

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University
Board Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, November 16, 2023 in the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies' Lower-level Conference Room located at 700 E. Oakwood Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60653. Trustee José Rico, 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; Marvin Garcia; Jorge Leon; Edwin Medina; Anna Meresidis; Michelle Morales; J. Todd Phillips; José Rico; and Paula Wolff

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

Motion to Permit Remote Participation by a Trustee

Pursuant to Sections 2.01 and 7 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, and the Board's Bylaws Section II. A. 1. and 2., Trustee Ann Kalayil has requested to be able to participate in today's meeting via video conference. Appropriate notification was provided to the Board's Assistant Secretary in advance and the request meets the specified criteria.

Trustee Marvin Garcia, seconded by Trustee José Rico, moved to allow remote participation in today's proceedings by Trustee Ann Kalayil in accordance with the requirements and conditions outlined within the statute and the Board's Bylaws.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

Approval of Past Meeting Minutes

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

- Closed minutes from the April 16, 2020 Regular Board meeting
- Open minutes from the August 24, 2023 Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee meeting
- Open and Closed minutes from the September 21, 2023 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting
- Open and Closed minutes from the September 21, 2023 Regular Board meeting
- Open and Closed minutes from the October 23, 2023 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting

Discussion: there were no additions or corrections noted

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried. The minutes are approved as presented.

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

Chair Rico announced the opportunity for public comment. There were three requests placed in advance and one request was withdrawn.

1. **Dr. Lemont Baker**, as self NEIU alumnus
Topic: personal story of NEIU impact and future of the Carruthers Center
2. **Dr. Rachel Birmingham**, as Associate Professor Child Advocacy Studies
Topic: the importance of small academic programs

Chair's and President's Announcements

Interim President Bell-Jordan thanked the Carruthers Center for hosting today's Board meeting. Dr. Bell-Jordan thanked everyone for a successful semester and announced upcoming special events: Academic Honors Ceremony on December 4, Master's Hooding Ceremony on December 5, the University Winter Holiday Reception on December 8, and Fall Commencement Exercises on Sunday December 10.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee

Trustee Kalayil reported that the committee met on Friday, October 27, 2023 on the main campus, and received several informational briefings, but has no items to present for Board action today. Of note, the Afghan Refugee Transition Program (ARTP) cohort of 15 slots is filled. The enrolled cohort students will be featured guests at the Board's luncheon prior to the February regular Board meeting. As a result of its work establishing the ARTP, NEIU has been invited to join the U.S. Afghan Women's Council, a national network supported by the U. S. Department of State and co-chaired by Hillary Clinton and Laura Bush. Trustee Kalayil asked everyone to attend the December 15 Ensemble Español performance. Trustee Garcia added that this committee does not operate in a vacuum and that it has provided feedback on the upcoming Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee's tuition and fees items accordingly.

Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee

Trustee Phillips reported that the Committee held a regular committee meeting on Monday October 23, 2023 and a special meeting this morning. At the October 23 meeting, the Committee received two informational briefings, and there were two action item presentations made: one on the FY25 Tuition and Fees Recommendations, and a revival from an April 2023 request to revise the Board's Regulations regarding purchases. The Committee recommended approval of the revised regulations, but after considerable discussion with the administration, decided to table advancing a recommendation on the Tuition and Fees for FY25, opting instead to have questions furthered answered at a special meeting. After considerable discussion at this morning's Special Committee meeting, the Committee is recommending a 0% increase in tuition and a 0% increase in fees for FY25.

Trustee Phillips thanked everyone for their collective passion for the University and for the work that went into providing information for today's meetings. Interim President Bell-Jordan echoed these sentiments and added her thanks to everyone who worked to create the administration's proposal requesting a modest increase in FY25 tuition and fees. Dr. Bell-Jordan thanked the Trustees for their thoughtful questions and

responses to the information provided and formally withdrew the tuition and fee increase requests. Trustees further thanked Dr. Bell-Jordan for her leadership.

Action Item I. A. Approval of FY25 Tuition Recommendations

Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to approve the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee's recommendation for a 0% increase in the FY24 tuition for FY25.

Discussion: Trustee Garcia expressed his desire for the administration to look at tuition models every other year rather than annually.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

Action Item I. B. Approval of FY25 Fees Recommendations

Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Medina, moved to approve the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee's recommendation for a 0% increase in the FY24 student fees for FY25.

