

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2024

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, November 21, 2024 in the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies' Lower-level Conference Room located at 700 E. Oakwood Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60653. Trustee J. Todd Phillips, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:17 p.m.

Roll was called and the following Trustees were present: Betty Fleurimond; Carlos Garcia; Ann Kalayil; Itzel Linares; J. Todd Phillips; and Paula Wolff

Also present: Katrina E. Bell-Jordan, President; Nicki Bazer, Interim General Counsel; Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board; vice presidents; staff; students; and University community members attending both in person and viewing online

Motion to Allow Remote Participation by Trustees

Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Wolff, moved to permit Trustees Anna Meresidis and Jorge Leon to participate in today's meeting remotely pursuant to Section 7(a) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act and Section 2. A. (2) of the Board's bylaws. Both Trustees have reached out to the Assistant Secretary in advance of today's meeting and their requests to participate remotely meet the criteria outlined within the statute and bylaws.

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

Fleurimond: Yes Kalayil: Yes Phillips: Yes

Garcia: Yes Linares: Yes Wolff: Yes

The motion carried.

Administration of Past Meeting Minutes

Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to approve the following written open and closed past meeting minutes and to keep the closed minutes closed pursuant to Section 2.06(b) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act:

- Closed minutes from the November 17, 2022 Regular Board meeting;
- Open minutes from the September 19, 2024 Audit Committee and Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meetings, and the Regular Board meeting;
- Open minutes from the October 17, 2024 Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment and. Technology Committee meeting;
- Open and Closed minutes from the November 8, 2024 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting

Discussion: there were no corrections or additions to the records. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation.

Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved that the confidential written closed session minutes from the closed session portions of the following meetings no longer require confidential treatment and will be made available for public inspection pursuant to Section 2.06(d) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act:

- September 21, 2023 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting, and the
- November 16, 2023 Regular Board meeting;

and that the past closed session written minutes from the closed session portions of the following meetings:

- November 17, 2022 Regular Board meeting;
- September 21, 2023 Regular Board meeting, and the
- October 23, 2023 Finance, Building and Grounds Committee meeting;

require confidential treatment and will remain confidential pursuant to Section 2.06(d) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

Discussion: there was no discussion. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation.

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

Chair Phillips announced the opportunity for public comment. There were 4 registrations placed in advance and 3 presentations made.

1. **Xiwei Wang**, representing the Faculty Senate
Topic: introduction as Faculty Senate Chair and emphasizing the power of collaboration among faculty, administration, and the Board in driving student success and institutional progress through shared goals and open communication
2. **Brandon Bisbey**, representing UPI Local 4100
Topic: description of UPI local's upcoming funding campaign and an invitation to the university community to collaborate
3. **Cris Toffolo**, representing the Office of International Programs
Topic: to speak in favor of the proposal to create a special tuition pricing model for international partnerships introduced by the College of Business and Management and ensure that this model applies to international partnership programs offered in all colleges.

Chair's and President's Remarks

President Bell-Jordan thanked Interim Director Akua Cason and the staff at the Carruthers Center for hosting today's meeting. Welcome Trustee Carlos Garcia to his first meeting as a new Trustee. Echoed remarks from Dr. Brandon Bisbey referencing support for S. B. 3965, the current bill for equitable funding for Illinois public higher education. Chicago public and private college and university presidents attended a meeting with Mayor Brandon Johnson sponsored by America's Urban Campus November 12 and hosted by UIC to discuss how higher education can work with the city to promote initiatives to be recognized as a place for learning, diversity, and upward mobility. The University has launched its strategic planning process co- led by Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Shayne Cofer, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, and Executive Director of Marketing and Communications, Chris Childers. The next phase is identifying the core team. Thank you to all faculty and staff for work on the Fall 2024 semester. The University will host its annual winter holiday reception in the cafeteria on Friday, December 13 at 4:30 p.m. All are invited.

Chair Phillips stated that the comments on S.B. 3965 are well received. Trustees are working with IBHE on this important legislation. The Carruthers Center and the University's branding make this location an oasis. Chair Phillips thanks the Carruthers Center faculty and staff for supporting the local community. On behalf of the Board, thank you to the University for inviting the Board to become more involved in the life of students and partnering with faculty in the continued excellence of the University. In the spirit of Thanksgiving to make a difference, Chair Phillips expressed his thanks for every student and those who help them succeed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee

Trustee Kalayil reported that the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee met on Thursday, October 17, 2024 and has no recommendations to present today.

