

Minutes of the  
**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Special Meeting**  
February 10, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 2:23 p.m. by Board Chair Eric Wasowicz in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. 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.

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: Absent	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; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer Vernese Edghill-Walden; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Felicia Bohanon, and Peter Chomentowski.

**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 Vice Chair Athas seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes	Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes
Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes
Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes	Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2021**

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the minutes of December 7, 2021. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

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

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

Chair Wasowicz began his comments recognizing the recent loss of an NIU student. He said his thoughts and prayers are with the student's family.

Chair Wasowicz stated that each Board of Trustees committee will be providing an update on the University Goal that pertain to their committee at future committee meetings. He noted that there are two goals that are not being addressed by a particular committee, goal number four, concerning Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and goal number one concerning Empowerment and Shared Responsibility. Chair Wasowicz stated that these goals are captured by all of the work that is done at the university and should be included in all we do. Further, President Freeman will be providing a goal one update in the future. Chair Wasowicz congratulated Sean Frazier and his team on winning the NCAA Division Award for Diversity and Inclusion for the second time and mentioned that NIU is the only school in the NCAA history to win this award twice. Chair Wasowicz also thanked Dr. Vernese Edghill-Walden for her work on helping NIU receive the award.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 157**

Chair Wasowicz asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 157.

#### **President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.a. Appointment of Dean, Graduate School and Associate Vice President, International Affairs**

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

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.b. Recommendation for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2022-2023**

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

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.c. Fiscal Year 2023 Undergraduate Tuition Pricing Recommendation**

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.c. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.d. Fiscal Year 2023 Graduate and Law Tuition Pricing Recommendation**

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

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Abstain

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.e. Fiscal Year 2023 Undergraduate, Graduate, and Law Student Pricing Recommendation**

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.e. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes	Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes
Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Montel Gayles: Abstain
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes
Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes	Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.f. Fiscal Year 2023 Room and Board Fee Recommendation**

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

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes	Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes
Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Montel Gayles: Abstain
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes
Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes	Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.g. Fiscal Year 2023 Student Health Insurance**

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.g. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes	Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes
Trustee John Butler: Yes	Trustee Montel Gayles: Abstain
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent	Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes
Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes	Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.h. Relocation of Human Resource Services**

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

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes	Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes
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Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.i. Payment Card Processing**

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.i. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.j. Honorary Doctorate Recommendation**

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.j. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Butler seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.k. Real Estate Property Sale – Sycamore Land**

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

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

**President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.l. Request for Delegated Authority Regarding Purchase of High Performance Computing**

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 7.1. Vice Chair Athas so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

There were no other matters.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held March 24, 2022 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; student disciplinary cases as generally described under section 2(c)(9) 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 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: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 3:03 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 4:38 p.m.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Absent

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Vice Chair Athas seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Absent

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 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.*