

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
February 15, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, February 15, 2024 in the Student Union Alumni Hall located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625. Vice Chair Marvin Garcia called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

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

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

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Morales, moved to approve the following open and closed past meeting minutes and to keep the closed minutes closed:

- Closed minutes from the June 15, 2023 Executive Committee special meeting
- Open minutes from the October 27, 2023 Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment and Technology Committee meeting
- Open and Closed minutes from the November 16, 2023 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee special meeting
- Open and Closed minutes from the November 21, 2023 Regular Board meeting
- Open minutes from the January 18, 2024 Audit Committee meeting
- Open minutes from the January 18, 2024 Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment and Technology Committee meeting

Discussion: there was no discussion and no changes recommended

The minutes were approved as written by acclamation.

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

Trustee Garcia announced the opportunity for public comment. There was one registration received and the registrant withdrew it prior to the meeting.

Chair's and President's Remarks

Interim President Bell-Jordan recognized former Board Chair and Trustee, José Rico and thanked him for his service to the Board and the University. On January 16 in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion hosted Dr. Barbara Ransby in her keynote address titled "The Fierce Urgency of Now: MLK Jr., the Black Freedom Movement, and Campuses as Epicenters of the Struggle for Justice Today." On January 30, 2024 Cook County President, Toni Preckwinkle, delivered the 9th Annual Servant Leadership Lecture as part of the University's Mossadegh Initiative entitled "Public Service in America's Second Most Populous County." February 1 was the kickoff event for Black History Month. Check the calendar for all upcoming events including the February 23 Black Heritage Awards at the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies. The Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has launched a series of conversations on "servingness" as direct call from the October State of University Address on what it means to be an Hispanic and Minority Serving Institution. The first talk will take place on February 22. Spring 2024 enrollment is down 2.4% compared to same time last year, however the number of credit hours has exceeded the budget number by 2,000 credit hours. The University continues its efforts to elevate its branding, targeted marketing efforts, and the new monument signs at the main campus entrances are now installed. The University continues its outreach to former students who stopped out due to Accounts Receivable holds. Of the 119 students who took advantage of the University's financial support to reduce or eliminate their A/R holds, 67 are enrolled for Spring 2024 classes representing 658

credit hours. With Illinois Legislature back in session, NEIU is preparing for their annual Senate and House hearings for FY25 appropriations. On January 17 the General Assembly voted to approve the Illinois Board of Higher Education's (IBHE) recommendation for a 6.8% increase in FY25 higher education funding. The matter is pending final passage of state budget in May.

Vice Chair Garcia echoed Dr. Bell-Jordan's comments in thanking former Chair Rico for his many contributions including guiding the Board through an interim president search. Trustee Garcia reported that the Board earlier today was joined by some of the Afghan students who are part of last year's cohort and the current year's cohort of the Afghan Refugee Transition Program (ARTP). Trustee Garcia thanked Trustee Kalayil for spearheading this program. The ARTP will be hosting a Diwali celebration and Trustees will receive invitations.

Presidential Search Update

Trustee Betty Fleurimond began by thanking NEIU employees who are serving as direct support to the search committee, as well as the members of the search committee, and committee co-chairs Trustee Jorge Leon and Student Trustee Edwin Medina. AGB Search is the firm being used by the University to assist with the search. There were 168 survey responses in relation to the more than 20 listening sessions conducted that helped form the search profile. Continuing communications about the search, as well as the approved search profile will be available on the search webpages on the University's website. Trustees thanked Betty for her leadership throughout this process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee

Trustee Kalayil reported that the committee met on January 18, 2024. The committee has no recommendations to present today, but received briefings on academic affairs, enrollment, retention, student affairs, technology, and an update on the Afghan Refugee Transition Program (ARTP).

Audit Committee

Trustee Meresidis reported that the Audit Committee met on Thursday, January 18, 2024 and is presenting four recommendations to the Board for approval.

