

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs
Committee Meeting
May 12, 2022

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Committee Chair Veronica Herrero in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Jessica Cima conducted a roll call of the Trustees.

Committee Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Absent Committee Chair Veronica Herrero: 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; Director of State Relations Katie Davison; and Associate Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs Dara Little.

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. Mr. Perry also advised that a quorum was present.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 10, 2022. Trustee Butler so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee Chair Herrero reported that the Committee would be receiving verbal reports from State and Federal Relations regarding the status of legislation and funding, a written Sponsored Program Administration Quarterly Report, as well as a verbal report on the Shimadzu Partnership. Committee Chair Herrero welcomed the members of the University Advisory Committee and requested comments. No comments were submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee Chair Herrero introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Bryan Perry confirmed that no requests for public comments were received.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS

Committee Chair Herrero asked Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Dr. Gerald C. Blazey, to provide an update from the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships. Dr. Blazey reported that NIU continues to see growth in its externally funded portfolio, noting that excluding COVID-19 relief funds, the amount of sponsored funding has increased by 30% compared to the same time last year. Dr. Blazey also reported on the outcomes of the yearly Research and Artistry award program. He noted that three faculty members received the Presidential Research, Scholarship, and Artistry awards for 2022. Dr. Blazey reported that he met with representatives from the Capital Development Board to discuss the building process for the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability (NICCS).

Agenda Item 7.a. State Legislative Report

Ms. Katie Davison, Director of State Relations provided the State Legislative Report. She reported that the Governor signed the FY23 budget, from which NIU will receive a supplemental increase of \$4.3M to the FY22 budget as well as a 5% increase to the FY23 budget. She reported that the Monetary Award Program (MAP) funding increased by \$122M, a 27% increase from FY22. Ms. Davison highlighted the strong advocacy collaboration among Illinois Public Universities Presidents and Chancellors, which resulted in coordinated communication with the Governor's office and legislators. She noted that NIU and the University of Illinois hosted a joint caucus meeting to kick off the "Reinvest in Illinois" campaign that underscored the economic impact of higher education in Illinois. Ms. Davison reported that Governor Pritzker and Lt. Governor Stratton visited NIU for two separate events this past quarter, and that both Governor and Lt. Governor remarked how impressed they were with the students and the work that is being done at NIU. Trustee Barsema noted the effectiveness of having state and federal relations representatives in Springfield and Washington, D.C. respectively.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Federal Legislative Report

Dr. Blazey provided the Federal Relations Report on behalf of Dr. Anna Quider, Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations. He reported that Congress completed the FY22 appropriations process in March, and that all NIU's priorities received flat or increased funding. Dr. Blazey also reported that in April, Congresswoman Underwood visited NIU to tour the Microelectronics Research and Development Laboratory in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology and that in May Dr. Anna Quider testified before the National Science Board of the National Science Foundation.

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

The Committee reviewed the sponsored program administration quarterly written report submitted by Assistant Vice President Dara Little. No questions were raised.

Agenda Item 7.d. – Shimadzu Partnership

Dr. Blazey reported that the May 12, 2022, FACFO meeting agenda includes Action Item 8.a. "Renewal for Shimadzu Instrumentation." Dr. Blazey provided an update on the Shimadzu Program for Academic Research and Quality of Life (SPARQ) partnership, as it pertains directly to NIU's research programs. Dr. Blazey reported that the partnership has saved NIU \$670K for the purchase of ten instruments, most of which are housed in the Molecular Analysis Core (MAC).

Dr. Blazey also reported that the MAC has been cited in 20 peer reviewed papers, has 47 registered users, and has been used as a recruitment tool for on campus faculty interviews.

OTHER MATTERS

Committee Chair Herrero 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 Herrero noted that the next meeting will be held on August 18, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Committee Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes Committee Chair Veronica Herrero: Present

The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.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.