

Board of Trustee of Northeastern Illinois University
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2026

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, June 11, 2026 in the Student Union Alumni Hall South located at 5500 North Saint Louis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. J. Todd Phillips, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:48 p.m.

Roll was called and the following Trustees were present: Carlos Garcia; Jorge Leon; Anna Meresidis; Michelle Morales; J. Todd Phillips; and Paula Wolff

The following Trustees were not present: Betty Fleurimond; Ann Gariti; Ann Kalayil; and Daniela Navarrete

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

Motion to Permit Remote Participation by Trustees

Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Leon, moved to permit Trustees Fleurimond, Kalayil, and Navarrete to participate in today's meeting remotely pursuant to Section 7(a)(ii) and (iii) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, and the Board's Bylaws Section 2. A (1)(iii) and (2).

Discussion: all three Trustees contacted the Assistant Secretary in advance of the meeting to request to participate remotely.

Roll was called and vote was as follows:

Garcia: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Phillips: Yes
Leon: Yes	Morales: Yes	Wolff: Yes

The motion carried.

Administration of Past Meeting Minutes and Records

Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Morales, moved pursuant to Sections 2.06(b) and 2.06(c)(2) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act to approve the open and closed minutes from the following past meetings and to keep the closed minutes closed:

- Open and closed minutes from the April 16, 2026 Regular Board meeting
- Open and closed minutes from the May 14, 2026 Audit Committee and Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee joint committee meeting
- Open minutes from the May 20, 2026 Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee meeting

There were no additions or corrections recommended. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation.

Trustee Leon, seconded by Trustee Wolff, moved pursuant to Section 2.06(d) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act that the following past closed session minutes require confidential treatment and will remain confidential:

- April 17, 2025 Regular Board meeting
- May 15, 2025 Audit Committee and Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee joint committee meeting

The motion carried by unanimous acclamation. Trustee Gariti joined the meeting at 1:56 p.m.

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

Chair Phillips announced the opportunity for public comment. There was one registration placed in advance and one presentation made.

1. **Jeremy Babcock**, representing NEIU students, faculty, staff and student support professionals

Topic: Representing Faculty, Staff, and Student Support Professionals to express a strong preference to maintain Google Workspace as our primary institutional productivity and collaboration suite. While we recognize that university leadership must evaluate campus technology, we firmly believe that Google Workspace has become foundational to how our campus operates. A migration of this scale threatens to dismantle established systems that keep our departments running smoothly. We ask leadership to carefully weigh critical concerns before taking steps toward a transition.

Chair's and President's Remarks

President Bell-Jordan reported that the relocation of the Board of Trustees meeting today back to the main campus was successful despite a power outage affecting the Carruthers Center and Bronzeville neighborhood. Dr. Bell-Jordan thanked the NEIU teams, including facilities management, audio visual, Student Union, and executive leadership, for their quick work and support.

NEIU celebrated the conclusion of the academic year at the May 15, 2026 commencement ceremony, which honored over 700 graduates. More than 100 faculty and staff participated as well, making this commencement one of the largest in recent memory. Commencement speaker, NEIU alumna, scholar, and celebrated author, Dr. Keeanga Yamahtta Taylor, encouraged students to build community and serve.

Significant progress has been made towards major goals this year. The June 2026 Board Brief highlights enrollment and retention data, student success initiatives, infrastructure and academic updates, and financial and operational updates.

The NEIU Foundation Board held a strategic planning retreat on June 8 to develop a five-year plan aligned with NEIU's 2026-2031 strategic plan and upcoming fundraising campaign. The retreat, facilitated by Carter Consultants, involved discussions on priorities with leadership from NEIU and the Foundation Board participating. Dr. Bell-Jordan acknowledged NEIU Foundation Board President, Olga Camargo, and Vice President for Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the NEIU Foundation, Liesl Downey, for their work and leadership.

Three key searches are nearing completion: the Executive Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, the Vice President for Enrollment Management, and the University Ombuds. Campus interviews for the first two positions are completed or scheduled, and the Ombuds search committee is finalizing interview dates.

Liesl Downey introduced Debbie Cortez, the new Associate Director of Development for Corporate Relations at the NEIU Foundation. Debbie brings more than 25 years of professional fundraising experience to the University. Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Terry Mena, introduced Dr. Aziza Kemet, the new Director of Career Development. Dr. Kemet is a career development and workforce leader in the Chicago area.

