

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University

Board Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2022

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday April 14, 2022 in the Student Union Alumni Hall located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL. Trustee Sherry Eagle, Vice Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Roll was called and the following Trustees were present: Sherry Eagle; Marvin Garcia; Ann Kalayil; Javonti Mordican; Charlie Serrano; and Jonathan Stein

Also present: Gloria Gibson, President; G. A. Finch, University Counsel; Mary Pat Burns, Board Counsel; Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board; vice presidents; staff; and university community members

Motion to Allow Remote Participation

Trustee Eagle, seconded by Trustee Garcia moved to permit Trustee Carlos Azcoitia to participate in the meeting remotely in accordance with section 7(a) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act and section II. A. 2. of the Board's Bylaws.

Discussion: there was no discussion

The motion carried by acclamation.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Eagle, seconded by Trustee Serrano moved to approve, by consent, (i) the open and closed minutes and to keep the closed minutes closed from the February 10, 2022 Board meeting; (ii) the open minutes from the March 7, 2022 Executive Committee meeting; (iii) the open minutes from the March 10, 2022 Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee meeting; (iv) the open and closed minutes and to keep the closed minutes closed from the March 24, 2022 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting.

Discussion: there was no discussion

The motion carried by acclamation.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Trustee Eagle announced the opportunity for public comment in accordance with P.A. 91-0715. There were four requests to speak.

1. **Dr. Steven Wolk** – NEIU faculty member
Topic: increased graduate course caps, comingling undergrad and grad classes, and unfilled faculty positions
2. **Dr. Amina Chaudri** – NEIU faculty member
Topic: increased graduate course caps, comingling undergrad and grad classes, and unfilled faculty positions
3. **Dr. Hector Morales** – NEIU faculty member
Topic: increased graduate course caps, comingling undergrad and grad classes, and unfilled faculty positions
4. **Dr. Nancy Matthews** – NEIU faculty member and President of the NEIU UPI Chapter of Local 4100
Topic: state of the university, the budget, and UPI negotiations

Vice Chair's and President's Remarks

Trustee Eagle announced that she is looking forward to Commencement exercises next month.

President Gibson reported that the University has received 4,200 first-time/full-time applications and has secured 200 intent-to-enroll commitments. The University has secured 146 intent-to-enroll commitments for transfer students. Graduate applications are up over same time last year. This year's enrollment targets are: 400 first-time/full-time, 900 transfers, and 529 graduate students. Enrollment Management continues to hire new staff including regional recruiters, transfer recruiters, and readmit recruiters. The readmit program is a debt forgiveness program that forgives up to \$3,000 in previous debt and has reenrolled approximately 150 students over the past two years. There are several other positions in Enrollment Management that are in the process of being filled. Dr. Gibson thanked everyone at the University for their continued efforts to recruit students including those students who volunteered over their spring break to participate in the first annual "Golden Deliveries" program. This new program recruits current NEIU students to meet with their former high school counselors to reestablish relationships between them, prospective students, and NEIU. The University is currently finishing its search for an Associate Vice President for Retention. An announcement is expected to be made soon.

On April 9, the General Assembly approved the state's \$46.5 billion FY23 budget. This budget includes a 5% supplemental appropriation for public universities in the current fiscal year making Northeastern's total FY22 appropriation \$37,345,000. In FY23, Northeastern's appropriation will be \$37,345,000, with a reappropriation of \$131 million dedicated to University capital projects. The state's FY23 budget includes a \$601 million allocation for the Monetary Award Program (MAP) which raises the maximum award to \$8,500 per academic year. The state will also continue to fund the Aim High matching scholarship at \$35 million. After the Governor signs the budget into law, the University will hold a budget town hall to review it in more detail.

Currently, there are two proposals submitted for the University's RFP for real estate broker services for the Bryn Mawr properties. The University's evaluation committee will review the proposals and make a recommendation to the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee at its May meeting.

The wearing of masks at all University locations will remain in place through the end of the Spring 2022 semester. This recommendation comes from the University's COVID-19 Task Force in consultation with other available data including data from a recent University-wide survey. Dr. Gibson thanked the COVID-19 Task Force for all the work they have been doing and continue to do.

The University has assembled an Afghan Transition Program care team to further assist Afghan students acclimate to their new academic and life challenges. Services include not only those found on campus, but with outside networks that partner with the University.

Throughout March, the Seal of Excelencia co-chairs, Drs. Hector Morales and Isaura Pulido, have been meeting with the various sub-committees to provide support and feedback on the University's Seal of Exclencia application. On April 4, the sub-committees met to review the almost final application draft. While there is still more feedback to be collected, the application will be submitted in June.

Several upcoming events include the Vatican Choir concert in the University Auditorium, the Daniel Goodwin Distinguished Lecture Series featuring Dr. Ngozi Ezike, the master's hooding ceremony, employee Week of Joy May 2-5, and Commencement on May 13.

Shared Governance Presentation: Civil Service Council

Hector Uriostegui, Administrative Specialist and Chair of the Civil Service Council, made a presentation about the Council, its mission, membership, and engaged in dialogue with Trustees.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

Trustee Eagle reported that the Executive Committee met on March 7, 2022 in the Golden Eagles Room on the main campus. At the meeting, as the minutes reflect, the committee considered upcoming committee agendas topics; discussed upcoming board meetings and the learning sessions that might be presented at future pre-meeting Lunch & Learn sessions; discussed follow-up on Trustee engagement initiatives; and received an update on the President's Annual Evaluation process. No action items were taken at the meeting.

Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee

Trustee Kalayil reported that the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee met on March 10, 2022 in the Golden Eagles Room on the main campus. The committee received informational updates on Fall 2022 enrollment, student mental health counseling, the Afghan Transition Program students, an academic program cost breakdown from the Dean of the College of Business and Technology, and a presentation on the Seal of Excelencia application process. The committee made the following recommendations to the board for approval today:

Action Item I. A. Approval of 2022 Tenure Recommendations

Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Serrano moved to approve the 2022 tenure recommendations for the following faculty members: Zachary Bloom, Jenny Ruth Dawley-Carr, Sarah Fabian, Stacy Goguen, Orrin Harris, Cathleen Holtschneider, Manar Mohaisen, Alex Peimer, Katherine Petersen, Rachel Trana, and Russell Wartalski.

Discussion: Trustees offered their sincere congratulations and applause.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia: Yes	Garcia: Yes	Mordican: *	Serrano: Yes
Eagle: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Palos:	Stein: Yes

* the Student Trustee may not vote on this matter

The motion carried.

Action Item I. B. Approval of Recommendation for a Bachelor of Science degree in Cybersecurity

Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Serrano moved to approve the recommendation for a Bachelor of Science degree in Cybersecurity.

Discussion: Trustee Serrano thanked everyone involved in getting this degree program put together; it ought to be an effective recruitment opportunity.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia: Yes	Garcia: Yes	Mordican: Yes	Serrano: Yes
Eagle: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Palos:	Stein: Yes

The motion carried.

Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee

Trustee Eagle reported that the Finance Building and Grounds Committee met on March 24, 2022 in the Golden Eagles Room on the main campus. The Committee received informational briefings and discussed the Preliminary FY23 operating budget, the financial implications of the Bachelor of Science degree in Cybersecurity which the Board just approved, the FY21 BEP expenditures report, received an update on the University Police force, received an update on the Bryn Mawr property, received an update on purchases between \$50,000 and \$99,999.99, received a construction update, and received an update on the El Centro signage progress. The committee also made the following recommendations for board action today:

Action Item I. C. Approval of Recommendation for Purchases \$100,000 or Greater: Amendment of Contract with Watermark Insights, LLC.

Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Serrano moved to approve the recommendation to amend the contract between the University and Watermark Insights, LLC.

Discussion: Trustees asked clarifying questions about the student survey portal as well as the new faculty evaluation module.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia: Yes	Garcia: Yes	Mordican: Yes	Serrano: Yes
Eagle: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Palos:	Stein: Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I. D. Approval of Recommendation for Purchases \$100,000 or Greater: Renewal of 3-Year Contract for A/E Services for Roof and Façade Repairs. The previously awarded contracts are with Inspec, Inc., Specialty Consulting, Inc., and Globetrotters Engineering Corporation.

Trustee Stein, seconded by Trustee Azcoitia moved to approve the recommendation to renew the 3-year contract between the University and the firms previously approved for an amount not to exceed \$100,000 per firm, per year.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia: Yes	Garcia: Yes	Mordican: Yes	Serrano: Yes
Eagle: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Palos:	Stein: Yes

The motion carried.

Board Action Item

Trustee Eagle announced that the Board is being asked to consider the University's request to confer an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters upon Juan Gabriel Moreno, who is serving as NEIU's Commencement Speaker in May. President Gibson read Mr. Moreno's published biography aloud and requested the board to approve the University's recommendation.

Action Item I. E. Approval of Recommendation to Confer the University's Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters upon Mr. Juan Gabriel Moreno, this year's May Commencement speaker.

Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Serrano moved to approve the University's recommendation to confer its honorary doctor of humane letters upon Mr. Juan Gabriel Moreno.

Discussion: Trustees enthusiastically support this distinction, referenced other notable endeavors of Mr. Moreno, and asked that he be recognized in the Commencement introduction as the architect who designed the El Centro building.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia: Yes	Garcia: Yes	Mordican: Yes	Serrano: Yes
Eagle: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Palos:	Stein: Yes

The motion carried.

Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 2:45 p.m. Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Garcia moved to convene in Closed Session, citing sections 2(c)5 and 2(c)11 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session

At 4:10 p.m. Trustee Stein, seconded by Trustee Mordican moved to reconvene in Open Session. The motion carried by acclamation.

Legal Report

Trustees received the Legal Report in advance from the University's General Counsel and had an opportunity to ask questions in Closed Session.

Old/New Business

Trustee Eagle asked if there was any old or new business to present.

Commencement exercises will be held at the Credit Union 1 Arena on Friday, May 13, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.

Thank you to Trustees Eagle and Kalayil who are representing the board at the upcoming Master's Hooding Ceremonies on May 2, and Trustees Azcoitia and Serrano will be representing the Board at the May 3 Academic Honors Ceremonies. Please let Karl know if you are able to participate in Commencement.

Next regular board meeting is scheduled for June 9, 2022.

Motion to Adjourn

At 4:15 p.m. Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Kalayil moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Eagle, Vice Chair of the Board
Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary
Approved June 9, 2022