

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University

**Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee  
Meeting Minutes**

August 11, 2022

A meeting of the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, August 11, 2022 in the Golden Eagles Room located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL. Trustee Ann Kalayil, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

**Roll was called and the following Trustee Committee members were present:** Shyrice Howell and Ann Kalayil

**Other Trustees present:** Charlie Serrano and Jonathan Stein

**Also present:** Gloria Gibson, President; G. A. Finch, University Counsel; Mary Pat Burns, Board Counsel (via video); Josie Gough, Partner, Burke, Burns & Pinelli, Ltd. (via video); Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board; vice presidents; staff; and university community members both in person and via video

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

Trustee Kalayil announced the opportunity for public comment. There was one request to speak.

1. **Nancy Matthews**, Professor and President of University Professionals of Illinois Local 4100  
**Topic:** to address how NEIU is handling the current COVID situation

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

Trustee Kalayil looks forward to the new academic year. President Gibson announced that the University's leadership team participated in a two-day retreat planning for the future. Dr. Gibson thanked staff and Trustees for their efforts in recruitment and enrollment for the Fall semester. Dr. Gibson thanked Trustee Kalayil for her support of the SAELL program. Faculty Institute will happen next week over two and a half days. The COVID Task Force has presented their recommendations for the upcoming Fall semester. An announcement will go out to the University next week.

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**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION**

**Tenure and Rank Recommendation for Dr. Thomas Philion, Dean of the Goodwin College of Education**

Dr. Andrea Evans, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, reported that following a national search, Thomas Philion, Ph.D. was hired as the Dean of the Daniel L. Goodwin College of Education and began his appointment on July 1, 2022.

Dr. Philion earned his bachelor's degree in English from Fordham University and his master's and Ph.D. in English and Education from The University of Michigan. He comes to Northeastern Illinois University from Roosevelt University where he served as Associate Provost of Strategic Initiatives since 2018, and as Dean of the College of Education since 2013. Prior to 2013, Dr. Philion served as associate dean and chair of teacher preparation programs at Roosevelt University and directed the Chicago Area Writing Project. Earlier in his career he was an associate professor of the English Education Programs at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Dr. Phillion is the author of more than 20 articles and reports on topics such as teacher research, portfolio pedagogy and collaborative learning. Since 2013, he facilitated the acquisition of over \$10 million in external grants and contracts, including a recent grant from A Better Chicago to create a new tutoring corps for Chicago Public Schools.

This matter is being deferred to the September Board meeting due to a lack of eligible quorum to make a recommendation.

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## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### **Enrollment Management Report**

Dr. Kimberley Buster-Williams, Vice President for Enrollment Management, reported as of August 4, 2022 there are 448 first-time, full-time freshmen enrolled compared to 251 same time last year. There are 398 transfer students enrolled compared to 518 same time last year. There are 303 graduates enrolled compared to 339 same time last year. There are two remaining new student orientations scheduled for this week and next. Student credit hours are presently at 41,385 against a goal of 61,300. So far, NEIU for You 2.0 has awarded \$115,061 in top-off funding for first-time, full-time freshmen and \$192,291 for transfer students. NEIU for You 1.0 was awarded to 311 students in Fall 2021. To date, 134 of those recipients are registered for Fall 2022. NEIU for You 1.0 was awarded to 552 transfer students in Fall 2021. To date, 436 of those students are registered for Fall 2022. Overall fall-to-fall retention is 54% for first-time, full-time freshmen and 63% for transfers. The Fall semester census date is September 1<sup>st</sup>. The University continues to have regular contact with prospective and stop-out students to enroll in the upcoming Fall term. Students are not retained for a variety of reasons, but the main reason is access to financial resources. Trustees requested a Spanish-language speaker at future orientations. A request was made to increase the family income figure from its current level of \$60,000 for NEIU for You 2.0. Trustee Kalayil recommended that this request be made to the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee.