Discussion: Trustee Medina asked that, in consideration of future increases to the consolidated student fee, the administration develop a policy on how the fractal increases affect the consolidated fee, thereby justifying future increases. Students are seeking more clarity on how the material elements of the consolidated student fee affects requesting regular increases and believe a policy would be a good governor in this shared understanding. The administrative has pledged to work with student government to incorporate a collaborative process that ensures inclusive transparency of the consolidated student fee. Trustee Garcia echoed his earlier comments about tuition regarding a concurrent biennial review of student fees as opposed to annually.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried. Trustee Garcia left the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

Action Item I. C. Approval of Recommendation to Revise Board Regulations, Section V. Administrative Affairs

Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Rico, moved to approve the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee's recommendation to Revise the Board's Regulations Section V. Administrative Affairs, B. Purchases, 1.a. Approval: to change the approval threshold *from* \$100,000 *to* \$250,000, and V. B. 2. Report: to change *from* purchases of at least \$50,000 but less than \$100,000 *to* purchases of at least \$100,000 but less than \$250,000 thereby aligning NEIU with other public university practices.

Discussion: Trustee Wolff further clarified the reason for making this request to change the Board's Regulations. Director of Procurement, Vicky Santiago, provided a brief on the process for selecting vendors through the Business Enterprise Program (BEP), Veterans Business Program (VBP), and the Small Business Set-Aside Program (SBSA) to ensure institutional purchases are conducted equitably. The

University has updated its policy on purchases between \$20,000 and \$99,999 to require at least 2 quotes from BEP, VBP, and/or SMSA vendors.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Information Item II. A. NEIU Campus Security Update

Chief of University Police, Joe Przybyla, presented on the various safety programs and initiatives at the University and answered Trustees' questions.

Information Item II. B. Workday Update

Executive Director of Human Resources, Abby Murray, Chief Information Officer, Eliot Rodriguez, Interim Associate Provost, Effie Kritikos, and Vice President for Finance and Administration, Kumar provided an interactive discussion about the University's transition to Workday, and answered Trustees' questions.

Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 3:22 p.m. Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to convene in Closed Session pursuant to Sections 2(c)2 and 2(c)11 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to discuss collective bargaining matters and the legal report.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried. The audience was asked to leave the room.

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session

At 3:48 p.m. Trustee Fleurimond, seconded by Trustee Phillips, moved to reconvene in Open Session. The motion carried by acclamation. Trustee Wolff left the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

ADDITIONAL BOARD ACTION ITEMS

Action Item I. D. Approval of the ICOP's Agreement

Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Leon, moved to accept the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee's recommendation to approve the ratified agreement between the University and the Illinois Council of Police (ICOP) on the terms presented.

Discussion: Trustees thanked everyone involved in the bargaining process.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

Old / New Business

Trustee Betty Fleurimond, Chair of the Presidential Search Committee, provided an overview of the Presidential Search. The University has engaged AGB Search as the search consultants and is forming a search committee from across the University. The committee is to be comprised of representatives from the Board of Trustees, shared governance groups, each College, and Non-Traditional Degree Programs, Council on the Status of Latinxs, Black Student Success Committee, and the Asian/American Faculty/Staff Affinity Group. Next steps include finalizing the position advertisement, conducting campus-wide listening sessions, and begin the application screening process and candidate identification.

Action Item: Approval to Keep Prior Closed Session Minutes Confidential

Pursuant to Section 2.06(d) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Trustee Fleurimond, seconded by Trustee Leon, moved to approve keeping the following prior approved closed session minutes confidential:

- Closed minutes from the August 15, 2022 Audit Committee meeting
- Closed minutes from the September 22, 2022 Regular Board meeting

Discussion: there was no discussion

The motion carried by acclamation.

Action Item: Approval of Destruction of Past Closed Session Verbatim Records

Pursuant to Section 2.06(c) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved to approve the destruction of verbatim records from the following meetings:

- February 10, 2022 Regular Board meeting
- May 9, 2022 Executive Committee meeting

Discussion: there was no discussion

The motion carried by acclamation.

Chair Rico announced the following upcoming events:

- Academic Honors Ceremony, December 4
- Master's Hooding Ceremony, December 5
- Annual Holiday Reception, December 8
- Fall Commencement Exercises, December 10
- Next Board Committee meeting, January 18, 2024

Chair Rico reminded Trustees to complete their Ethics Training.

Motion to Adjourn

At 4:06 p.m. Trustee Fleurimond, seconded by Trustee Phillips, moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

José Rico, Chair of the Board
Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary
Approved February 15, 2024