

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
June 15, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened in the Student Union Alumni Hall South located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL on Thursday, June 15, 2023. José Rico, Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 1:19 p.m.

**Roll was called and the following Trustees were present:** Betty Fleurimond; Marvin Garcia; Shyrice Howell; Ann Kalayil; Jorge Leon; Michelle Morales; José Rico; and Paula Wolff

**Also present:** Gloria Gibson, President; G. A. Finch, University Counsel; Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board; Vice Presidents, staff, students, and University community members

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**Approval of Past Meeting Minutes**

Chair Rico deferred this matter until the next meeting.

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

Chair Rico announced the opportunity for public comment. There were seven registrations placed in advance and 6 people made presentations.

1. **David Rubin** as self  
Topic: perception of employee relation issues
2. **Denise Cloonan Cortez** as representing the College of Arts and Sciences  
Topic: to talk about safety on campus and how we feel unsafe
3. **Olivia Perlow** as representing the University  
Topic: state of the university
4. **Bader Alwan** as representing the Student Government Association  
Topic: students' vision for improving the campus
5. **Tim Libretti** as self  
Topic: enrollment efficiencies
6. **Aneta Galary** as representing the University  
Topic: NEIU matters

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

Chair Rico apologized for the late start of the meeting. Trustees were honored to share lunch with and hear from several Afghan Transition Program students currently enrolled at the University. The University is pleased to introduce several of them at today's meeting. The University has secured an addition \$1.25M from the legislature to continue the Afghan Transition Program which supports relocated Afghan refugees in academic programs at Northeastern. Trustee Rico recognized the outgoing Student Trustee, Shyrice Howell, at her last regular Board Meeting and thanked her for dedicated service. Chair Rico presented a framed resolution to Shyrice on behalf of the Board and President.

President Gibson provided remarks and thanked the Board and University for the opportunity to serve the University as President over the past five years. President Gibson expressed her gratitude to the University for their support and dedication to Northeastern, and wished everyone the very best in its next chapter.

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**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee held Special Committee Meetings on April 24, May 31, and June 13, 2023, and held a Regular Committee Meeting on May 8, 2023. The Committee acted on behalf of, and with the

knowledge of, the full Board in accordance with the Board's Bylaws, and the Committee's charter, on the following matters requiring Board approval:

- **May 8** –approved the contract agreement between the University and University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) as ratified by members of Local 4100
- **May 31** –approved:
  - the U-Pass contract renewal through 2028
  - the modified FY24 Preliminary Operating Budget
  - the contract between the University and the International Union of Operating Engineers as ratified by members of Local 399

Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee

The Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee met on Thursday, May 18, 2023 in the Golden Eagles Room located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL at 1:00 p.m. The committee received several information briefings and is recommending the following item for approval:

Action Item I. A. Committee Recommendation to Approve the Master of Science in Nursing – Entry into Practice Program

Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Rico, moved to approve the Master of Science in Nursing – Entry into Practice Program as recommended by the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee.

Discussion: Trustees asked clarifying questions about the program and the University's readiness. The University will need to acquire some additional equipment across the University's locations. There are several other hurdles to overcome such as accreditation from 3 different agencies. The University has approximately \$450k allocated for startup costs which will include staff and some infrastructure costs. President Gibson added that state funding will be available to offset institutional costs in starting the program.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Howell: Yes	Leon: Yes	Phillips:	Wolff: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes	

The motion carried

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**Motion to Convene in Closed Session**

At 2:17 p.m. Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Leon, moved to convene into Closed Session to discuss matters pertaining to personnel and litigation in accordance with the IL Open Meetings Act sections 2(c)1 and 2(c)11.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Howell: Yes	Leon: Yes	Phillips:	Wolff: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes	

The motion carried. Trustees moved to the Golden Eagles Room. Trustee Wolff left the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

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### **Motion to Reconvene in Open Session**

At 4:05 p.m. Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Garcia, moved to reconvene in Open Session. The motion carried by acclamation.

