

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
September 21, 2023

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, September 21, 2023 in the Student Union Alumni Hall South. Board Chair, José Rico, called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

**Roll was called and the following Trustees were present:** Betty Fleurimond; Marvin Garcia; Ann Kalayil; Jorge Leon; Edwin Medina; Anna Meresidis; Michelle Morales; J. Todd Phillips; José Rico; and Paula Wolff

**Also present:** Katrina E. Bell-Jordan, Interim 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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**Motion to Approve Past Meeting Minutes**

Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Leon, moved to approve the following open and closed past meeting minutes and that the closed minutes shall remain closed:

- ◆ April 4, 2023 Executive Committee Special Meeting
- ◆ April 13, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
- ◆ April 24, 2023 Executive Committee Special Meeting
- ◆ May 8, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting
- ◆ May 18, 2023 Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee Meeting
- ◆ May 31, 2023 Executive Committee Special Meeting
- ◆ June 13, 2023 Executive Committee Special Meeting
- ◆ June 15, 2023 Regular Board Meeting
- ◆ June 24, 2023 Special Board Meeting

Discussion: there were no additions or corrections recommended.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Medina: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Phillips: Yes	Wolff: Yes

The motion carried. The minutes are approved as presented.

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

Trustee Rico announced the opportunity for public comment. There were 5 registrations placed in advance and 4 presentations.

1. **Steven Frankel** as self  
**Topic:** Moving NEIU forward
2. **Nikolas Hoel** as Chair of the Faculty Senate  
**Topic:** introduction as new Senate Chair and to encourage collaboration with shared governance in this year of transition
3. **Ymelda Robles** as member of AFSCME Local 1989  
**Topic:** asking the Board to support the one-year contract extension
4. **Nancy Matthews** as President of University Professionals of Illinois, Local 4100  
**Topic:** comments of appreciation and concern about where we are at this point
5. **Patricia Ruch** as employee of the College of Arts & Sciences Dean's Office

**Topic:** to relay ADA issues in the Brommel Hall building that affect wheelchair bound people

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## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee

Committee Chair Ann Kalayil reported that the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee met in the Golden Eagles Room on the main campus on August 24, 2023. The committee received several informational briefings and shared three of them. The committee has no recommendations for the Board today.

### Information Item II. A. Fall 2023 Enrollment Update

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Terry Mena, reported the Fall 2023 enrollment figures. Undergraduate enrollments as of September 4, 2023 are 549 first-time, full-time freshmen (6.4% increase over fall 2022); 602 transfer students (3.6% increase over fall 2022); 129 unclassified students (7.2% decrease over fall 2022); and 98 readmitted students (3.9% decrease over fall 2022). Graduate enrollment is 492 (9.6% increase over fall 2022). Fall 2023 credit hour actuals are 51,845.

Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Ryan Trout, provided a brief update on recruitment tactics for Fall 2025. Director of Graduate Admissions, Timothy Sheahan, provided a brief update on recruitment tactics for Fall 2025.

V.P. Mena reported that the Nest occupancy rate is 389 students or 92.6% of capacity. The University's continued financial commitment to the Living and Learning Communities (LLCs) is a critical component to the occupancy success. 103 students have been awarded housing through the LLCs.

### Information Item II. B. Housing Update

### Information Item II. C. New Faculty Biography

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, R. Shayne Cofer, introduced the newest tenure-track faculty member, Andrya Soprych. Dr. Soprych completed her Doctor of Social Work degree at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota and is an Assistant Professor in the Social Work Department.

### Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee

Committee Chair J. Todd Phillips reported that the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee met this morning in this same room. The committee received briefings on several information items and is presenting the following items for Board action today:

### Action Item I. A. Approval of the Final FY24 Operating Budget

Trustee Leon, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to approve the Final FY24 Operating Budget.

Discussion: due to higher interest rates, investment income in FY23 was very strong. The books are not yet closed on last fiscal year so the surplus known today will be adjusted.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Medina: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Phillips: Yes	Wolff: Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I. B. Approval of the FY25 Tuition and Fees Recommendations

After some discussion, the committee recommended that this matter be deferred until the November meeting.

