

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University

Special Board Meeting Minutes

April 29, 2021

A special meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened by video conference on Thursday, April 29, 2021. Trustee Jim Palos, Chair of the Board, called the meeting order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll was called and the following Trustees were present: Carlos Azcoitia; Sherry Eagle; Marvin Garcia; Jim Palos; Charlie Serrano; and Jonathan Stein.

The following Trustees joined after roll call: Ann Kalayil and Gabriela Loreda Garcia

Also present: 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 informed the public of how today's proceedings will go. The university, in consultation with its legal counsel, has received a formal opinion about the legal validity of the proposed scholarship initiative, and has also provided an accompanying financial overview to Trustees in advance of today's meeting. Trustees were given an opportunity to provide questions about the initiative and received timely answers from the administration.

Trustee Loreda Garcia, seconded by Trustee Stein moved to accept the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee's recommendations to authorize the university's use of up to \$2.5 million dollars in unrestricted net assets for a scholarship initiative in academic year 2022 based on its receipt of a formal opinion as to its validity.

Discussion: President Gibson reminded Trustees that the pandemic's effects are still being felt and this inertia continues to affect the university adversely. Fall enrollments continue to trend downward and the university must act decisively. President Gibson urged the Board to support this one-time scholarship initiative to help stem further enrollment decline. Trustees asked additional questions about impact and potential pitfalls, experiences with previous poorly rolled out university programs, but ultimately support this initiative. Trustees asked for expedited public relations materials so they can begin to work with schools, principals, and counselors in their networks right away.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia - Yes	Fumo -	Kalayil - Yes	Palos - Yes	Stein - Yes
Eagle - Yes	Garcia - Yes	Loredo - Yes	Serrano - Yes	Vukotich -

The motion carried.

Old/New Business

Chair Palos asked if there was any old or new business.

Motion to Adjourn

At 4:51 p.m. Trustee Serrano, seconded by Trustee Stein moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

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