

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs
Committee Meeting
August 18, 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 Tim Moore: Present Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

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 Assistant 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 Barsema seconded. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to approve the minutes of May 12, 2022. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Committee Vice Chair Athas seconded. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Committee Chair Herrero noted the start of the 2022-2023 academic year and congratulated faculty on the continued strong growth of sponsored funding and the Office of Sponsored Programs Administration for supporting the growth. Committee Chair Herrero reported that Governor Pritzker's office has included the NICCS project in their bulletin for RFPs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee Chair Herrero introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Bryan Perry confirmed that no 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 Luke Sebby recently departed RIPS but will continue to work with the division on many initiatives as the Executive Director for Strategic Initiatives with the NIU Foundation. Dr. Blazey reported that Karinne Bredberg is now the Director of Innovation and brings a wealth of experience facilitating and developing partnerships. Dr. Blazey reported that the State Capital Development Board (CDB) is moving forward with the NICCS project, and that the consultant RFP has closed and the CDB is now in the selection process. Dr. Blazey reported that the NIU Press had re-established publication numbers to the standard prior to the movement of operations in FY20. Dr. Blazey provided a brief federal relations update, noting NIU's success with Congressionally Directed Spending as both Senator Durbin and Representative Underwood are supporting equipment upgrades for the Microchip Research and Development lab in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. Dr. Blazey reported on the passage of the CHIPS + Science Act, which provides significant funding for both domestic chip production and for science agencies, particularly NSF and DOE. Dr. Blazey noted that NIU made significant contributions to the legislations, particularly through the work of Dr. Anna Quider, who over a two-year period, conceived and directed a sustained advocacy program to broaden scientific participation in the legislation. Dr. Quider successfully advocated for a legislative definition of emerging research institutions, or ERIs, and creation of a program to promote collaboration between flagship universities and ERIs like NIU.

Agenda Item 7.a. State Legislative Report

Ms. Katie Davison, Director of State Relations provided the State Legislative Report, noting that state capital projects are moving forward. Specifically, the Illinois Innovation Network hub, the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability, which were both approved to solicit proposals from architecture and engineering firms through the Capital Development Board. Ms. Davison reported that The Illinois Board of Higher Education has been convening the Commission on Equitable Public University Funding, of which President Freeman is a member, to develop a funding model for determining appropriations for higher education that is in alignment with its strategic plan, A Thriving Illinois. Ms. Davison reported that the spring legislative agenda will include adjustments or revisions to annual audit items that have had continuous reoccurring findings. Ms. Davison reported that the NIU caucus is considering expanding membership to legislative staff who are alumni or have connections to NIU.

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

Assistant Vice President Dara Little presented the FY22 Sponsored Funding Report, noting that in FY22 NIU received \$48M in total external funding from 371 awards, which included \$6M in COVID-19 relief funds. Ms. Little noted that absent COVID-19 relief funds, external funding has grown 11% since last year, and 39% since FY18. Ms. Little reviewed the SPA functions between proposal submission through project closeout and discussed plans for restructuring and modernization to meet the needs of the changing portfolio.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda Item 8.a. – Board of Trustees Bylaws Periodic Review

Deputy General Counsel Greg Brady and NIU Legal Intern Samantha Malone presented suggested edits to the board bylaws for committee review. Ms. Malone reported that the goal of the of the board bylaws review was to update the bylaws so that they were consistent, clear, and effective. Ms. Malone and Mr. Brady reviewed in detail their proposed edits to Article II, Section 4: Formal Presentations, Article II, Section 7: Removal from Board, Article V, Section 1: Student Member, Article V, Section 5: Elections, and Article VI, Section 1: Executive Committee. Mr. Brady noted that in addition to their initial proposed edits, the Board requested that the Office of the General Counsel review Article II, Section 4, Article V, Section 6, and Article VII. Committee Chair Herrero requested a motion to approve the amendments proposed by the Office of General Counsel. Trustee Butler moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved. The committee discussed the proposed edits in detail. Following its discussion, the committee requested further edits to Article V, Section 1: Elected Officers and Terms of Office, Article IV: Open Meeting Policy, Article II, Section 4: Appearances Before the Board, Article X: Adoption, Review and Amendment of Bylaws, Article VI, Section 2.b: Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee, Membership. Committee Chair Herrero requested a motion to approve the bylaws as presented with the amendments made by Mr. Brady and the additional three amendments that were presented by Trustee Gayles, Trustee Barsema, and Board Chair Wasowicz during the discussion. Trustee Butler moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion was approved. Committee Chair Herrero requested a motion to approve the bylaws with all amendments incorporated, and forward to the full Board for consideration at its next regular meeting. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved.

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 November 10, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT

Committee Chair Herrero asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Gayles 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: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Tim Moore: Present Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

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

The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:21 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.