

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Regular Meeting
March 24, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.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.

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| Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present | Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present |
| Trustee John Butler: Absent | 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; Chief of Staff and Board Liaison Matt Streb; Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer Sarah Chinniah; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; Vice President for Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Vernese Edghill-Walden; Vice President for University Advancement Catherine Squires; Associate Vice President John Heckmann; Dean of the College of Education Laurie Elish-Piper; Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology Don Peterson; Vice President and Director of Athletics and Recreation Sean Frazier; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communication Sol Jensen; Deputy Athletic Director/Executive Associate Athletic Director for Operations John Cheney; Assistant Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Monique Bernoudy; President NIU Alumni Association Joe Sener; NIU Alumni Association Executive Director Reggie Bustinza and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Peter Chomentowski, Katy Jaekel and Holly Nicholson.

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.

Trustee John Butler joined the meeting at 9:02 a.m.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Gayles 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.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to amend that motion, in order to approve a consent agenda for action items 9.a.1. through 9.a.7. and 9.a.9. Vice Chair Athas 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.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 10, 2022. Vice Chair Athas 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.

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Wasowicz welcomed the members of the University Advisory Council who were present and asked if any of the UAC members had any comments.

UAC Representative Nicholson thanked VP/CFO Sarah Chinniah for all that she has done for NIU and wishes her well at the University of Missouri.

Chair Wasowicz stated that NIU is heartbroken for Ukraine and that our thoughts are with the Ukrainian community abroad and locally.

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)&(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 Gayles 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.

The Board closed the public meeting at 9:11 a.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 11:10 a.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: Absent

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

REPORTS OF THE BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS

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

Catherine Squires, Vice President for Advancement and President & CEO of the NIU Foundation, introduced Joe Sener, President of the NIU Alumni Association. Mr. Sener gave a presentation to the Board of Trustees on what the next level is for the NIU Alumni Association.

The trustees thanked President Sener for his report and all he has done for the alumni association. The trustees expressed their excitement over the new ideas that were mentioned during the presentation.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 158

Chair Wasowicz asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 158.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

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

Agenda Item 9.a.1. Request for New Minor in Sport for Development and Social Change

Agenda Item 9.a.2. Request for New Minor in Psychosocial Aspects of Sport and Physical Activity

Agenda Item 9.a.3. Recommendations for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for the 2022-2023 Academic Year

Agenda Item 9.a.4. Third Sector Intelligence Contract

Agenda Item 9.a.5. DeKalb Campus Summer 2022 Roof Repairs Capital Project Approval

Agenda Item 9.a.6. Stevenson and Grant Towers Building Envelope Repairs Capital Project Approval

Agenda Item 9.a.7. Fiscal Year 2023 Consumable Commodities

Agenda Item 9.a.9. Fiscal Year 2023 Division of Information Technology Microsoft Enrollment Contract Renewal

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Vice Chair Athas 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.

Agenda Item 9.a.8. Fiscal Year 2023 Facility Master Contract Renewals

President Freeman presented agenda item 9.a.8. for approval.

Due to a conflict, Trustee John Butler will not be voting on the item and abstain on this item.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.a.8. Trustee Gayles 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: Abstain

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.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

President Freeman asked whether any Trustees wanted to revisit information items forwarded from the committees.

President Freeman continued to the items directly from the President.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 9.c.1. DeKalb Campus – Soccer and Baseball Fields Artificial Turf Installation

President Freeman presented agenda item 9.c.1. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.c.1. Vice Chair Athas so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

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

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| 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.

Agenda Item 9.c.2. Appointment of Interim to Vice President for Administration and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Position

President Freeman presented agenda item 9.c.2. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.c.2. Vice Chair Athas so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

The trustees thanked VP/CFO Chinniah for all she has done for NIU and expressed how much she will be missed. VP/CFO Chinniah thanked the trustees for their kind words and support and expressed how she has enjoyed her time at NIU.

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

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| 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.

Agenda Item 9.c.3. Use of Executive Search Firm for Vice President for Administration and Finance/Chief Financial Officer Position

President Freeman presented agenda item 9.c.3.

Agenda Item 9.c.4. Strategic Enrollment Management Plan

President Freeman presented agenda item 9.c.4. Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram and Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communication Sol Jensen presented on the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan.

The trustees thanked EVPP Ingram and VP Jensen for the presentation and for all the hard work they have put into this plan.

Agenda Item 9.c.5. College of Education Overview

President Freeman presented agenda item 9.c.5. Laurie Elish-Piper, Dean of the College of Education presented an overview of the College of Education.

The trustees thanked Dean Elish-Piper for her presentation. The trustees stated how proud they are of the College of Education and how excited they are to see what the college will be doing next.

Agenda Item 9.c.6. Progress Update – AY2021-22 University Goals

President Freeman presented agenda item 9.c.6. Vice President for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Chief Diversity Officer presented a progress update on the AY2021-22 University Goals.

CHAIR’S REPORT NO. 101

Chair Wasowicz presented the Chair’s report No. 101.

Agenda Item 10.a. Proposed Amendments to Academic Year 2021-22 (Fiscal Year 2022) University Goals

Chair Wasowicz presented agenda item 10.a.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 10.a. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Vice Chair Athas seconded.

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

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| 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.

Agenda Item 10.b. President Lisa C. Freeman Contract Modifications to University Goals, Presidential Evaluation Timeline and Transition Provision

Chair Wasowicz presented agenda item 10.b. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz mentioned that there is a typo in agenda item 10.b. in the second paragraph and the second to last sentence. It currently reads “In addition, the Board shall vote on the University goals for the next fiscal year no later than the regularly scheduled December Board of Trustees Meeting.” The sentence should be corrected to read “In addition, the Board shall vote on the University goals for the that **academic year/fiscal year** no later than the regularly scheduled December Board Meeting.”

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to amend item 10.b. Trustee Butler so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

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

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| 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 Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve amended item 10.b. Trustee Butler 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

Chair Wasowicz announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held June 16, 2022, at 9 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. 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: 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 meeting adjourned at 2:35 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.