Chair Phillips thanked all of the Trustees who participated in the May Commencement Exercises.

Chair Phillips reported that the Board of Trustees expresses its sincere appreciation for the contributions of the outgoing student trustee, Daniela Navarrete, and looks forward to working with the incoming Student

Trustee. Chair Phillips thanked Daniela for her service and leadership, and presented the following Resolution Honoring Daniela Navarrete:

WHEREAS, Daniela Navarrete was elected by the student body to serve as the Student Trustee on the Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Daniela Navarrete is a student at Northeastern Illinois University pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing; and

WHEREAS, Daniela Navarrete, in addition to her impressive academic work, has tirelessly promoted Northeastern Illinois University and the success of its students through her diligent involvement in Student Government, serving as its Vice President and President respectively; and

WHEREAS, Daniela Navarrete works as a Student Aide in the Office of Student Affairs and is a Resident Assistant at the University's residential housing facility; and

WHEREAS, Daniela Navarrete works as a Marketing Intern at Equiticity, Inc., a non-profit organization and racial equity movement, operationalizing racial equity by harnessing collective power through research, advocacy, programs, Community Mobility Rituals, and social enterprises to improve the lives of Black, Brown, and Indigenous people in our society; and

WHEREAS, Daniela Navarrete has earnestly pursued equity among the entire student body, and has admirably represented her fellow students as a member of the Board of Trustees, as well as being a respected ambassador of Northeastern Illinois University.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University honors Daniela Navarrete and expresses its sincere gratitude for her exemplary service.

Presented on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University, June 11, 2026. Signed J. Todd Phillips, Chair of the Board of Trustees and Katrina E. Bell-Jordan, Ph.D., President of the University

Legislative Update

Blanca Jara, Interim Executive Director of Government Relations, reported that the President's Office, Government Relations, Cabinet members, students, faculty and NEIU's lobbyist actively engaged key legislative stakeholders over the past academic year, including:

- Members of U.S. Congress
- Illinois Latino, Black and Asian Caucuses
- Illinois Governor's Office
- Illinois Higher Education Leaders
- Federal Government Relations Organizations

These collective efforts have advanced NEIU's institutional priorities by reinforcing long standing legislative relationships and fostering new partnerships that support NEIU's mission. In addition, NEIU deepened its collaboration with fellow public universities, contributing to a more unified and influential voice throughout the legislative process.

For FY27, Northeastern Illinois University's appropriation will increase from \$41.17 million to \$42.40 million, an increase of approximately \$1.24 million, or 3 percent of the approved FY26 amount, not the amount the University actually received. An additional mix of both new funding and reappropriations of approximately \$1 million was made in continued support of the Afghan Refugee Transition Program (ARTP). \$109.9 million in reappropriations was granted for outstanding capital projects.

Both the Adequate & Equitable Public University Funding Act and the Community College Baccalaureate initiative gained momentum this Spring after advancing out of the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee, however, neither measure reached final passage before the end of the legislative session.

Illinois passed a balanced budget but continues to face major fiscal pressures from federal funding cuts, extending a continued constraint on higher education funding.

The University's continued participation with the Illinois Latino Caucus Foundation (Raíces Conference, Leadership Summit, Gala), the Illinois Black Caucus Foundation (Scholarship Reception and Policy Summit), and the National Conference of State Legislatures strengthens relationships with legislative leaders.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee

Trustee Kalayil reported the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee met on May 20, 2026. The Committee has one item to recommend for Board action today.

Action Item I. A. Board Action on Committee Recommendation Regarding the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee's Revised Committee Charter

Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Morales, moved that the Board affirm the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee's revisions to its committee charter.

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

Trustee Kalayil further reported that the Committee received informational briefings from the administration on the following matters:

Academic Affairs – Positive feedback from the HLC concerning the March 2026 visits to each of the University's satellite locations. Consolidation and redesign of the B.A. in Geography and Environmental Studies and the B.S. in Applied Geosciences.

Enrollment Management – the committee received briefings on credit hour totals for FY26 to date, and both undergraduate and graduate enrollment and admission reports for Fall '26. The committee received a briefing on the latest expanded early alert pilot program (which has recovered \$3 million in otherwise bad debt in FY26), faculty participation surveys, and year-to-date Fall-to-Fall retention progress, currently at 44.6%, which is nearly 7% ahead of last year same time.

