

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University
Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2024

A meeting of the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, January 18, 2024 in the Student Union Golden Eagles Room located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL. Trustee Ann Kalayil called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

Roll was called and the following Trustee Committee members were present: Marvin Garcia; Ann Kalayil; Edwin Medina and Michelle Morales

Also present: Katrina E. Bell-Jordan, Interim President; Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board; vice presidents, staff, students, and University community members

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

There were no requests received.

Chair's and President's Remarks

Trustee Kalayil welcomed everyone back from the winter break and expressed her wishes for a successful Spring semester.

Dr. Bell-Jordan echoed Trustee Kalayil's sentiments, thanked everyone for the pivot to remote work and school this first week on account of the weather, and gave her well wishes for a prosperous and healthy 2024.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Trustee Kalayil asked and the committee did not object to taking agenda items out of order.

University Technology Services (UTS)

Chief Information Officer, Eliot Rodriguez, reported on the division's work and initiatives. UTS utilizes technology to support student success and retention in addition to providing robust technology support to the learning environment. Student employees help support the technology operations of the University while earning their degrees. In tandem with working in UTS, student employees are able to earn technology-specific certifications alongside University employees, and these certifications are an enhancement that students can use as leverage in the workplace.

UTS is divided into several sub-groups: client services that maintains the IT service desk and media services; enterprise applications which includes Banner, Workday, ESM, Chrome River, and D2L; project management; network security; and network infrastructure. UTS is continually working to improve the learning and working environment at the University. A potential initiative on the horizon is in the beginning stages of development. The University currently uses several ERP systems and independent systems to tie them all together. In 2025 the University's Series 2006 Certificates of Participation (Capital Improvement Projects) will mature. These certificates were used to finance the purchase of the Banner ERP system. The University will begin conducting a needs analysis and system architecture review to determine the value to University operations. An executive analysis will be prepared for a later presentation.

Several other UTS initiatives are in varying degrees of completion or have already been deployed.

Enrollment Management

Spring 2024 Enrollment Update

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Terry Mena, reported on the Spring 2024 enrollment for First-Time/Full-Time (F-T/F-T) freshmen, Transfers and Graduate students. The total enrollment goal across all of these classifications for Spring 2024 was 567. The current enrollment across all of these classifications is 573. The total credit hour goal for Spring 2024 across all of these classifications was 48,261. The actual credit hours across all of these classifications are 47,710.50 or 99% of goal. The Spring 2023 to Spring 2024 retention across all of these classifications is 67%.

Interim Associate Dean of Students, Paola Vargas, reported on the Spring 2024 Afghan Refugee Transition Program (ARTP) enrollment. Cohort 1 enrollment is 8 and Cohort 2 enrollment is 13. 7 students from Cohort 1 and 8 students from Cohort 2 are living in The Nest. Several scholarship offers have been declined and recruitment continues from alternate candidates. Cohort orientations, moving into resident housing, and academic advising took place during the winter break. Student Affairs is looking to hire an extra help employee to assist with ARTP logistics and communications. The IL Department of Human Services recently approved the University's submitted program budget.

Student Success and Retention

Interim Associate Vice President for Student Success and Retention, Irma Ortiz, reported the latest updates. Undergraduate enrollment for Fall 2023 was 1,149. Fall 2023 to Spring 2024 retention goals were 85% (471) for F-T/F-T students and 90% (537) students for Transfers. The actuals are 77% (394) for F-T/F-T students and 85% (505) for Transfer students. These figures are down slightly from the same period last year. Hope Chicago enrollment is 59: 23 students from Cohort 1 and 36 students from Cohort 2. The University continues its outreach to admitted students who have not registered. Golden Tours will begin again in Spring 2024 with the goal of visiting up to 20 high schools and meet with admitted high school students to begin the onboarding process. Erica Brown-Pierce has recently been hired as the permanent Director of the Project Success program and will begin searches for two additional advisors. Team meetings for Summer Transition Program (STP), NEIUStar Functional, and the Undergraduate Retention Intervention (URIT) have begun.

Old / New Business

Trustee Kalayil asked the committee to provide feedback on topics that it would like to receive presentations on for the remainder of this academic year. Trustee Medina asked for information on what enrollment initiatives worked and which ones did not, and information regarding why certain initiatives did not work or will be discontinued. Trustee Morales asked to see information/data about the student experience. Trustee Garcia would like to hear more about the faculty work with respect to retention. He also asked for a more thorough understanding of the University's Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) designation, a response to an updated or refreshed campus climate survey, and a deeper understanding of how the University uses course evaluation data.

Motion to Adjourn

At 2:46 p.m. Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Morales, moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalayil, Committee Chair
Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board
Approved February 15, 2024