Action Item I. C. Approval of the FY25 Preliminary Operating and Capital Budgets Request

Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Wolff, moved to approve the FY25 Preliminary Operating and Capital Budgets Request as presented.

Discussion: Trustees asked clarifying questions

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Medina: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Phillips: Yes	Wolff: Yes

The motion carried.

Trustee Wolff left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Action Item I. D. Approval of NEIU for You 3.0 Renewal and Expansion to Include Veteran and Transfer Students

Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to approve the NEIU for You 3.0 Renewal and Expansion to Include Veteran and Transfer Students

Discussion: Trustees asked clarifying questions about the program.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Medina: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Phillips: Yes	Wolff:

The motion carried.

Action Item I. E. Approval of Change Order to Technolutions Contract to Purchase Text Credits

Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to approve the Change Order to Technolutions Contract to Purchase Text Credits.

Discussion: Trustees asked clarifying questions about the item.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Medina: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes
Garcia:	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Phillips: Yes	Wolff:

The motion carried.

Action Item I. F. Approval of Resolution to Remove Facilities from the University's System

Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Morales, moved to approve the Resolution to Remove Facilities from the University's System.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Medina: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Phillips: Yes	Wolff:

The motion carried.

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**Motion to Convene in Closed Session**

At 3:23 p.m. Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Leon, moved to convene in Closed Session pursuant to sections 2(c)2 and 2(c)11 to discuss collective bargaining and legal matters.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Medina: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Phillips: Yes	Wolff:

The motion carried. The audience was asked to leave the room.

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**Motion to Reconvene in Open Session**

At 4:42 p.m. Trustee Phillips, 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 Board received the legal report in advance and had an opportunity to ask questions during Closed Session.

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**Additional Board Action Item**

Action Item I. G. Approval of American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1989 Contract Extension

Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Leon, moved to approve the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1989 Contract Extension.

Discussion: <video>

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Medina: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Phillips: Yes	Wolff:

The motion carried.

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### Old / New Business

Chair Rico asked if there was any old business to discuss. Chair Rico, seconded by Trustee Leon, moved that the confidential written minutes of the Closed Session portion of the following meeting no longer requires confidential treatment and are to be made available for public inspection - May 9, 2022 Executive Committee Meeting, and that the Closed Session written minutes from the June 9, 2022 Regular Board Meeting and the June 24, 2022 Special 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	Kalayil: Yes	Medina: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Phillips: Yes	Wolff:

The motion carried.

Chair Rico, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to approve the destruction of past Closed Session verbatim records from the September 29, 2021 Executive Committee Special Meeting, the November 18, 2021 Regular Board Meeting, and the March 24, 2022 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Medina: Yes	Morales: Yes	Rico: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Phillips: Yes	Wolff:

The motion carried.

Chair Rico asked if there was any new business.

### Action Item: Motion to Approve Committee Members and Chairs AY23-24

Chair Rico, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to approve the waiver of the five-day notice to all Board members regarding nomination of committee members and committee chairs, and to approve Trustees for the following appointments:

- Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee:
  - J. Todd Phillips, chair
  - Anna Meresidis, member
  - Paula Wolff, member
- Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee
  - Ann Kalayil, chair
  - Betty Fleurimond, member
  - Marvin Garcia, member
  - Edwin Medina, member

- Michelle Morales, member
- Audit Committee
  - Anna Meresidis, chair
  - Jorge Leon, member
- Executive Committee
  - Paula Wolff as *Officer Pro Tem*

Discussion: there was no discussion

The motion carried by acclamation.

Chair Rico announced that there is a reception immediately following this meeting in Alumni Hall North. Chair Rico announced the following upcoming Board meetings:

- October 9, 2023 Executive Committee Meeting
- October 23, 2023 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting
- October 27, 2023 Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee Meeting
- November 16, 2023 Regular Board Meeting at the Carruthers Center

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### **Motion to Adjourn**

At 4:51 p.m. Chair Rico, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

José Rico, Board Chair  
Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary  
Approved November 16, 2023