

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University  
**Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee Meeting Minutes**  
March 13, 2025

A meeting of the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, March 13, 2025 in the Student Union Golden Eagles Room located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625. Trustee Ann Kalayil, chair of the committee called the meeting to order at 1:13 p.m.

**Roll was called and the following Trustee committee members were present:** Carlos Garcia; Ann Kalayil; and Michelle Morales

**Other Trustees present:** Itzel Linares via video conference

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

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**Motion to Allow Remote Participation by Trustees**

Trustee Morales, seconded by Trustee Garcia, moved to allow Trustee Betty Fleurimond to participate in today's meeting remotely pursuant to Section 7(a)(i) of the IL Open Meetings Act.

Discussion: there was no discussion. Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Garcia: Yes                      Kalayil: Yes                      Morales: Yes

The motion carried.

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

Trustee Kalayil announced the opportunity for public comment. There was one registration placed in advance and one presentation made.

1. **Shane McClure**, representing himself

**Topic:** changes to academic advising remote agreements and impact on retention, enrollment, staffing and medical accommodations.

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

Trustee Kalayil remarked she is looking forward to commencement and introduced the committee's newest member, Carlos Garcia.

President Bell-Jordan is also looking forward to May commencement. Dr. Bell-Jordan congratulated Beni Ortiz, NEIU graduate and C.P.A., on being named Vice President for Finance and Administration. The President and executive team will be part of the IL Senate Appropriations hearings on March 18 in Springfield. House hearing is scheduled for March 28. Today is the fourth of several data summits as part of the University's strategic planning initiative being held on the main campus. Synthesis will begin following the data summit completion. Construction on the new education building began on February 28. Completion is slated for June 2027.

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**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION**

Committee Recommendation Regarding 2025 Tenure Awards

Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Morales, moved to recommend approval of the 2025 tenure awards as presented.

Discussion: Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Shayne Cofer, presented the following slate of faculty members recommended for tenure: J. Adrian Castrejon; Ashley Elrod; Wendy Gonzalez; Amirhossein Maleki; Olunbunmi Oyewuwo; Jody Siker; Christopher Straughn; and Andrew Young. These faculty members will be introduced at the April Board meeting and will receive their tenure pins. Trustees offered their congratulations.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes      Garcia: Yes      Kalayil: Yes      Morales: Yes

The motion carried. *The student trustee is not permitted to vote on tenure.*

## **ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

### NEIU / Higher Learning Commission (HLC) Accreditation Quality Initiative

Acting Associate Provost, Sudha Srinivas, reported on the Quality Project, Equity in Student Success and Achievement (ESSA). This two-year project focuses on three student success strategies: (i) university-wide integrated comprehensive advising, (ii) robust onboarding through First Year Experience (FYE) and the Living and Learning Communities (LLCs), and (iii) ongoing affordable course materials. The Quality Initiative plan will be filed by the end of Spring 2025 with implementation occurring in academic years 2025 – 2027. The Quality Initiative report is due to the HLC in 2027.

The College of Business and Technology (CBT) launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI) task force in 2023 to develop a policy which was implemented by the college in 2024. The College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) and the Goodwin College of Education (GCOE) are both working on similar policies with input from the Faculty Council on Technology. Faculty-developed workshops and summits in 2024-25 were presented through the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) with a policy-focused AI teaching and learning theme.

### NEIU Artificial Intelligence (AI) Strategy and Initiatives

Executive Director of the Center for Teaching and Learning, Sandra Beyda-Lorie, reported on department goals related to the AI for Teaching and Professional Practice Faculty Learning Series. In Fall 2024, 37 faculty participated in 6 90-minute interactive sessions guided by the recent publication “Teaching with AI: A Practical Guide to a New Era of Human Learning” by José Bowen and C. Edward Watson. Participants were asked to create comprehensive AI action and implementation plans and will showcase them on March 25, 2025. 22 faculty are currently participating in the Spring 2025 sessions and will present their plans at an April 24, 2025 showcase.

Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Timothy Libretti, reported that the college is creating an AI resource repository which includes faculty course policies and related materials. 40 college faculty recently attended a breakfast where 6 faculty members representing various disciplines within the college presented lightning talks to explore faculty perspectives and to share viewpoints and experiences related to AI.

### Student Enrollment Updates

Director of Undergraduate Admission, Ryan Trout, reported on the current Fall 2025 enrollment information. Registration opened two weeks ago. First-Time/Full-Time freshman goal is 610; new Transfer student goal is 700; new Graduate student goal is 480. Fall 2025 new student credit hour goal is 18,337.

### Student Success and Retention Updates

Interim Associate Vice President for Student Success and Retention, Irma Ortiz, reported that the Fall to Spring retention is 81.6% compared to 79.2% for the same period last year. The Fall 2024 to Fall 2025 retention goal is 64%. Efforts to improve retention include earlier A/R holds to make students aware, regular advisor outreach, increased student programming related to financial assistance, and more robust use of NEIUStar surveys.

### NEST Updates

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Terry Mena, reported on the most recent financials for the Nest Student residence building and explained the occupancy contribution arrangement.

### Mental Health and Wellness Updates

A psychiatric medical director has been contracted to assist the Office of Student Health Services to with students' psychiatric and mental health needs. The service offers specialized screenings for depression, anxiety, ADD/ADHD, and autism with be available at no cost for students who meet the criteria. MHEAC funding is providing additional assistance to the Student Disability Services, Student Counseling Services, and Student Health Services for the purposes of expediting application validations for students seeking services from those offices.

Since 2021, NEIU has supported over 300 neurodivergent-identified students and plans to provide additional resources, training and conversations for students, faculty, departments, and staff including:

- Strategies for supporting neurodivergent students in their college, academic, and co-curricular experiences;
- Providing tools for neurodivergent students to seek out support, connections, and accommodations

The University recently made its biennial announcement regarding the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Policy and Smoke-Free Policy Review and Report. This report provides comprehensive drug abuse and smoke free prevention programs and services with information, education, intervention, research and assessment applicable to all students and employees.

### UTS Updates

Chief Information Officer, Eliot Rodriguez, reported on the University's technology office's involvement in Artificial Intelligence. UTS collaborates with the Faculty Council on Technology, the Center for Teaching and Learning, and leads the Information Security Committee. NEIU is a representative member of iPathe Shared Taskforce, which consists of Illinois public institution CIOs. University stakeholders have been able to openly participate in the review of AI initiatives, including peer institution assessment to ensure NEIU is positioned to have a competitive advantage in the higher education sector, analysis of core features and how they interface with other University operations, conduct security reviews, provide approximate expense allocations, and summarize findings for University leadership along with policy recommendations.

The University recently moved forward with implementing Workday Finance. The project planning has already begun with implementations occurring from March 2025 – June 2026 with partner agency Alchemy. The Go Live date is expected July 1, 2026. The University has recently adopted additional IT security measures including annual mandatory employee security awareness training and implementation of multi-factor authentication for students. IT infrastructure updates include network infrastructure migration, enhanced firewall protection, and backup recovery deployment. UTS is currently leading 44 major project initiatives including business process digitization, and a host of Workday implementations. Other significant matters include enterprise application updates and improvements and enhance client services programs.

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**Motion to Convene in Closed Session**

At 3:39 p.m. Trustee Morales, seconded by Trustee Kalayil, moved to convene in Closed Session pursuant to Section 2(c)8 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss campus security.

Discussion: there was no discussion. Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes      Garcia:                      Kalayil: Yes              Morales: Yes

The motion carried. Trustee Garcia left the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

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**Motion to Reconvene in Open Session**

At 4:20 p.m. Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Morales, moved to reconvene in Open Session. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation.

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**Old / New Business**

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

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**Motion to Adjourn**

At 4:24 p.m. Trustee Morales, seconded by Trustee Kalayil, moved to adjourn. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalayil, Chair of the Committee  
Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board  
Approved April 17, 2025