

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University

Board Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2021

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday November 18, 2021 in the Student Union Building Alumni Hall located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL. Jim Palos, Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

Roll was called and the following Trustees were present: Carlos Azcoitia; Sherry Eagle; Marvin Garcia; Ann Kalayil; Javonti Mordican; Jim Palos; Charlie Serrano; and Jonathan Stein.

Also present: Gloria Gibson, President; G. A. Finch, University Counsel; Mary Pat Burns, Board Counsel; Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board; vice presidents; staff; and university community members

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Trustee Eagle, seconded by Trustee Azcoitia moved to approve the open and closed minutes, and to keep the closed minutes closed, from: (i) the September 23, 2021 Board Meeting; (ii) the September 29, 2021 Executive Committee meeting; (iii) the October 15, 2021 Executive Committee meeting; (iv) the October 21, 2021 Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee meeting; (v) the October 25, 2021 Audit Committee meeting; and (vi) the October 25, 2021 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting.

Discussion: there was no discussion

The motion carried by acclamation.

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

Chair Palos announced the opportunity for public comment. There was one request to speak.

1. Christopher Maxwell, Assistant Dean of Students

Topic: concerns regarding staff retention and suggested efforts to retain them

Chair's and President's Remarks

Chair Palos recognized the NEIU Foundation Board and thanked them for their work. The Chair thanked Liesl Downey and the Foundation Board for putting together a valuable presentation during the shared Board luncheon regarding fundraising and the Board's role. Chair Palos, on behalf of the Board, wished all NEIU students well as they prepare for final exams.

President Gibson echoed the Chair's remarks congratulating students for a successful semester. The first in-person commencement exercises since December 2019 will be held on December 12 at the Credit Union One Arena at UIC. Separate ceremonies, socially distanced, will honor August and December graduates. On November 15, the COVID-19 Task Force reported that of the 6,440 students enrolled, 89% have verified vaccination status. Of the 1,551 employees, 92% have verified vaccination status. President Gibson thanked the Task Force for their continued leadership. President Gibson remarked that the current landscape for attracting new students is fierce, and followed up with a request for Trustees to approve both the NEIU for You 2.0 and the Strategic Planning Development Fund request initiatives. Both are critical to keeping pace with

enrollment and retention efforts, and will help support expanded staffing for these efforts. Upon approval of these initiatives, the University has all of its marketing materials ready to launch, and some media and press events are scheduled for the coming days. The NEIU for You 1.0 registered 330 students in the fall. Approximately 150 of those students are registered for the Spring 2022 semester as of this week. The University is actively engaged in efforts to get students registered for the Spring term including advising center calls to students not yet registered, and a successful NEIU Fest yesterday. Kimberly Buster-Williams has been hired as the Vice President for Enrollment Management and will begin on January 4, 2022. Regarding Fall 2022 enrollment, there are currently 1,497 first-time full-time student applications received and 489 admitted, compared to 1,938 student applications and 533 admitted for the same period for Fall 2020 enrollment. While the number of Fall 2022 applicants is behind Fall 2020 figures, the number of admitted students is ahead. The University has received 94 applications for transfer students and admitted 56 for Fall 2022, compared to 142 transfer student applications and 51 admitted for the same period for Fall 2020. There are a number of transfer student fairs and other registration fairs scheduled for the coming months. A number of recruitment activities and a media blitz for NEIU for You 2.0 are ready to go pending the Board's approval of the initiative today. At this time, there are 60 potential Afghan refugee students who have expressed interest in enrolling at the University. They are all in varying stages of the application and registration process.

Shared Governance Presentation: University Advisory Council

Dr. Nikolas Hoel, Chair of the University Advisory Council (UAC), presented an overview of the UAC, its mission, membership, scope of responsibilities, priorities for the current year, and answered Trustees' questions.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee met on September 29 and October 15, 2021 in the Student Union Golden Eagles Room. On September 29, the committee voted to approve the contract extension with UPI. The following items from the October 15 meeting are presented today for Board action.

Action Item I. A. Approval of the final reading of the recommended revision to the Board Regulations, Section II. Employees, Subsection B. Faculty and Administrative, 6. Employee Benefits, (d) Holidays, 1): the addition of Juneteenth to the list of recognized University holidays

Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Serrano moved to approved the recommendation.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was a follows:

Azcoitia: Yes	Garcia: Yes	Mordican: Yes	Serrano: Yes
Eagle: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Palos: Yes	Stein: Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I. B. Approval of 2022 Meeting Calendar

Trustee Azcoitia, seconded by Trustee Serrano moved to approve the 2022 Board of Trustees calendar of meetings.

Discussion: Chair Palos asked to change the date of the January 10, 2022 Executive Committee meeting. Trustee Kalayil asked to change the date of the March 17, 2022 Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee meeting. Trustee Garcia asked that at least one of the 2022 Board meetings take place at either the El Centro or Carruthers Center locations, and if University staffing permits, to have one board meeting in 2022 at each of these two locations.

The motion carried by acclamation. The two requested date changes will be worked out separately.

Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee

The Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee met on October 21, 2021 in the Golden Eagles Room on the main campus. The committee received briefings on several items and endorsed two items for the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee to recommend for approval:

Endorsed Recommendation to Approve FY21 Request for Utilization of Funds from Strategic Planning Development Fund

Endorsed Recommendation to Approve Request for Utilization of FY22 and FY23 Unrestricted Funds for NEIU for You 2.0

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee met on October 25, 2021 in the Golden Eagles Room on the main campus. The committee received a briefing from the University's Director of Internal Audits on three annual reports, and the committee makes the following recommendations to the Board:

Action Item I. C. Approval of Recommendation to Accept and File the FY21 Internal Audit Department Annual Report

Action Item I. D. Approval of Recommendation to Accept and File the Internal Audit Charter

Action Item I. E. Approval of Recommendation to Accept and File the Statement of Auditor Independence

Trustee Eagle, seconded by Trustee Azcoitia moved to approve all three recommendations at once.

Discussion: there was no discussion

The motion carried by acclamation.

Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee

The Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee met on October 25, 2021 in the Golden Eagles Room on the main campus.

The committee received informational briefings and reviewed and discussed the following items and recommend them for approval today:

Action Item I. F. Approval of FY23 tuition and fee recommendations providing a zero percent tuition increase for undergraduate students not covered by the guaranteed tuition program, a two percent increase for graduate student tuition, and a 1.9 percent increase in mandatory student fees.

Trustee Eagle, seconded by Trustee Stein moved to approve the FY23 tuition and fee recommendations as presented.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia: Yes	Garcia: Yes	Mordican: Yes	Serrano: Yes
Eagle: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Palos: Yes	Stein: Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I. G. Approval of recommendation regarding request to transfer \$2 million of unspent FY21 unrestricted net assets to the Strategic Planning Development Fund to foster programs for current and future students, funding for signage at the El Centro location, and enrollment initiatives.

Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Stein moved to approve the recommendation as presented.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia: Yes	Garcia: Yes	Mordican: Yes	Serrano: Yes
Eagle: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Palos: Yes	Stein: Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I. H. Approval of recommendation to transfer \$3.75 million from unrestricted net assets to establish a strategic enrollment fund with expenditures outlined in FY22 totaling \$1.76 million and expenditures outlined in FY23 totaling \$1.99 million to make a four-year commitment toward scholarship support for prospective students who meet the criteria of the NEIU for You 2.0 initiative.

Trustee Serrano, seconded by Trustee Stein moved to approve the recommendation as presented.

Discussion: Vice President Kumar reviewed the initiative details outlined at the October 25, 2021 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting for the Board. If the University enrolls an additional 29 first-time, full-time freshman in Fall 2022 over the 330 students from Fall 2021, as well as 799 transfer students, then the NEIU for You 2.0 should be self-sustaining. If the initiative fails to meet the anticipated enrollment numbers, the maximum exposure to the University would be anywhere from \$800,000 to \$1.8 million. Trustees asked additional questions about the granular details for each amount being approved for each year. Trustee Serrano thanked the President and University staff for making all of the data available in response to this initiative. He

called on his fellow Trustees to make a commitment to talking to parents, community members, and going outside the regular University footprint to encourage prospective students to enroll through this initiative. The students who never thought they would be able to attend college is now made possible through this initiative and he is grateful to be part of this historic moment. Trustee Kalayil was pleased to be able to help promote the passage of this initiative. Trustee Garcia voiced his support and encouraged University leaders to determine how this program can be sustained beyond its initial period.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia: Yes	Garcia: Yes	Mordican: Yes	Serrano: Yes
Eagle: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Palos: Yes	Stein: Yes

The motion carried.

Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 2:44 p.m. Trustee Azcoitia, seconded by Trustee Stein moved to convene in closed session.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia: Yes	Garcia: Yes	Mordican: Yes	Serrano: Yes
Eagle: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Palos: Yes	Stein: Yes

The motion carried.

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session

At 3:12 p.m. Trustee Stein, seconded by Trustee Kalayil moved to reconvene in open session.

Discussion: there was no discussion

The motion carried by acclamation.

Legal Report

Chair Palos announced that the Trustees received the legal report in advance of the meeting and had an opportunity to ask questions during closed session.

Old/New Business

Trustee Stein announced that 2022 will be the 50th anniversary of the Chuck Kane Memorial Golf Outing and encouraged everyone to make plans to participate this year.

In light of the latest real estate RFP not receiving any proposals, Trustee Serrano asked that new RFP's for the University's real estate treat the Bryn Mawr and El Centro properties separately. Trustee Serrano stated that the Bryn Mawr property is an actual real estate matter, whereas the El Centro property is a community land-use matter and should be treated differently.

Trustees Serrano and Azcoitia will be representing the Board at the December 1 Academic Honors Ceremony.

Commencement will take place on December 12 at the Credit Union 1 Arena at UIC. There will be two ceremonies. The 1:00 p.m. ceremony will honor August 2021 graduates, and the 5:00 p.m. ceremony will honor December 2021 graduates. This is the first in-person ceremony since December 2019. Trustees are asked to confirm their attendance as soon as possible.

Chair Palos reminded Trustees to complete their 2021 Ethics Training by November 30, and thanked those Trustees who had already completed it.

Motion to Adjourn

At 3:26 p.m. Trustee Azcoitia, seconded by Trustee Stein moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Palos, Chair of the Board
Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary
Approved February 10, 2022