as well as changes in floods, tropical cyclones, snowstorms, and fire weather.

OTHER MATTERS

Committee Chair Athas asked if there were other matters to come before the Committee. The Committee confirmed that there were no other matters to be discussed.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Committee Chair Athas noted that the next meeting will be held on August 26, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Committee Chair Athas asked Ms. Cima to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

Committee Chair Rita Athas: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Jessica Cima/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.