

The Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University  
Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee  
**Meeting Minutes**

August 26, 2021

A meeting of the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee was convened on Thursday, August 26, 2021 in the Golden Eagles Room in the Student Union located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL. Ann Kalayil, chair of the committee called the meeting to order at 8:47 a.m.

**Roll was called and the following Trustee committee members were present:** Marvin Garcia and Ann Kalayil

**Other Trustees present:** Jonathan Stein joined the meeting at 8:53 a.m.

**Also present on site:** Gloria Gibson, President; Natalie Brouwer Potts, Acting Assistant General Counsel; Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board; vice presidents; staff; and members of the university community

**Also present via video conference:** Mary Pat Burns; Board Counsel

---

**Opportunity for Public Comment in Accordance with P.A. 91-0715**

Trustee Kalayil announced the opportunity for public comment. The lone speaker withdrew their request.

---

**Chair's and President's Remarks**

President Gibson announced that campus activities began last week. Faculty Institute took place on August 19 and 20. Student Welcome Day was the largest one yet. Vaccine mandate recently instituted is reflecting 80% of faculty and staff reporting full vaccination.

---

**Items for Consideration and Possible Future Action**

Tenure and Rank Recommendations:

Dennis Rome, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs presented the following candidates for tenure and rank.

Dr. Shireen Roshanravan, Executive Director for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Following a national search, Shireen Roshanravan was hired as the Executive Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and began her appointment on July 12, 2021. Dr. Roshanravan earned her bachelor's degree with a double major in Spanish and Philosophy from Southwestern University and her master's degree and Ph.D. in the interdisciplinary program of Philosophy, Interpretation & Culture from the State University of New York at Binghamton. Dr. Roshanravan comes to Northeastern Illinois University from Kansas State University where she served as a professor of American ethnic and gender, women and sexuality studies, faculty advisor to multicultural and feminist student organizations, and chair of the Arts and Sciences College Committee on Diversity. In each of these roles, Dr. Roshanravan focused her leadership on programmatic and policy transformations that enabled greater equity and inclusivity for all

members of the campus community. Dr. Roshanravan's academic research, pedagogical approach, and administrative style focus on coalition-building across diverse communities. She is co-editor of several books and special journal issues on the praxis of deep coalition-building. These include "Asian American Feminisms and Women of Color Politics," "Speaking Face-to-Face: The Visionary Philosophy of María Lugones," and "#WeToo: A Reader."

Approval is requested to grant tenure at the rank of full professor to Shireen Roshanravan, Ph.D. Her tenure recommendation comes with support from the Department of Philosophy and Provost Dennis Rome.

Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Kalayil moved to recommend tenure and rank for Dr. Shireen Roshanravan as presented.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Garcia: Yes                      Kalayil: Yes

The matter is recommended

Dr. Kamau Rashid, Founding Director of the Ed.D. program

Following a national search, Kamau Rashid was hired as Founding Director of the Ed.D. program in the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education and began his appointment on August 1, 2021. Dr. Rashid earned his bachelor's degree in Sociology from the University of Illinois-Urbana, his master's degree in Inner City Studies from Northeastern Illinois University, and his Ph.D. in Educational Policy Studies with a concentration in the Sociology of Education from the University of Illinois-Urbana. Dr. Rashid was most recently a faculty member at National-Louis University where his first appointment was as Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Foundations and Inquiry. He was then promoted to Associate Professor where he helped design a Global Policy Studies doctoral program. In addition, Dr. Rashid was a Fulbright Scholar and lecturer in the Department of History Education at the University of Education in Winneba, Ghana in 2015-2016. Dr. Rashid's research interests include the philosophical dimensions in African proverbs, African combat arts in the Americas, Intersections of African and Asian cultures, and the educational philosophies of W.E.B. DuBois, among many others. He has numerous peer-reviewed publications and has presented at numerous national and international conferences.

Approval is requested to grant tenure at the rank of full professor to Kamau Rashid, Ph.D. His tenure recommendation comes with support from the Department of Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies, and Provost Dennis Rome.

Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Kalayil moved to recommend tenure and rank for Dr. Kamau Rashid as presented.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Garcia: Yes                      Kalayil: Yes

The matter is recommended

---

### Items for Information

#### NEIU for You Update

Board approval of the initiative on April 29<sup>th</sup> was for a program budget of \$2.5 million. Subsequently, the Foundation Board committed \$400,000 of additional support. At this time students continue to be admitted, enroll, and complete their financial aid processes. As of August 21<sup>st</sup>, enrollment for new first-time, full-time freshmen was 322 students; enrollment for new transfers was 720 students. The total support required by the *NEIU for You* initiative for enrolled students is estimated to be approximately \$2.2 million (\$2,176,873). As of today, only 72% of enrolled students have completed the financial aid processes. Once the census date for the fall semester has passed the total cost for the new first-time freshmen will be known.

During the fall 2020 enrollment cycle, enrollment yield, or the percent of admitted students who enrolled at NEIU, was 12.5%. Through the *NEIU for You* initiative, the yield increased to 14.9%. When the planning for this initiative began, the number of admitted students was down 31% relative to Fall 2020, and as of August 21<sup>st</sup> the number of admitted students is down 28%. From June 2<sup>nd</sup> through August 21<sup>st</sup>, there was a 9% increase in admitted students suggesting the broader initiative messaging had a positive impact.

As of August 21<sup>st</sup>, the estimated total cost for the 322 enrolled first-time full-time freshmen is \$1,372,448, or an estimated average cost per student of \$4,262, and representing a 15% increase over the range of estimated per-student costs generated by the preliminary budget model. Based on historical data, 5-8% of the incoming class was projected to receive no funding from Pell or M.A.P. For Fall 2021, enrolled students without Pell or M.A.P. funding is estimated to represent 21% of the incoming class. Undocumented students were intended to benefit from the *NEIU for You* initiative, as well. As of August 21<sup>st</sup>, an estimated 14 undocumented students are enrolled with an average support level of \$7,853 per student, or an estimated total cost of \$109,936. The initiative provided funding for new transfer students. To qualify transfer students must be new for Fall 2021 (not a Summer 2021 transfer or 2<sup>nd</sup> Bachelor's degree student) and must register for at least 6 credit hours. As of August 21<sup>st</sup>, 720 transfer students have enrolled and 565 students met the qualifying criteria for support. The total estimated cost for the transfer student portion of the initiative is \$804,425, but is anticipated to increase to \$881,272 by the census date. The preliminary budget model estimated a total cost of \$541,278 for transfer students.

Dan Weber, Interim Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services stated that the enrollment figures continue to change on a daily basis and final figures will be known after the university's census date. These will be reported at the October committee meeting.

Acting Executive Director of Marketing and Communications, Matt Byerly provided metrics to Trustees relative to the *NEIU for You* initiative. From June 1 through July 31, the University purchased targeted digital advertisement in and around Illinois. These included ads on several social media sites, and mobile footprint banner ads around key high schools. This resulted in a 55% year-over-year increase in digital impressions, and a 96% conversion/lead response directly attributed to the *NEIU for You* initiative and general freshman marketing campaigns. Organic website activity saw a 10.5% year-over-year increase in visitors, and the *NEIU for You* landing page and general freshman inquiry pages ranked among the top five pages visited.

Trustees encouraged the administration to apply its successful retention tactics to the newest students during their inaugural year.

#### Academic Affairs Update

Dennis Rome, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs presented an overview of the university's research efforts. The university's strategic plan goals are to increase financial support to improve research opportunities. This funding supports academic activities such as sabbatical leaves, summer research stipends, communities for research, and research related travel. Research and scholarship contributes to retention, prepares students for further education, promotes student/faculty collaboration, advances knowledge, and keeps the university updated on contemporary research issues. Examples of student/faculty research communities at Northeastern are the Student Center for Science Engagement (SCSE) and Student Research Symposium, the Genocide and Human Rights Research (GHRAD) panel, NEIU Illinois Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (ILSAMP), Maximizing Access to Research Careers (MARC), among others. Trustees have asked for student success indicators at the October committee meeting.

Michael Stern, Dean of the College of Graduate Studies and Research provided a brief overview of the university's grants programs. Currently, grants funding represents 18% of the university's budget and supports critical institutional activities. Grants for 2020-2021 are \$17.2 million; individual research \$1.5 million, pipeline grants (Center for College Access and Success) \$8.7 million, and institutional grants of \$7 million.