Student Affairs – the committee heard from the University's new Director of Student Counseling Services, on the University's latest work under the Mental Health Early Action on Campus (MHEAC) Act initiative. Dr. Mena provided an update on the University's progress under the End Student Housing Insecurity (ESHI) Act grant.

Technology – the committee received a briefing on the University's latest technology initiatives happening at the University.

Trustees engaged in a lengthy discussion about the University's work surrounding the use of artificial intelligence. The University is contemplating the impact of AI on faculty, staff, students, and the community, with a dual focus on both governance and technology. An AI policy and governance framework have been drafted and reviewed by a consultant. The framework will be shared with university leadership for further deliberation and guidance on AI governance. Policies regarding the use of specific tools in the classroom are being developed, with varying levels of faculty support. The policies also address academic integrity,

emphasizing the importance of original student work. The College of Business and Technology (CBT) is using an AI tool called Boodlebox, which provides multiple AI tools. Other AI tools are being reviewed by independent parties for potential use at the University. A new course, CS 235 'AI for All,' is designed to improve AI literacy for students with no AI background. The course covers AI concepts, applications, ethics, and responsible use. AI ethics is being embedded within the program, including a course on computer ethics and public policies that covers the ethical implications of various technologies. Presently, this course is only offered to students in CBT programs. The University is also exploring ways to provide teaching and learning resources on AI best practices for all students, regardless of their major or course enrollment, including offering it as part of the First Year Experience requirement. A University-wide AI professional learning team is being developed to address various aspects of AI implementation, including student support and pedagogy.

Audit Committee

Trustee Meresidis reported that the Audit Committee met in a joint committee meeting with the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee on May 14, 2026 and received a report in open session from the University's Director of Internal Audit, Chrystal Temples, on the FY25 Financial and Single Audit, and received a report from Chrystal in closed session on the Compliance audit. The committee received the Compliance audit report in closed session as the Illinois Auditor General had not published the report prior to the May 14 meeting. On May 19, 2026, the Auditor General published the University's compliance report.

Chrystal Temples presented the Compliance Audit report and named each finding. 2025-009 inadequate control over personnel files. 2025-010 inadequate control over automotive equipment. 2025-011 noncompliance with the College Student Immunization Act (110 ILCS 20/). 2025-010 has been addressed and 2025-009 and 2025-011 have corrective action plans in place.

Trustee Meresidis thanked Chrystal and everyone at the University for their diligence in addressing the various audit findings and for working on corrective actions.

Action Item I. B. Board Action on Committee Recommendation to Accept and File the FY25 External Audits

Trustee Meresidis, seconded by Trustee Gariti, moved to accept and file the FY25 financial, single and compliance audits.

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

Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee

Chair Phillips reported that the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee met in a joint committee meeting with the Audit Committee on May 14, 2026 and has one item to present for Board action today.

Information Item II. A. FY26 3rd Quarter Budget to Actual Report

Beni Ortiz reported on the FY26 3rd Quarter Budget to Actuals. The operating budget for FY2026 totals \$159,408,000. Of that total, \$93,785,000 is the University's unrestricted general operating budget supported by State appropriation and student tuition, and the University's restricted funds budget amount of \$65,623,000 is supported by student fee programs, auxiliary services, grants, and contracts.

Table 1 provides a summarized update on third quarter spending in the unrestricted budget, which also includes a comparison with year-to-date spending for both FY2025 and FY2024. Table 2 provides a financial forecast for the unrestricted operating budget.

Table 1
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET TO ACTUAL COMPARISONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2026
UNAUDITED FIGURES