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### **Legal Report**

Chair Rico announced that the Trustees had received the legal report in advance and had an opportunity to ask questions about it in Closed Session.

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

Trustee Rico asked if there was any old business.

#### Action Item: Motion to Approve Release of Confidentiality of Prior Closed Session Written Minutes

Trustee Leon, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to approve release of the following past closed session written minutes for public inspection as they no longer require confidential treatment:

- August 10, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting
- August 24, 2020 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting
- October 12, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting
- November 9, 2020 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting
- January 25, 2021 Audit Committee Meeting
- February 23, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- March 22, 2021 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting
- June 10, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- July 29, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting
- September 23, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- September 29, 2021 Executive Committee Special Meeting
- November 18, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- February 10, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
- May 9, 2022 Regular Board Meeting
- June 9, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

...and that the Closed Session written minutes from the...

- January 27, 2020 Audit Committee Meeting
- January 27, 2020 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting
- February 13, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- May 4, 2020 Special Board Meeting
- June 11, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

- September 17, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- October 26, 2020 Audit Committee Meeting
- February 11, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- April 15, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- May 3, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting
- May 17, 2021 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting
- March 24, 2022 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting
- April 14, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

...require confidential treatment and will remain confidential.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Howell: Yes	Leon: Yes	Phillips:	Wolff:
Garcia: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes	

The motion carried.

Action Item: Motion to Approve the Destruction of Prior Closed Session Verbatim Records

Trustee Leon, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to approve the destruction of prior closed session verbatim records from the following meetings:

- April 16, 2020 Regular Board Meeting
- August 10, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting
- August 24, 2020 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting
- October 12, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting
- November 9, 2020 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting
- January 25, 2021 Audit Committee Meeting
- February 23, 2021 Special Board Meeting
- March 22, 2021 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting
- June 10, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- July 29, 2021 Executive Committee Meeting
- September 23, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- September 29, 2021 Executive Committee Special Meeting

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Howell: Yes	Leon: Yes	Phillips:	Wolff:
Garcia: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes	

The motion carried.

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### **Old / New Business**

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

#### New Business

Trustee Morales, seconded by Trustee Garcia, moved to approve the resolution honoring outgoing Student Trustee, Shyrice A. Howell.

“WHEREAS, Shyrice Howell was elected to serve as the Student Trustee on the Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, Shyrice Howell is a Dean’s List student at Northeastern Illinois University working toward a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting; and

WHEREAS, Shyrice Howell, in addition to her impressive academic work, has tirelessly promoted Northeastern Illinois University and the success of its students through her diligent involvement in Student Government; and

WHEREAS, Shyrice Howell is an NEIU Student Leadership Award recipient, has served as President and Treasurer of the Black Caucus Club, has served as President of the Pi Nu Chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and served as a delegate to the United Greek Council at Northeastern; and

WHEREAS, Shyrice Howell is a member of the Illinois CPA Society where she is a Mary T. Washington Wylie Scholar, is a member of the National Association of Black Accountants, and is a Monarch Awards Foundation scholarship awardee; and

WHEREAS, Shyrice Howell has earnestly pursued equity among the entire student body, and has admirably represented her fellow students as a member of the Board of Trustees, as well as being a respected ambassador of Northeastern Illinois University.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University honors Shyrice A. Howell and expresses its sincere gratitude for her exemplary service.

Presented on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University, June 15, 2023 by José Rico, Chair of the Board and Gloria J. Gibson, Ph.D., President of the University.”

Discussion: abundant applause

The motion carried by acclamation.

#### Upcoming events

A reception honoring Dr. Gloria J. Gibson will commence in Alumni Hall North immediately following today’s meeting.

A special meeting of the Board will be convened next week. Date to be announced.

Regular Board committee meetings will resume in August.

There was no further business.

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**Motion to Adjourn**

At 4:25 p.m. Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

José Rico, Chair of the Board  
Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary  
Approved September 21, 2023