

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University

**Academic/Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee Meeting Minutes**  
January 16, 2020

A meeting of the Academic/Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, January 16, 2020 in the Golden Eagles Room located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL. Committee Chair, Trustee Ann Kalayil, called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m.

**The following Trustee Committee Members were in attendance:** Marvin Garcia, Ann Kalayil, and Fatima Siddiqua

**Other Trustees in attendance:** Charlie Serrano

**Also present:** Dr. Gloria Gibson, President; Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board; Vice Presidents, staff, and University community members.

**Opportunity for Public Comment in Accordance with Public Act 91-0715**

Trustee Kalayil announced the Opportunity for Public Comment. There was one request to speak. Due to a communication error, the requestor was not present.

President Gibson informed Trustees that with the departure of Dr. Daniel Lopez, the former Vice President for Student Affairs, the University will be initiating a search for his replacement. She is requesting to engage an executive search firm to conduct the national search. Recent in-house searches for vice president-level candidates have yielded inconsistent results, whereas the searches by outside firms have produced results in line with the University's workforce diversity objectives. The cost is not to exceed \$90,000. With little discussion, the committee agreed to recommend approval of this expenditure to the full board at its February meeting.

Provost Dennis Rome made a presentation to Trustees outlining several strategic goals and action steps taking place in Academic Affairs. The Provost has been working with staff from across the division for several months to identify key areas for student, faculty, and staff advancement. Key academic areas for development are: an online education center; a dual enrollment program; cybersecurity certification credentialing; RN to BSN, and MSN programs; and a doctorate in educational leadership. Dr. Rome is encouraging the University to pursue the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement to build upon its proud tradition of community partnership and engagement. He is looking forward to working with the incoming Vice President for Finance and Administration to find ways to enhance University operations in an effort to create more opportunities for student, faculty, and staff development, as well as moving the University toward more sustainable technological investments. Dr. Rome has asked that the Deans from each college make similar presentations to the committee over the coming months.

Dr. John Fraire, Interim Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management, provided an update on recruitment and enrollment activities. As a result of the reorganization and modernization of the recruitment and enrollment operations over the past year, the incoming fall 2020 class is the first to be recruited in a new and technologically efficient way. The coordinated strategy of technology advancements and stronger involvement of faculty and student success programs in the recruitment system are proving successful. As of today, there are approximately 18% more applications compared to last year same time, and 6% more admits. A recent

problem with Banner slowed down operations making a more realistic outlook for admits more likely 13-14% ahead of last year. Transfer numbers look to be relatively even with last year, and improvements with how this student population is admitted are continuing to evolve. Graduate enrollments are continuing their growth from last year, and the University is poised to meet the 5% increase in both new freshman and graduate students, with transfer student projections remaining unchanged.

Dr. Frank Gaytan, Associate Provost for Success and Retention, presented a retention report. Fall to spring freshman retention for the current year is 84%, running 1.5% better than same time last year and representing a five-year high for this student group. Retention for students who are major-declared remains very strong. Strategic efforts such as the Golden Tour, where the University travels to its traditional “feeder” CPS high schools to administer placement testing, admissions guidance and verification work, has proven successful. The yield from these activities for incoming freshmen this year was 23%. The Northeastern students from the identified feeder high schools have traditionally been retained at a much higher level. The increased commitment to CPS students from these high schools over the past two years is expected to strengthen the University’s overall retention rate going forward. Title V funding is providing resources to operationalize this momentum. The University is also working with CPS high school counselors from across the city where it provides funded programs through GEARUP and Upward Bound. This effort is intended to help students navigate admissions and verification processes and get connected to success programs within Northeastern sooner. The dual enrollment courses being offered at Clemente High School are being taught by Northeastern faculty four days per week with a Friday Success Seminar in the spring 2020 term. High school students are earning college credits in Computer Science and Philosophy courses at Northeastern. The dual enrollment program students will be visiting campus this spring to meet with admissions and other counselors in anticipation of their fall 2020 start. The dual enrollment program is being expanded to include other city charter and alternative high schools.

Matt Specht, the Dean of Students, provided an update on The Nest. As of the start of the semester, student retention in The Nest was level for the first time since it opened. Current occupancy is 184, which is 42% of total occupancy. There are currently 4 emergency apartments reserved for students with housing insecurity, and 2 full-housing scholarships for students with McKinney-Vento homelessness designation. The renewal period opens next week with a goal of 50% renewal. A 10% renewal grant is being offered to all current residents and new incoming residents for fall 2020. Marketing brochures for overnight summer camp housing and other rental clients are now complete, with the University actively cultivating music, sports and other camps and programs for summer 2020.

Dr. Blase Masini, Executive Director of Institutional Research, provided an update on the enrollment and retention dashboards. A weekly report is being generated from Institutional Research and placed within the Board’s portal. The metrics presented are those that the committee had agreed upon last fall. A link has been added within Directorpoint for ease in accessing the dashboard. Trustees received a brief demonstration.

Trustee Kalayil introduced the updated charter which now includes technology. Trustees discussed the changes and agreed to accept the revised charter and settled on a name change to Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment and Technology Committee.

The next Committee meeting will take place on March 19, 2020 at 8:30 a.m. in the Golden Eagles Room.

There was no further business.

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**Adjourn**

At 10:17 a.m., Trustee Kalayil adjourned the meeting

Ann Kalayil, Committee Chair

Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary

Approved February 13, 2020