	FY2024 Q3			FY2025 Q3			FY2026 Q3				
	Adopted Budget	FY24 Actual YTD	% of Budget	Adopted Budget	FY25 Actual YTD	% of Budget	Adopted Budget	Current Budget	FY26 Actual YTD	% of Current Budget	FY26 vs FY25 ACTUALS
Revenue											
State Appropriations	\$ 39,960,000	\$ 39,923,855	99.9%	\$ 40,758,700	\$ 40,758,700	100.0%	\$ 41,166,300	\$ 41,166,300	\$ 41,166,300	100.0%	\$ 407,600 (A)
Net Tuition Revenue	41,874,400	40,556,968	96.9%	45,134,178	42,414,271	94.0%	47,001,700	47,001,700	43,906,529	93.4%	1,492,258 (B)
Net Differential Tuition Revenue	689,000	760,465	110.4%	820,122	876,342	106.9%	1,617,000	1,617,000	1,280,311	79.2%	403,969 (B)
Investment Income	2,276,600	3,417,100	150.1%	3,700,000	3,048,644	82.4%	3,400,000	3,400,000	2,529,412	74.4%	(\$19,232) (C)
All Other Sources	500,000	672,611	134.5%	500,000	475,479	95.1%	600,000	600,000	498,350	83.1%	22,871
Total Revenue	\$ 85,300,000	\$ 85,330,999	100.0%	\$ 90,913,000	\$ 87,573,436	96.3%	\$ 93,785,000	\$ 93,785,000	\$ 89,380,902	95.3%	\$ 1,807,466
Expenditures											
Personnel Services	\$ 67,901,380	\$ 46,742,754	68.8%	\$ 70,829,802	\$ 47,287,372	66.8%	\$ 73,613,490	\$ 73,933,307	\$ 48,441,419	65.5%	\$ 1,154,047 (D)
Contractual Services	14,631,783	8,696,126	59.4	14,821,712	8,387,817	56.6	14,032,107	12,673,460	6,924,258	54.6	(1,463,559) (E)
Equipment	431,986	355,565	82.3	383,986	242,609	63.2	379,486	448,226	221,017	49.3	(21,592)
Commodities	807,401	374,463	46.4	818,150	420,832	51.4	758,917	822,940	391,399	47.6	(29,433)
Telecommunications	176,700	59,815	33.9	176,700	207,236	117.3	176,700	329,688	265,436	80.5	58,200
Travel	197,750	144,690	73.2	193,650	132,885	68.6	171,800	305,437	195,056	63.9	62,171
Permanent Improvements	25,000	-	-	25,000	-	-	25,000	22,418	-	-	-
Operation of Auto Equip	21,000	20,661	98.4	24,000	25,746	107.3	23,500	52,100	29,887	57.4	4,141
Tuition Scholarships	1,299,000	107,467	8.3	1,299,000	502,964	38.7	1,299,000	1,892,424	1,755,542	92.8	1,252,578 (F)
Debt Service	2,308,000	1,705,586	73.9	2,341,000	1,749,806	74.7	3,305,000	3,305,000	2,484,352	75.2	734,546 (E)
Total Expenditures	87,800,000	58,207,127	66.3%	90,913,000	58,957,267	64.9%	93,785,000	93,785,000	60,708,366	64.7%	1,751,099
BOT Reserve Allocation	(2,500,000)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Expenditures	\$ 85,300,000	\$ 58,207,127	68.2%	\$ 90,913,000	\$ 58,957,267	64.9%	\$ 93,785,000	\$ 93,785,000	\$ 60,708,366	64.7%	\$ 1,751,099
Excess Revenue Over Expenditures	\$ -	\$ 27,123,872		\$ -	\$ 28,616,169		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,672,536		

Notes:

1. Adopted Budget column reflects the FY2026 budget approved by the Board of Trustees on September 18, 2025.
2. The Current Budget reflects budget transfers processed between organizations and accounts.
3. "Actual Year to Date" or "Actual YTD" is current year expenses recorded or booked through May 4, 2026 and does not include encumbrances.
4. All Other Sources includes space rental and other miscellaneous fees/income (lab, transcript, NSF, late fees, etc.)

{A} The increase of \$407.6K from the prior year primarily reflects the 1% additional State appropriation allocated to the University in FY2026, relative to FY2025.

{B} The increase in Net Tuition Revenue and Net Differential Revenue (\$1.9 million) was primarily driven by higher credit hour enrollment in FY2026 compared to FY2025, along with the increase in graduate tuition rates and the implementation of additional tuition differentials beginning Fall 2025.