Dr. Lydia Filus, Chair of the Mathematics Department and Dr. Cristina Ciecierski, Professor of Economics and principal investigators presented about the university's participation in the ChicagoCHEC grant. ChicagoCHEC is funded by the National Cancer Institute (NCI) which is part of the National Institute of Health. The grant funds research related to cancer health equity and partners institutions whose student populations are under-served and under-represented with NCI-designated cancer centers. Northeastern has been partnered with 2 other institutions; Northwestern University's designated cancer center and the University of Illinois at Chicago, which is working on attaining its designation. Northeastern is the recipient of one of only 16 grants that have been funded since 2001, and its triad partnership is one of only 3 of this type in the United States. The consortium strives to improve cancer health equity in under-served, under-represented communities through meaningful scientific scholarly education, training, and community engagement. Northeastern's goals within the consortium are to build research capacity in its STEM sciences, social sciences, and community outreach. The university won its original funding in 2015 for five years, and last year was renewed through 2025. As part of its current iteration in CHEC 2.0, Northeastern has established its own Center of Health with its approach being related to holistic health, wellness, and a healthy lifestyle. The initiatives in the Center of Health are The Crew, whose purpose is to elevate health and encourage wellness through student involvement; Women in Science, an annual conference celebrating women's contributions to science; ADDA Achieves, a small pilot program for ADHD NEIU students that works to support them through their studies; The Horizon, a brand new source that covers news and topics concerning health disparities and health equity within the Chicago community; and Mathematic and Statistical Modeling Workshops, provides participants with hands-on experience in interdisciplinary quantitative analysis relating to health.

### Student Affairs Update

Terry Mena, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students introduced the new President of the Student Government Association, Edwin Medina. The university recently completed an external review by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) and has met with virtually with external reviewers. A draft of the report will be available in September with recommendation implementation beginning in late fall/spring semester 2022. The Nest occupancy rate for fall 2021 is 56% or 240 beds out of 440, compared to last year's occupancy rate of 21%. Two graduate student aide positions have been created to assist with financial aid literacy and academic success for Nest occupants. Three new living and learning communities (LLCs) have been created for residents at the Nest. Living Learning Communities (LLC) are residential communities that introduce and integrate academic and social learning through faculty and staff involvement within a holistic education. LLC at NEIU are designed to create a greater sense of community through increased opportunities for faculty and peer interaction around specific topics. Students in LLC live together in the same area of The Nest and share experiences that reinforce their academic focus and/or theme of their LLC. Students and faculty are provided opportunities for connection outside of the classroom and LLC supports networking across common interests. Learning Living Communities offer a housing scholarship for students who are accepted into the program. More detailed information is provided by each LLC program. The Social Justice Leadership LLC had 50 applicants and has accepted 28, the Discover Yourself LLC had 25 applicants and has accepted 25, and the Future Teachers LLC had 36 applicants and has accepted 24. Trustees asked about the long-term sustainability of free housing for students in these communities. Trustees asked about the possibility of using the Nest to help Afghan refugees with resettlement. Trustees asked about the possibility of offering the Nest as a housing option for participants in the Grown Your Own (GYO) Teachers program.

### Technology Update

Manish Kumar, Vice President for Finance and Administration presented a technology update. Mr. Kumar offered sincere thanks to the dedicated technology professionals at the university who supported all of the technology training, support, and academic needs as the university was on remote work. With the rise in electronic intrusion, Northeastern is making greater investments in its network security through online staff training. The university is introducing duo multi-factor authentication for its network access points. University technology-related policies are all being reviewed and revised and a security awareness team has been established. Progress toward resolving prior audit findings is nearing completion. Sources of funding for technology enhancements are coming from 2 primary sources: \$3.7 million in plant funding (university) and \$941,199 in HEERF funding (government COVID aid). In addition to university-wide desktop computer replacement with laptops, and all new computers in the student computing labs. The university is currently assessing its 175 classrooms to determine what investments need to be made. 262 wireless connectivity access points are being added to reach the minimum 562 required. Significant infrastructure upgrades are in varying stages of development adding new servers, storage, power systems, and switches. Several new process improvement implementations are being completed to simplify and automate administrative tasks through eProcurement, Degree Works, and Slate – CRM. Mr. Kumar reviewed the projects execution model and the project status categories. Trustees asked about the CIO search. Candidates will be coming for campus visits soon.

---

**Old Business/New Business**

Trustee Kalayil asked if there was any old or new business. Elections for the student trustee and other student government offices will be held virtually and all winners will be ratified by the Student Senate by September 13. There was no further business.

---

**Motion to Adjourn**

At 10:57 a.m. Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Kalayil moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalayil, Chair of the Committee  
Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary  
Approved September 23, 2021