The committee received informational briefings which included:

- a report on the College of Business and Technology site visit by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology reviewing the Computer Science (general track) degree
- an update and overview of the academic program reviews at the University by the IBHE and various program accrediting bodies
- a report on the University's expanding use of affordable course materials;
- an updated report on the strategic recruitment, retention, and completion outlook and planning, including a report on the planned One Stop Center;
- a report on the College of Business and Technology's use of Coursera certificate programs
- a report from the Student Health Services team reviewing FY24 student use and issues
- an update report on the Cohorts of the ARTP
- an overview of the University's process and work that went into the decision to implement Workday Finance ERP beginning in 2025.

Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee

Chair Phillips reported that the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee met on Friday, November 8, 2024. The Committee is presenting the following three recommendations today for approval.

Action Item I. A. Approval of Committee Recommendation Regarding the FY25 Strategic Planning Development Fund

Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Meresidis, moved to approve the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee's recommendation to transfer \$4 million from the University's FY24 unrestricted net position balance to the Strategic Planning Development Fund.

Discussion: Trustees discussed the retention initiatives, One Stop Center, and enrollment growth programs to be funded from this transfer. Trustees asked how the University plans to track and measure its progress. Spending from this fund is subject to the same spending rules for any other purchase or project. A spending report will be presented at the end of the fiscal year.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Linares: Yes	Phillips: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Wolff: Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I. B. Approval of Committee Recommendation Regarding Purchases \$250,000 or Greater
Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to approve the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee's recommendation to renew the University's contract with Watermark Insights, LLC for an additional five years at a cost not to exceed \$585,065.31.

Discussion: Trustee Kalayil requested that all future technology purchase recommendations also receive a presentation to the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee prior to seeking purchase approval from the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Linares: Yes	Phillips: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Wolff: Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I. C. Approval of Committee Recommendation Regarding Tuition Rates for International Partnerships

Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to approve the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee’s recommendation to establish a “special partner” tuition price point to be utilized when negotiating cohort-based international partnerships. The “special partner” rate is computed by calculating the midpoint between in-state and out-of-state tuition or $((\text{In-state tuition} + \text{Out-of-state tuition})/2)$.

Discussion: this request is to approve the formula for calculating the final tuition price. The price is for graduate cohort programs not individuals. Trustee Kalayil asked for this type of request to also be presented to the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee prior to seeking a recommendation from the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee. This pricing model is for use across other graduate, international cohort programs as well.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Linares: Yes	Phillips: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Wolff: Yes

The motion carried.

Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 2:47 p.m. Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to convene in Closed Session pursuant to Sections 2(c)1 and 2(c)11 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

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

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Linares: Yes	Phillips: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Wolff: Yes

The motion carried.

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session

At 3:46 p.m. Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Kalayil, moved to reconvene in Open Session. The motion carried by acclamation.

Legal Report

Chair Phillips announced that Trustees received a copy of the legal report in advance of today's meeting and had an opportunity to ask questions about it in Closed Session.

Old / New Business

Chair Phillips asked if there was any old business to discuss. Hearing none, the following new business was presented:

- 2025 Board meeting calendar is in you meeting information. Karl discussed the expectations concerning Committee meeting days in 2025.
- Ethics training deadline for Trustees and all University personnel is November 25
- Academic Honors Ceremony, Monday, December 9
- Masters Hooding Ceremony, Tuesday, December 10
- University Holiday Reception, Friday, December 13
- Commencement Exercises, Sunday, December 15
- Next Board Committee meetings: Thursday, January 16, 2025
- Next Regular Board meeting: Thursday, February 13, 2025

Chair Phillips reported that in 2025, the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee will be doing a deeper dive into the Buildings and Grounds aspects of their oversight.

Motion to Adjourn

At 3:57 p.m. Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to adjourn. The meeting was unanimously adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Todd Phillips, Chair of the Board
Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board
Approved February 13, 2025