Actual Credit Hours Comparison as of FY2026 Q3 based on Census Data

	Summer II (@44%)	Fall	Spring	Total
FY2026	6,025	55,977	49,900	111,902
FY2025	5,906	53,900	49,319	109,125
Increase in Credit Hours	119	2,077	581	2,777

{C} Investment income is mostly attributable to income earned from the Illinois Funds. Note that reimbursements from the State are deposited to the Illinois Funds. The following table presents the investment income earned per month:

	Investment Income Earned		
	As of December 2025	As of December 2024	Difference
July	\$ 283,646	374,486	\$ (90,840)
August	274,167	344,166	(69,999)
September	270,343	332,241	(61,898)
October	285,530	336,073	(50,544)
November	291,187	347,750	(56,563)
December	303,164	322,580	(19,416)
January	281,930	340,955	(59,025)
February	255,407	314,274	(58,867)
March	284,039	336,119	(52,080)
	\$ 2,529,412	\$ 3,048,644	\$ (\$519,232)

The \$519K decrease in investment income can be attributed to a combination of factors, including the Federal Reserve's decision to reduce rates starting September 2025 and fluctuations in the investment balance.

- {D} The increase in Personnel Services of \$1.15 million was mainly driven by across-the-board raises for union and non-union employees, promotions, and equity adjustments.
- {E} In FY2026, the University issued new debt to refinance the NEST student housing and parking obligations and to support critical campus improvements. As a result, NEST-related payments previously recorded under the Contractual Services line—typically in December and March—were eliminated, resulting in a net decrease in Contractual Services totaling \$1.5 million. Moreover, starting in FY2026, the University directly pays the principal and interest on the related debt, with a portion recorded under the Debt Service line of the unrestricted operating budget, resulting in higher expenses in that category (+\$734K).
- {F} The increase in Tuition Scholarships of \$1.25 million is primarily driven by the absence of the IBHE Pell 55 grant funding in FY2026. In FY2025, tuition scholarships including housing scholarships were absorbed by the IBHE Pell 55 grant, allowing unrestricted operating funds to be reallocated and used to support one-time initiatives aimed at enhancing the overall student and faculty experience at the University.

Table 2
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET TO FORECAST COMPARISONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDED MARCH 31, 2026
UNAUDITED FIGURES

	Adopted Budget	Budget Adjustment	Adjusted Budget	Actual Year to Date as of 03/31/2026	Forecasted Revenue/Expenses Thru 06/30/2026	Annual Forecast	Adjusted Budget Vs Annual Forecast
Revenue							
State Appropriations	\$ 41,166,300	\$ -	\$ 41,166,300	\$ 41,166,300	\$ -	\$ 41,166,300	\$ -
Net Tuition Revenue	47,001,700	-	47,001,700	43,906,529	3,090,815	46,997,344	(4,356)
Net Differential Tuition Revenue	1,617,000	-	1,617,000	1,280,311	336,689	1,617,000	-
Investment Income	3,400,000	-	3,400,000	2,529,412	837,917	3,367,329	(32,671)
All Other Sources	600,000	-	600,000	498,350	113,383	611,733	11,733
Total Revenue	93,785,000	-	93,785,000	89,380,902	4,378,804	93,759,706	(25,294)
Expenditures							
Personnel Services	73,613,490	556,817	74,170,307	48,441,419	25,727,910	74,169,329	978
Contractual Services	14,032,107	(1,573,229)	12,458,878	6,924,258	5,487,607	12,411,865	47,013
Equipment	379,486	68,740	448,226	221,017	194,127	415,144	33,082
Commodities	758,917	64,023	822,940	391,399	431,541	822,940	-
Telecommunications	176,700	152,988	329,688	265,436	20,832	286,268	43,420
Travel	171,800	133,637	305,437	195,056	100,527	295,583	9,854
Permanent Improvements	25,000	(25,000)	-	-	-	-	-
Operation of Auto Equip	23,500	28,600	52,100	29,887	18,710	48,597	3,503
Scholarships, Awards and Grants	1,299,000	593,424	1,892,424	1,755,542	136,882	1,892,424	-
Debt Service	3,305,000	-	3,305,000	2,484,352	821,054	3,305,406	(406)
Total Expenditures	93,785,000	-	93,785,000	60,708,366	32,939,189	93,647,555	137,445
Excess Revenue Over Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 28,672,536	\$ (28,560,385)	\$ 112,151	\$ 112,151

Notes:

1. Adopted Budget column reflects the FY2026 budget approved by the Board of Trustees on September 18, 2025.
2. The Current Budget reflects budget transfers processed between organizations and accounts.
3. "Actual Year to Date" or "Actual YTD" is current year expenses recorded or booked through May 4, 2026 and does not include encumbrances.
4. All Other Sources includes space rental and other miscellaneous fees/income (lab, transcript, NSF, late fees, etc.)
5. "Forecasted Revenue/Expenses Thru 06/30/26" is based on historical trends, adjusted for knowledge of new initiatives/projects or spendings. Includes encumbrances.
6. "Budget Adjustment" reflects net budget transfers processed between organizations and accounts.

