

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University
Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
August 28, 2026

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, August 28, 2026 in the Student Union Golden Eagles Room located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue in Chicago. Trustee Anna Meresidis, Secretary of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:43 p.m.

Roll was called and the following Trustee committee members were present: Anna Meresidis and Paula Wolff (officer *pro tem*)

Also present: Katrina Bell-Jordan, President; Nicki Bazer, Interim General Counsel; and Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board

Motion to Permit Remote Participation by Trustees

Trustee Meresidis, seconded by Trustee Wolff, moved to permit remote participation by J. Todd Phillips pursuant to Section 7(a)(ii) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act and Section 2. A. 2. Of the Board's Bylaws.

Discussion: Chair Phillips reached out to the Assistant Secretary ahead of today's meeting to request remote participation.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Meresidis: Yes Wolff: Yes

The motion carried. Trustee Michelle Morales joined the meeting at 1:46 p.m. and presided.

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

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

1. **Mohammed Musba**, representing NEIU students
Topic: addressing student fees

Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 1:50 p.m. Trustee Meresidis, seconded by Trustee Wolff, moved to convene in Closed Session pursuant to Section 2(c)11 of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

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

Meresidis: Yes Morales: Yes Wolff: Yes Phillips: Yes

The motion carried. The audience left the room.

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session

At 2:25 p.m. Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Wolff, moved to reconvene in Open Session. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Action Item: Consideration and possible action regarding the University's tuition model

Trustee Morales, seconded by Trustee Wolff, moved to amend Section IV. Students of the Board's Regulations to provide for one domestic student tuition rate and one tuition rate for international students. This amendment is to take effect and be applicable to this Fall 2026 semester and prospectively.

Discussion: Beni Ortiz reported that NEIU is recommending a transition from an in-state and out-of-state tuition model to a domestic rate and international rate structure with implementation to take effect immediately beginning with the Fall 2026 semester. Under the University's current tuition model, undergraduate and graduate in-state students pay \$435.26 and \$491.72 per credit hour, respectively, while out-of-state and international students pay double those rates. The proposed tuition model shifts to setting a single domestic rate equal to the current lower in-state rate, ensuring all U.S. students pay the same amount regardless of their state residency. This structural shift is designed to improve financial predictability and affordability for families, while also aligning NEIU with the six out of nine Illinois public universities that already use this streamlined model.

From a financial standpoint, the University's preliminary estimate indicates that this transition will reduce unrestricted revenue by approximately \$400,000 for the current fiscal year. This loss is the immediate result of moving roughly 35 out-of-state students down to the lower domestic tuition rate. However, this initial budget calculation does not factor in potential revenue gains from new enrollments. The University is hopeful that the simplified tuition rates, combined with a competitive marketing message, will push undecided prospective students across the finish line to register, which could ultimately offset some or all of the anticipated revenue reduction during the Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 semesters.

Trustees expressed their enthusiastic support of this change and thanked the administration for its efforts in researching and recommending the tuition model being considered today, which supports the University's current and prospective students.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Meresidis: Yes

Morales: Yes

Wolff: Yes

Phillips: Yes

The motion carried.

Motion to Adjourn

At 2:38 p.m. Trustee Meresidis, seconded by Trustee Wolff, moved to adjourn. The motion carried by unanimous acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Morales, Vice Chair of the Board
Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board
Approved September 24, 2026