

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

May 3, 2021

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on May 3, 2021 by video conference. Trustee Jim Palos, chair of the committee, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The following Trustee committee members were present: Sherry Eagle, Jim Palos, and Jonathan Stein.

Also in attendance: Gloria Gibson, President; Natalie Brouwer Potts, Acting Assistant General Counsel; Mary Pat Burns, Board Counsel; Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board; vice presidents; staff; and University community members.

Chair Palos made an announcement that today's proceedings are being held by video conference in accordance with the Disaster Proclamation 2021-06 issued by the Governor of Illinois effective April 2, 2021, and in accordance with Public Act 101-0640 that requires a roll call vote on each matter acted upon.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Chair Palos announced the opportunity for public comment in accordance with P.A. 91-0715. There were no requests to speak.

Chair Palos provided an overview of the various ways that the University community has to communicate to or with the Board; through Public Comment at board and committee meetings, and through the Board's general delivery email address. As an additional vehicle for Board and community exchange, Chair Palos asked Trustees for their feedback on receiving a formal presentation by one of each of the University's shared participation groups, with an opportunity for interaction, at each of its regularly scheduled annual Board meetings. Trustees and the President responded favorably to this idea, but recommend that the board outline specific guidelines for how to effectively manage these presentations, such as receiving a written report ahead of time, and adhering to a time-limited question and answer period at board meetings. Mary Pat Burns and Natalie Brouwer Potts will outline a procedure that mirrors other public universities' practices, and present a draft to the Executive Committee prior to its next regularly scheduled meeting in August. The Executive Committee will decide on when to pilot this initiative.

Chair Palos raised an additional communication matter related to how members of the community can confidentially contact the Board, bypassing administrative staff. Trustees discussed various ideas for managing its confidential communications apparatus. Mary Pat Burns will research how other public boards address this issue, as well as any statutory considerations that affect confidentiality and the business of public agencies. This matter will be reviewed again in August.

Chair Palos reviewed the list of approved Board learning session topics in preparation for the June Board meeting. After some discussion, Trustees decided to table the June learning session in favor of transforming them from Board meeting sessions to luncheon learning sessions in anticipation for when the University returns to face-to-face meetings. In so far as its possible, Trustees would like to receive any materials to review ahead of the learning sessions. It was also discussed that future learning session invitations be extended to the NEIU Foundation Board.

Chair Palos reviewed with Trustees the draft agendas for the upcoming committee meetings.

Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 9:24 a.m., Trustee Eagle, seconded by Trustee Stein moved to convene in Closed Session.

Discussion: there was no discussion.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Eagle: Yes Palos: Yes Stein: Yes

The motion carried.

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session

At 10:23 a.m., Trustee Eagle, seconded by Trustee Stein moved to reconvene in Open Session. The motion carried by acclamation.

Old/New Business

Trustee Eagle, seconded by Trustee Stein moved to accept the recommendation by the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee to establish an *ad hoc* sub-committee and appoint Trustees Marvin Garcia and Charlie Serrano as co-chairs with a draft charter which states: “The purpose of the *ad hoc* sub-committee is to monitor the application progress towards the Seal of Excelencia. The Seal of Excelencia is a coveted status given to Hispanic serving institutions that conduct self-studies and implement institutionalized practices whereby all students can experience success. Therefore, the *ad hoc* sub-committee will convene meetings, receive progress reports, and provide recommendations. The membership of the sub-committee will include the President, the Chair, and other members from the Council on the Status of LatinX Students at NEIU. The sub-committee will disband once the Seal of Excelencia has been obtained and subsequent updates will be provided at Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee meetings.”

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Eagle: Yes Palos: Yes Stein: Yes

The motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn

At 10:27 a.m. Trustee Stein, seconded by Trustee Eagle moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Palos, Chair
Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary
Approved June 10, 2021