Information Item II. B. FY25 Business Enterprise Program (BEP) Annual Report

This item is incorporated herein by reference. Written materials may be found in the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for June 11, 2026, and in the May 14, 2026 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting materials and minutes.

Action Item I. C. Board Action on Committee Recommendation Regarding the University's FY2027 Preliminary Operating Budget

Chair Phillips, seconded by Trustee Meresidis, moved to adopt the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee's recommendation to approve the FY2027 Preliminary Operating Budget as presented.

Discussion: Beni Ortiz presented an overview of the preliminary operating budget for FY27. This budget is based on conservative revenue assumptions, including modest enrollment growth and a slight increase in state appropriation. The budget aligns with the University's strategic plan, with strategic investments tied to specific goals. Investments include support for student services, the new nursing program, employee engagement, marketing, and classroom technology upgrades. These investments are funded through expense realignment, technology cost savings, and organizational restructuring. The proposal presents the first full operating budget for the Nest housing complex. The University is projecting to provide \$1,000,000 in support for the Nest in FY27; a reduction from FY26, but a significant improvement from FY24 demonstrating the positive impact of debt refinancing and progress towards a more financially self-supporting housing operation. The preliminary unrestricted budget is approximately \$95.7 million, while the restricted budget is \$62.2 million, with many red variances due to cautious projections of federal funding. The restricted budget is expected to increase significantly by September when renewal notices for federal funds are received. The final FY27 operating budget will be presented in September once enrollment for the Fall semester is finalized. Trustees asked for clarification on the percent increase in appropriations from FY26 to FY27. This is also described in the Legislative Update above.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Gariti: Yes	Leon: Yes	Morales: Yes	Phillips: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Navarrete: Yes	Wolff: Yes

The motion carried.

Trustees asked for a brief update on the University's vacant property located on W. Bryn Mawr Avenue. Beni Ortiz reported over the past year, the University obtained market value assessments and demolition cost estimates and these were presented to the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee. The University pursued a \$1.7 million grant for demolition and site stabilization to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunities, but the grant was not awarded. Near-term strategies include pursuing state funding for demolition costs and exploring local funding opportunities. Communication with community stakeholders is ongoing through various channels. A campus master planning process is underway to guide physical development over the next 5-15 years. This includes reviewing existing plans, enrollment trends, academic programs, and space utilization, followed by exploring renovation, reuse, consolidation, and redevelopment opportunities for underused spaces.

Trustees asked about when a campus master plan would be ready and were informed that it's a very long process. Trustees asked if a hard deadline of September can be met for gathering information on fundraising capacity and making decisions to address community concerns about the vacant buildings. The University will work toward this goal.

Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 3:20 p.m. Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Meresidis, moved to convene in Closed Session pursuant to Sections 2(c)1, 2(c)2, and 2(c)11 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

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

Fleurimond: Yes Gariti: Yes Leon: Yes Morales: Yes Phillips: Yes

Garcia: Yes Kalayil: Yes Meresidis: Yes Navarrete: Yes Wolff: Yes

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

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session

At 4:02 p.m. Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Gariti, moved to reconvene in Open Session. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation. Trustee Fleurimond left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

New Business

Chair Phillips asked if there was any new business.

- Save the Date: Kane Golf Outing, August 3, 2026 at The Preserve at Oak Meadows
- Annual IBHE Trustee Leadership Training (virtual): Thursday Sept. 17 from 9:00a – 3:30p
 - Following Trustees are required to participate in 2026:
 - **Ann Kalayil**
 - **Anna Meresidis**
 - **J. Todd Phillips**
 - **Paula Wolff**
- Next Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee meeting: TBD
- Next Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting: Sept. 24, 2026
- Next Regular Board Meeting: Sept. 24, 2026

Motion to Adjourn

At 4:12 p.m. Trustee Navarrete, seconded by Trustee Meresidis, moved to adjourn. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Todd Phillips, Chair of the Board
Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board
Approved September 24, 2026