

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University
Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2025

A meeting of the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on January 16, 2025 in the Student Union Alumni Hall North located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625. Trustee Ann Kalayil, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Roll was called and the following Trustees were present: Betty Fleurimond; Ann Kalayil; and Itzel Linares

Other Trustees present: Carlos Garcia

Also present: Katrina Bell-Jordan, President; Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board; vice presidents; Deans; students; staff; and University community members both in person and viewing online.

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

Ann Kalayil announced the opportunity for public comment. There were no registrations received.

Chair's and President's Remarks

Trustee Kalayil remarked how great it was to see all of the graduates this past December and thanked everyone who supported them and their success.

President Bell-Jordan announced that the Spring 2025 term will begin on Tuesday, January 21, 2025. The Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) did not anticipate such a robust participation in its Monetary Award Program (MAP) grants in the Fall 2024 term and finds itself short of funds for the Spring term. Funding is down 8%, but the University has identified funds to cover the difference for student MAP recipients in the Spring term. This gap in funding is affecting approximately 2500 NEIU students. Students with a current MAP award need to be sure they are registered for the Spring term by January 25. The University has begun its strategic planning process. A SWOT survey has been circulated to students and employees to complete by January 31. University officials met with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) officials in November, 2024. The new Ed.D. program has been approved and the University is still waiting to hear about the Master of Science in Nursing program approval. University officials will meet with the IBHE about the MSN program in the next week.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Academic Affairs

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Shayne Cofer, reported that the University will meet with the IBHE soon to discuss the MSN program approval. Dr. Cofer provided an overview of the academic program pathway to approval and answered questions.

Acting Associate Provost, Sudha Srinivas and Interim Associate Provost, Effie Kritikos reported that the proposed doctorate (Ed.D.) program in Leadership, Equity and Inquiry (LEI) was approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) on November 18, 2024. NEIU is seeking approval from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), the University's accrediting body, to offer this new doctoral program. The Ed.D. program is considered a "substantial change" application and triggers 2-day site visit by HLC peer reviewers, to be scheduled for March or April 2025. The site visit will involve review of the scope and quality of the proposed program and resources available, and will involve meetings and visits with administrators, program faculty, staff and students.

Sudha Srinivas reported that NEIU is on the “Open Pathway” route to accreditation, available to institutions that have previously completed at least one 10-year pathway cycle. The Open Pathway consists of:

- an Assurance Review (completed in 2021-22);
- a strategic improvement plan called the Quality Initiative Plan (years 5 and 9), and;
- a comprehensive evaluation in year 10 (2027-28)

NEIU’s proposed Quality Initiative (QI) Plan will focus on equity in student success and achievement, in particular strategic initiatives around advising and onboarding of new and continuing students that will build upon NEIU’s ongoing efforts in this area.

Enrollment Management

Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, Claudia Mercado, reported that as of today, enrollment for Spring 2025 semester is at 93% of goal. Classes begin next week and the Spring term census date will be 10 days following the first day of classes and that will be the official enrollment figure for the current term. Presently, the credit hour totals for the entire fiscal year (which will include first half of Summer 2025) stand at 91% of goal. In regards to the state’s Monetary Awards Program (MAP) funding shortfall for the Spring 2025 term, the University has identified funding to cover the per student shortfall which totals \$607,427.00. The awards have been announced and will be disbursed after the census date.

Interim Associate Vice President for Student Success and Retention, Irma Ortiz, reported that as of January 14, 2025, 72.5% of first-time, full-time freshman from Fall 2024 have enrolled for Spring 2025 classes, however registration is still open for Spring. This is slightly down from 76.7% for the same time last year for the same demographic cohort. The University’s Fall-to-Fall retention goal remains at 62%. The University has improved its early intervention efforts over the past year helping students overcome barriers to success through advisement, NEIUSar, peer mentoring, and GPA monitoring among other efforts. In Fall 2024, the University moved its Accounts Receivable audit of current students up two months which resulted in a 60% reduction in student account receivable holds prior to the end of the Fall term.

Student Affairs

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Terry Mena, reported on the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act grant. The purpose of the Act is to address gaps in mental health services on college campuses through training, peer support, and community-campus partnerships. The goals are to increase awareness and provide access to services and support for students, as well as to develop strategic partnerships and increase clinical ratio benchmarks. For FY25 the University has received an institutional grant award of \$267,774 (an increase of 32% over FY24) and a competitive grant award of \$289,940 to support implementation of student orientation and training (Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Training), access to third-party services such as Mindwise/Online Screening, TimelyCare, Protocall, Peer Wellness Coach program, partnerships with local mental health service providers and meeting benchmarks for on-campus counselors (SCS), extra help therapists and telehealth counselors.

Executive Director for Student Union and Campus Recreation, Andy Dutil, provided an overview of recent Student Union renovations and improvements including many upgrades to life safety, rigging, fire safety, audio equipment, and lighting systems in the performance venues.

Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 2:31 p.m. Trustee Fleurimond, seconded by Trustee Linares, moved to convene in Closed Session pursuant to Section 2(c)8 of the IL Open Meetings Act.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes Kalayil: Yes Linares: Yes

The motion carried.

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session

At 3:03 p.m. Trustee Fleurimond, seconded by Trustee Linares, moved to reconvene in Open Session. The motion carried unanimously by acclamation.

Old / New Business

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

Motion to Adjourn

At 3:05 p.m. Trustee Fleurimond, seconded by Trustee Linares, moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned unanimously by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalayil, Chair of the Committee
Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board
Approved February 13, 2025