

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University
Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2023

A meeting of the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee (ASAET) of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Friday, October 27, 2023 in the Student Union Golden Eagles Room located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL. Trustee Ann Kalayil, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Roll was called and the following Trustee Committee members were present: Betty Fleurimond (via video conference); Marvin Garcia; Ann Kalayil; Edwin Medina; and Michelle Morales

Also present: Katrina E. Bell-Jordan, Interim President and Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board

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

Trustee Kalayil announced the opportunity for public comment. There were no requests to speak.

Chair's and President's Remarks

Trustee Kalayil thanked the University administration for their quick response and communication to the community in relation to last night's shooting which occurred behind the body shop across the street from the Foster Avenue campus access road. University Police responded along with CPD.

Interim President Bell-Jordan encouraged everyone attending both in person and remotely to sign up for N-Safe to receive emergency notifications. Dr. Bell-Jordan reported on the most recent State of the University address which is organized each year by the Faculty Senate and was delivered to the University community on Tuesday, October 24. University officials met with the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) leaders in early October to discuss the University's annual appropriations and capital requests for FY25. IBHE will present all state university requests to the Legislature on January 10, 2024. Reminder of the upcoming Board of Trustees Regular Meeting at the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies on Thursday, November 16. Reminder of Fall Commencement Exercises on December 10 at the Credit Union One Pavilion at the University of Illinois Chicago campus.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Academic Affairs

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Shayne Cofer, introduced the new Executive Director of the Master of Science in Nursing Program, Gretchen LaCivita. Dr. Cofer provided background on the University's October 16 meeting with representatives from the IBHE. The meeting was "big picture"-directed with significant discussion about how the University's programs are aligning with various elements of the IBHE strategic plan. At a previous ASAET Committee meeting, Trustees had requested information about how the University evaluates its academic programs. Dr. Cofer provided an overview of the University's internal processes, as well as evaluations coordinated with outside accrediting bodies. Dr. Cofer shared University program data broken down by College for the Fall 2023 term and answered Trustees' questions.

Student Affairs

Student Life, Student Engagement, and Nest Updates

Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Terry Mena, reported on the current Nest occupancy (93%) and financials. Dr. Mena provided an update on the University's progress with its continued operationalization of the Mental Health Early Action Act (MHEAA), and with the End Student Housing Insecurity (ESHI) grant received from the IBHE. Also reported were data overviews of the Living Learning Communities, Career Development Center, TRIO Support Services, and various student engagement and activities that have taken place this fall. Andy Dutil, Executive Director of Student Union,

Event and Conference Services, provided data on the new Spirit Shop, which opened inside the Student Union on September 13. Dr. Mena answered Trustees' questions.

Enrollment Management and Student Success and Retention

Ryan Trout, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, reported on the Spring 2024 enrollment data. Spring 2023 total new students: 424; Spring 2024 new student goal: 424. Spring 2024 applications received: First Year – 258, Transfer – 461, compared to 198 First Year and 435 Transfers same time last year. Spring 2024 admitted: First Year – 30, Transfer – 188, compared to 39 First Year and 187 Transfers same time last year. Spring 2024 intent to enroll: First Year – 15, Transfers – 104, compared to 14 First Year and 85 Transfers same time last year. Information is as of October 7, 2023.

Afghan Refugee Transition Program (ARTP)

Paola Vargas, Interim Associate Dean of Students, reported data on the second cohort of students under this special designation. Fall 2023 enrollment: 11 from cohort 1 and 11 from cohort 2. Presently there are 8 students living in the Nest from cohort 1 and 3 from cohort 2. Ms. Vargas further reported on students' academic progress, and current recruitment and onboarding.

Student Success and Retention

Irma Ortiz, Interim Associate Vice President for Student Success and Retention, reported on the University's retention goals for this year. Fall 2023 First-Time/Full-Time (F-T/F-T) freshmen enrollment is 553, and Transfer enrollment is 596. The Fall 2023 to Spring 2024 retention goals are 85% for F-T/F-T and 90% for Transfers. The Fall 2023 to Fall 2024 goals are 70% for F-T/F-T (387 students) and 80% for Transfers (477 students). Ms. Ortiz provided an overview of the various systems and events in place at the University to help meet these stated goals.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Initiatives

Shireen Roshanravan, Executive Director of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, provided an update on the University's organized Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and Equity Teams initiatives. NEIU is the longest standing Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) in the Midwest, serving the highest percentage of F-T/F-T freshmen from public high schools with 86% of them coming from the least-funded public schools. No other Illinois public university can claim this distinction. Since coming to NEIU in 2021, Dr. Roshanravan has worked to create the DEI infrastructure within the University to be able to coordinate with external initiatives such as the Illinois Equity and Attainment Plan and the Illinois State Equity Plan mandated by Governor Pritzker. In response to specific goals stated in the Illinois Equity and Attainment Plan, the University has established equity teams from each College to identify and close equity gaps in retention, completion, and graduation rates among African-American, Latinx, and Pell-eligible students. The first cycle of the equity teams will take place in February 2024 when they will have Fall 2023 data from which to work, assess and make recommendations to Deans and Department Chairs. Dr. Roshanravan provided an overview of several programs and events from this past fall, some of which have received national attention. Trustees engaged in a spirited dialogue and thanked Dr. Roshanravan for her concerted work.

Old / New Business

Trustee Kalayil asked if there was any old or new business. Interim President Bell-Jordan added that at the most recent State of the University Address she put out a call to the University community to engage in both formal and informal conversations to answer "What does it mean to be a serving institution?" as a way to segue into the paused strategic planning process the next administration will likely take on.

Interim President Bell-Jordan asked the committee to consider recommending that the Board confer its Doctor of Humane Letters on the December commencement speaker at the November meeting. There was no further business.

Motion to Adjourn

At 3:59 p.m. Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Morales, moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

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