

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University

Board Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2020

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, April 16, 2020 via audio teleconference. Jim Palos, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

The following Trustees were present on the call: Carlos Azcoitia, Sherry Eagle, Marvin Garcia, Ann Kalayil, Jim Palos, Charles Serrano, Fatima Siddiqua, Jonathan Stein, and George Vukotich.

The following Trustees were not present: Barbara Fumo

Also present on the call: Gloria Gibson, President; Mary Pat Burns, Board Counsel; Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board; University Vice Presidents and University community members.

Chair Palos announced that in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order 2020-07, today's proceedings will cover essential business. Chair Palos provided brief remarks expressing the Board's disappointment that under the current circumstances the May commencement will not be able to happen, but assured students that the University will find a way to celebrate those who are set to graduate in a few weeks. The Chair thanked the faculty and students who quickly pivoted to a completely online environment for teaching and learning. He thanked the staff who are continuing to keep the University operating from their homes, and thanked the Coronavirus Task Force for all the work they accomplished in quickly responding to the many challenges faced with closing down the University. The Chair further acknowledged the dedicated workers who are essential to safeguarding the campus and who are showing up each day to do that work. He then introduced the Board's Counsel, Mary Pat Burns.

Ms. Burns stated that today's proceedings are being conducted via teleconference and is being recorded for later transcription. Ms. Burns asked the audience for their cooperation and respect in allowing the Trustees to conduct their business with as few background interruptions as possible.

President Gibson provided an update on the University's continuing COVID-19 response. The University's facilities are presently undergoing deep-cleaning and disinfecting. All University COVID-19 communications to the University community are being managed through e-mail updates as well as updates to the COVID-19 webpages on the University website. After a brief interruption, recruitment and enrollment activities are back up and running. Counselors are actively reaching out to current and prospective new and transfer students. The University has dropped its SAT and ACT requirements for the coming year. Of the recent CARES Act funding, Northeastern has been allocated a bit over \$6 million, with \$3 million as direct aid to students. The University is working to determine how and when this aid will be disbursed.

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

Chair Palos announced the opportunity for public comment. There was 1 request received in advance of the meeting.

1. **Amie Jatta:** Director of TRIO Programs, and Chair of the A&P Council
Topic: to advocate for consistent liaising between the President and the A&P Council, and to advocate for A&P Council representation on the President's Executive Council

President’s Report

Action Item I. A. Approval of Tenure and Promotion Recommendations

Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Serrano, moved to approve the tenure and promotion recommendations for the following faculty:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Elyse Bolterstein	Biology
Andrew Brake	Social Work
Nadja Insel	Earth Science
Ting Liu	Geography and Environmental Studies
Michelle Oh	Library
Isidore Udoh	Health Sciences and Physical Education
Julia Valley	Health Sciences and Physical Education

Discussion: Trustees Azcoitia requested financial information for the Finance, Buildings and Grounds committee to review regarding future financial implications of granting tenure today. Trustee Kalayil requested the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee take up the matter of online teaching qualifications. The Student Trustee may not vote on this matter.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia – Yes	Fumo -	Kalayil - Yes	Serrano - Yes	Stein – Yes
Eagle – Yes	Garcia – Yes	Palos – Yes	Siddiqua -	Vukotich – Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I. B. Approval of Expenditures \$100,000 or More: Assessment Management System, Watermark Insights, LLC (formerly Tk20)

Higher education accrediting bodies require that their member institutions conduct systematic assessments of student learning. To support this requirement, Northeastern currently uses a comprehensive, web-based, hosted assessment management software application called Watermark Insights, LLC. (formerly Tk20) to enable faculty and staff to collect and store data and report on student learning, among other assessments. The system facilitates compliance with accreditation mandates, reporting on certificate programs, examining non-traditional pedagogical delivery methods, and assessing institutional effectiveness at the program, college, and institutional level.

In 2015, Northeastern Illinois University entered into a five-year contract with Watermark Insights, LLC (formerly Tk20) as a result of a competitive Request for Proposal procurement process. This was approved by the Board of Trustees at its April 9, 2015 meeting. The original contract expires on June 30, 2020 and includes a five-year renewal option. Academic Affairs made a determination that is in the best interest of the University to exercise the renewal option.

Trustee Stein, seconded by Trustee Eagle, moved to approve the renewal of the contract with Watermark Insights, LLC (formerly Tk20) as set forth in the original contract terms and in accordance with the State of Illinois Procurement Code.

Discussion: Trustees expressed concern over the competitive bidding processes with a flat-out renewal and discontent with the University’s purchasing processes and state procurement code, and would like the Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee to review.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia – No	Fumo -	Kalayil - Yes	Serrano - No	Stein – Yes
Eagle – Yes	Garcia – No	Palos – Yes	Siddiqua – Abst.	Vukotich – Abst.

The motion carried.

Closed Session

At 2:12 p.m., Trustee Vukotich, seconded by Trustee Siddiqua, moved to convene in Closed Session, citing the Illinois Open Meetings Act exceptions 2(c)1 and 2(c)2.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia – Yes	Fumo -	Kalayil - Yes	Serrano - Yes	Stein – Yes
Eagle – Yes	Garcia – Yes	Palos – Yes	Siddiqua – Yes	Vukotich – Yes

The motion carried.

Open Session

At 4:19 p.m., Trustee Vukotich, seconded by Trustee Palos, moved to reconvene in Open Session. Trustees Kalayil and Serrano left the meeting.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia – Yes	Fumo -	Kalayil -	Serrano - Yes	Stein – Yes
Eagle – Yes	Garcia –	Palos – Yes	Siddiqua – Yes	Vukotich – Yes

The motion carried.

Old Business

Chair Palos asked if there was any old business.

New Business

Chair Palos asked if there was any new business.

Upcoming meetings:

- Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee, May 14
- Audit and Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committees, May 18
- Board of Trustees meeting, June 11

There is no determination, yet, as to whether these meetings will be in-person or by electronic means.

Adjourn

At 4:22 p.m., Trustee Stein, seconded by Trustee Vukotich, moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Palos, Chair
Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary
Approved June 11. 2020