

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Regular Meeting
April 3, 2023

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Board Secretary Montel Gayles 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.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Present

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Present

Also present: Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Chief of Staff and Board Liaison Matt Streb; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; Vice President of Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer George Middlemist; Vice President for Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Vernese Edghill-Walden; Dean of the College of Education Laurie Elish-Piper; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Science Bob Brinkman; Dean of the College of Business Balaji Rajagopalan; Associate Vice President for Facilities Management and Campus Services John Heckmann; Associate Vice President and Chief Information Office Matt Parks; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representative Ismael Montana.

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.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Secretary Gayles asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

Secretary Gayles asked Ms. Wright to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Secretary Gayles asked for a motion to amend that motion, in order to approve a consent agenda for action items 9.a.1. through 9.a.11. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

Secretary Gayles asked Ms. Wright to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2023

Secretary Gayles asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 16, 2023. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

Secretary Gayles asked Ms. Wright to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICER POSITIONS

Secretary Gayles asked for a motion to approve the election of board office positions. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded.

Secretary Gayles asked Ms. Wright to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Absent

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Mr. Perry explained the process and the need for an off-cycle election for the board officer positions of chair and vice chair. Mr. Perry stated that at the June Board of Trustees meeting we will conduct the fiscal year 2024 board officer elections. Mr. Perry announced that Eric Wasowicz was elected as Chair and Rita Athas was elected Vice Chair.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Wasowicz explained that the March board of trustees meeting was rescheduled to April 3 due to not having a quorum until March 31. There was a delay in the trustee appointment process by the state that has since been resolved. Chair Wasowicz congratulated Vice Chair Athas and Trustee Barsema on being reappointed by the Governor to another term on the NIU board of trustees. Chair Wasowicz thanked Vice Chair Athas, Trustee Barsema and Trustee Pritchard for all of their hard work on the board.

Chair Wasowicz stated that the positions of 5th member and FACFO committee vice chair will remain vacant until an eighth trustee has been appointed.

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

UAC Representative Montana stated he was very happy to see so much support for the United Faculty Alliance Collective Bargaining Agreement, and the tenure and tenure track faculty members that are on the agenda today to be approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Wasowicz introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry welcomed Dr. Kerry Ferris to the podium.

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.

Trustee Herrero joined the meeting at 9:17 a.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 167

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion for reconsideration of the consent agenda for agenda items 9.a.1. through 9.a.11. Trustee Butler 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: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Chair Wasowicz asked Executive Vice President and Provost Ingram to present the President's Report No. 167.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Executive Vice President and Provost presented the items that were moved to the consent agenda including:

Agenda Item 9.a.1. Request for the Deletion of the Bachelor of Science in Hospitality and Tourism Management

Agenda Item 9.a.2. Request for the Deletion of the Master of Science in Taxation

Agenda Item 9.a.3. Request for New Minor in Sports Medicine

Agenda Item 9.a.4. Recommendations for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

Agenda Item 9.a.5. DeKalb Campus Recreation Drive Roadway Repairs Capital Project Approval

Agenda Item 9.a.6. Holmes Student Center Envelope Repairs Phase 1 Capital Project Approval

Agenda Item 9.a.7. Stevenson & Grant Residential Complexes Envelope Repairs Phase 2 Capital Project Approval

Agenda Item 9.a.8. Fiscal Year 2023 Elevator Services Increase G.D. Barri & Associates, Inc.

Agenda Item 9.a.9. Fiscal Year 2024 Through Fiscal Year 2028 Solid Waste Removal and Recycling Services

Agenda Item 9.a.10. Fiscal Year 2024 Campus Services Consumable Commodities

Agenda Item 9.a.11. Campus Printer Lease Program

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Wright 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: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Executive Vice President and Provost Ingram asked whether any Trustees wanted to revisit information items forwarded from the committees.

Executive Vice President and Provost Ingram continued to the items directly from the President.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 9.c.1. Collective Bargaining Agreement for the NIU Tenure and Tenure Track Unit, United Faculty Alliance, Local 4100 of the University Professionals of Illinois

Executive Vice President and Provost Ingram presented agenda item 9.c.1. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.c.1. Trustee Butler so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Wright 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: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.c.2. Appointment of Dean for the College of Health and Human Sciences

Executive Vice President and Provost Ingram presented agenda item 9.c.2. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.c.2. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Wright 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: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.c.3. Fiscal Year 2024 Law Tuition Pricing and Student Fee Recommendations

Executive Vice President and Provost Ingram presented agenda item 9.c.3. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.c.3. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

Trustee Gayles will abstain from voting due to a conflict.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Wright 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: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.c.4. Fiscal Year 2024 Master Agreement Facility Contract Renewals

Executive Vice President and Provost Ingram presented agenda item 9.c.4. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.c.4. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded.

Trustee Butler will abstain from voting due to a conflict.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Wright 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: Yes Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.c.5. Real Estate Property Sale Nursing Building

Executive Vice President and Provost Ingram presented agenda item 9.c.5. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.c.5. Trustee Butler so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Wright 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: Yes Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.c.6. Microsoft Enrollment Contract Renewal

Executive Vice President and Provost Ingram presented agenda item 9.c.6. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.c.6. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Wright 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: Yes Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.c.7. College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Overview

Executive Vice President and Provost Ingram presented agenda item 9.c.7. Robert Brinkmann, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences presented an overview of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The Trustees thanked Dean Brinkmann for his presentation and loved hearing about all that is happening in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

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 15, 2023, at 9 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: closed session minutes matters as generally described under section 2(c)(21) of the open meetings act; collective bargaining matters as generally described under section 2(c)(2) 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; real estate matters as generally described under section 2(c)(5)&(6) of the open meetings act; personnel matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(1)(2)(3) and (21) of the open meetings act; and student disciplinary cases matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(11) and (12) of the open meetings act.

Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded.

Chair Wasowicz asked Ms. Wright 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: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 10:20 a.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 12:19 p.m.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

Trustee Tim Moore: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

Trustee Tim Moore: Present

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

The motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 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.