### **Academic Affairs Report**

Dr. Andrea Evans reported on the current state of the nursing program at Northeastern. The initial program was developed in 2017, and several failed searches for program directors have led the University to re-evaluate the program. Dr. Concetta Zak has been hired as the Interim Director of the nursing program to help the University revise the program's objectives. In 2022-23, a group of University stakeholders will evaluate current trends in the field of nursing, conduct an analysis of the University's nursing program options, and make a recommendation of the best program options for Northeastern. Dr. Evans reported on the dual enrollment program at Northeastern. There were 64 students enrolled in Spring 2022 and 86 enrolled in Summer 2022. The program is being expanded in Fall 2022 and the University is working on a new MOU with Chicago Public Schools. Dual enrollment is available as a cohort or to individual students. The objective of the dual enrollment program is to encourage graduating high school student to matriculate to Northeastern.

Trustee Stein joined the meeting at 9:47 a.m.

### **Student Affairs Report**

Dr. Terry Mena, Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, reported that this year's Student Government Association (SGA) retreat will take place on August 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> at the DoubleTree in Skokie. Topics include the SGA constitution, roles and responsibilities, Parliamentary procedure, writing legislation, committee creation, and other issues SGA should focus on for this academic year. Dr. Gibson, Dr. Evans, Dr. Mena, and Chair Palos will also meet with SGA at this time.

Student Affairs has hired the following new staff members: Dr. Katy McGuinnis, Director of Career Development Services; Mr. Andrew "Andy" Dutil, Executive Director of Student Union and Campus

Recreation; and Dr. DeWitt Scott, Director of Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs.

As part of the recommendations from the external review of Student Affairs, Career Development Services will undergo a restructuring and adopt the College Liaison Model. Handshake, the online career development portal will be rebranded, and a Career and Internship Fair is being planned for November 10<sup>th</sup>.

As of August 4, there are 243 leases signed for fall 2022 at The Nest, which represents a 55.2% occupancy rate. There are 100 applications without leases in progress putting the University on track to surpass last year's occupancy rate. Veronica Rodriguez, Director of Student Leadership Development, in partnership with Academic Affairs confirmed that all 6 Living Learning Communities (LLC) have accepted their incoming cohorts with a total of 119 students. STEM - 24, Honors – 14, CASEP – 16, Future Teachers – 17, Social Justice - 24, and Discover Yourself – 24. LLC faculty and staff program leads had a training on August 9<sup>th</sup>, and all LLC members will have an orientation on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

The Afghan Student Transition Program (ATP) Fall 2022 enrollment is 15, of which 13 are living in The Nest. 12 ATP students registered for and completed courses during the spring 2022 semester with a “B” average. 14 ATP students registered for the summer 2022 semester and are currently completing their classes. 15 ATP students will be enrolled in classes for the fall 2022 semester, with 12 already completing fall registration and 3 currently working with academic advisors. ATP students received computer bags and headphones to assist while traveling or connecting remotely to their classes. Currently, ATP students are being assisted with obtaining textbooks for the fall semester, transportation, and stipends for personal needs. Available funding will be distributed to the students at the beginning of the fall semester.

### **University Technology Services Update**

Manish Kumar, Vice President for Finance and Administration, reported that Multi-Factor Authentication went live on March 1<sup>st</sup>, and mandatory University-wide cyber security training has been implemented. The University continues to mitigate cyber security risks by running network vulnerability and penetration tests. Network infrastructure upgrade, WIFI upgrade phase 1, telephone system upgrade, and Data Center optimization and modernization are complete. Future projects include the Data Center migration, modernization of the Novell file management system, and a WIFI upgrade project phase 2. Major deployment efforts for Slate (CRM) are now complete with ongoing fine tuning. Degree Works, Workday HRMS, and eProcurement implementations are also underway. Call Center Suite is being investigated. Trustee Kalayil asked for project map for the various implementations to be presented at the next committee meeting. Trustee Kalayil also thanked VP Kumar for his efforts in modernizing the University's technology with the goal of improving customer experience.

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### **Old Business / New Business**

Trustee Kalayil asked if there was any old or new business to consider. Seeing none, there was no further business.

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### **Motion to Adjourn**

At 10:30 a.m. Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Howell moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalayil, Chair of the Committee  
Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary  
Approved September 22, 2022