Action Item I. A. Approval of Recommendation to Accept and File the FY23 Internal Audit Department Annual Report

Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Phillips, moved to approve the Audit Committee's recommendation to accept and file the FY23 internal audit department annual report as presented.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

Action Item I. B. Approval of Recommendation to Accept and File the Internal Auditing Department Charter

Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to approve the Audit Committee's recommendation to accept and file the internal auditing department charter as presented.

Discussion: Trustees appreciate the transparency outlined within the charter document

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes Kalayil: Yes Medina: Yes Morales: Yes Wolff:
Garcia: Yes Leon: Yes Mercedesis: Yes Phillips: Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I. C. Approval of Recommendation to Accept and File the FY2024-25 Internal Audit Plan
Trustee Fleurimond, seconded by Trustee Morales, to approve the Audit Committee’s recommendation to accept and file the FY2024-25 internal audit plan as presented.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes Kalayil: Yes Medina: Yes Morales: Yes Wolff:
Garcia: Yes Leon: Yes Mercedesis: Yes Phillips: Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I. D. Approval of Recommendation to Accept and File the Statement of Auditor Independence
Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Kalayil, moved to approve the Audit Committee’s recommendation to accept and file the statement of auditor independence as presented.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes Kalayil: Yes Medina: Yes Morales: Yes Wolff:
Garcia: Yes Leon: Yes Mercedesis: Yes Phillips: Yes

The motion carried.

Information Item II. A. Status of FY2022 External Audit Findings

Director of Internal Audit, Christy Temples, reviewed the report and answered Trustees questions.

Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee

Trustee Phillips reported that the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee did not meet on January 8, 2024, however, used that time to refashion the University’s quarterly report.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Information Item II. A. Status of FY2022 External Audit Findings

Director of Internal Audits, Christie Temples, answer Trustees’ questions regarding implementation of the remaining findings recommendations.

Information Item II. B. Second Quarter Budget to Actual Report

Director of University Budgets, Ronna Castaneda, reviewed the 2nd quarter budget to actual report with Trustees and answered their questions. Justin Krieg, former Interim Director of University Budgets provided additional background information with support from Vice President for Finance and Administration, Manish Kumar.

Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 2:22 p.m. Trustee Leon, seconded by Trustee Phillips, moved to convene into Closed Session.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried. Trustees moved to the President’s Conference Room.

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session

At 4:22 p.m. Trustee Leon, seconded by Trustee Kalayil, moved to reconvene in Open Session. The motion carried by acclamation. After a short break, the meeting resumed at 4:33 p.m.

Legal Report

Trustee Garcia reported that the Trustees received the Legal Report in advance of today’s meeting and had an opportunity to ask questions about it in Closed Session.

Officer Election

Trustee Garcia announced that Trustees agreed to present the following slate of officers to finish out the current terms: J. Todd Phillips was nominated and accepted the nomination for Board Chair to fill the vacancy created by José Rico. Trustee Meresidis was nominated and accepted the nomination for Board Secretary to fill the vacancy created by J. Todd Phillips.

Trustee Fleurimond, seconded by Trustee Morales, moved to approve the slate of officers presented to complete the vacant terms of Chair and Secretary.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried. The next officer election cycle will take place in June, 2024. Vice Chair Garcia presented the gavel to Chair Phillips.

Old / New Business

Pursuant to section 2.06(d) of Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120), Trustee Medina, seconded by Trustee Garcia, moved to keep the prior approved Closed Session minutes from the April 16, 2020 Regular Board meeting closed.

Discussion: there was no discussion

The motion carried by acclamation.

Pursuant to section 2.06(c) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120), Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Morales, moved to approve destruction of the verbatim records from the Closed Session portion of the June 9, 2022 Regular Board meeting.

Discussion: there was no discussion

The motion carried by acclamation.

Trustee Garcia announced the following upcoming meetings:

- March 21, 2023 Board Committee Meeting Day
- April 18, 2024 – Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee meeting at El Centro (morning)
- April 18, 2024 – Regular Board meeting at El Centro (afternoon)

There was no further business.

Motion to Adjourn

At 4:38 p.m. Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to adjourn. The motion carried by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

J.Todd Phillips, Chair of the Board
Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary
Approved April 18, 2024