

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University
Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2026

A meeting of the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, March 19, 2026 in the Student Union – Golden Eagles Room located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625. Trustee Phillips, called the meeting to order to 9:33 a.m.

Roll was called and the following Trustee committee members were present: Anna Meresidis and J. Todd Phillips

Trustees not present: Paula Wolff

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

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

Trustee Phillips announced the opportunity for public comment. There were 2 registrations placed in advance and 1 presentation made.

1. **Karl Malchut**, representing himself
Topic: students against cyberbullying

Chair's and President's Remarks

President Bell-Jordan welcomed everyone to the meeting and announced today is the University's open house and will be hosting about 60 students from area high schools. Claudia Mercado, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, added that open houses are an exciting opportunity for the University to showcase academic programs and student services to prospective students and families. On February 28, the University hosted a "Lakeside Chat with Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson," which took place in the Sasha Gerritson Auditorium, was a conversation moderated by Professor Zada Johnson and Dr. DeWitt Scott, and showcased NEIU students Winter Terry and Leslie Lozado. The standing room only event provided an opportunity to discuss with Mayor Johnson important issues affecting students and the community, and to hear how the city is addressing issues such as housing security, mental health, food insecurity, and resources for LGBTQ+ and undocumented students. Dr. Bell-Jordan thanked the Trustees who were able to attend this event. Northeastern's administration will be in Springfield testifying for the higher education appropriations committees at the Senate on April 7 and the House on April 9. Higher education advocacy efforts will continue throughout the Spring, including NEIU participation in the Higher Education Advocacy Day in Springfield on April 16th, and the Latino Unity Day and Higher Education Policy Panels in May. Additionally, a delegation will attend the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities' annual advocacy forum in Washington, D.C. next month.

Chair Phillips reminded everyone, that in the spirit of primary elections the other day, to stay engaged in the political process and to continue to advocate for NEIU wherever it is appropriate.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

Action Item: Committee Recommendation to Revise the University's Investment Policy

Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Meresidis, moved to recommend approval of the University's revised investment policy as presented.

Discussion: Trustees discussed next steps after the proposed revision is adopted by the Board. The University will issue an RFP for investment advisement services. A contract will likely be presented to the

Board for approval once a vendor has been selected. Trustees recommended ramping up to a set amount when using the University's available reserves, rather than all at once. The University plans to leave at least six months of operating reserves in the Illinois Funds. Other discussion included tax implications and fee structures, but these will be known later.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Meresidis: Yes Phillips: Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item: Committee Recommendation Regarding FY2027 Distance Learning Tuition Rates

Trustee Meresidis, seconded by Trustee Phillips, moved to recommend approval of the proposed FY2027 tuition rates for three online only master's programs: Master of Arts in Rehabilitation Counseling, Master of Science in Exercise and Sport Science, and Master of Public Health.

Discussion: the University is requesting to extend the in-state tuition rate to all new students in three graduate programs that are transitioning to fully online delivery; no more in-person classes. This change would make the programs more affordable and competitive, particularly in the online marketplace, and would open availability to international students who would not need to leave their home country. The program would not be available to international students who are in the U. S. on a student visa, however. The University is recommending a three-year pilot starting in the fall of 2026. This will allow for adequate program marketing and evaluation of enrollment outcomes.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Meresidis: Yes Phillips: Yes

The motion carried.

Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 10:15 a.m. Trustee Meresidis, seconded by Trustee Phillips, moved to convene in Closed Session pursuant to Sections 2(c)2 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

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

Meresidis: Yes Phillips: Yes

The motion carried.

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session

At 10:43 a.m. Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Meresidis, moved to reconvene in Open Session. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation.

New Business

Next Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting will be May 14, 2026. There was no further business.

Motion to Adjourn

At 10:43 a.m. Trustee Meresidis, seconded by Trustee Phillips, moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by unanimous acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Todd Phillips, Chair of the Committee
Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board
Approved April 16, 2026