

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University

**Academic/Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee
Meeting Minutes**

June 13, 2019

A meeting of the Academic/Student Affairs and Enrollment Management Committee of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 10:02 a.m. in the Student Union Alumni Hall North located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL. Jim Palos, Chair of the Committee, called the meeting to order.

The following Trustee Committee Members were in attendance: Elena Molloy

Other Trustees in attendance: Carlos Azcoitia; Sherry Eagle; and Charles Serrano

Also present: Dr. Gloria Gibson, President; Melissa Reardon Henry, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel; 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 Palos announced the Opportunity for Public Comment. There were 2 requests received in advance and approved.

1. **Mary Hay Verne:** University staff and AFSCME Local 1989 member
Topic: to present my story as a dedicated member of AFSCME at NEIU for over 35 years.

Trustee Palos asked Interim Provost, Wamucii Njogu, to present the biographies of both the incoming Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Dennis Rome, and Mr. Steven Harris, Dean of the Libraries. Dr. Rome comes to Northeastern from Columbus State University in Columbus, Georgia where he was most recently the Dean of the College of Letters and Sciences. Dr. Rome began his official duties at Northeastern on June 17, 2019. Steven Harris is coming to Northeastern from the University of Nevada, Reno, where he has served as Assistant Dean since 2013. He will begin on August 1, 2019. Dr. Njogu stated that Dr. Rome has the endorsement of the Sociology Department and Mr. Harris has the endorsement of the Library faculty and Interim Dean, and requested that the board approve their tenure.

Trustee Palos asked Dr. Frank Gaytan, Interim Associate Provost for Student Success and Retention, to make a retention presentation. Dr. Gaytan presented from a PowerPoint that was distributed to Trustees prior to the meeting. Dr. Gaytan provided an overview to Trustees of the University's student retention and success programs that are still recovering from the state's budget impasse. Despite recent financial stress, the retention programs continue to make progress. Changes in admission standards have identified better prepared incoming students. The University continues to focus services related to reliable retention predictors; early registration; enhanced spring enrollment; and completion of math and English gateway courses in year one. Dr. Gaytan reviewed the array of grant-funded programs and initiatives dedicated to student success and retention, and Trustees learned how grant funded retention efforts become institutionalized (e.g., the Center for Academic Writing). The discussion also included the University's efforts in working within local high schools with juniors and seniors, preparing them for the college-level math and English courses they will encounter, as well as the Title V dual enrollment program with Wright College. Dr. Gaytan provided an overview of the various

University initiatives and programs directed toward retention and success: University Retention Intervention Team (URIT); Starfish; Peer Mentoring; First Year Experience; and Summer Bridge programs. Trustees discussed the various metrics and data provided.

Trustee Palos invited Dr. Blase Masini, Executive Director of Institutional Research and Assessment to make a presentation to the Trustees. Dr. Masini presented several internal reports for the committee to consider as future, quick-reference data digest dashboards related to enrollment, retention, credit hours and other pertinent measures. The committee will decide which measures they wish to regularly see.

New Business

Dr. Gloria Gibson asked Dr. John Fraire, Interim Associate Vice President for Enrollment Services to give an update on Fall 2019 enrollment. Dr. Fraire reported on the University's enrollment trends this year over last and the different tactics being employed to maintain a robust enrollment funnel. Overall, the trends are moving in a positive direction particularly with freshmen and graduate enrollments. Incoming students registered for orientation is up 25% over same time last year, and placement test 'show rates' are averaging 90-92% of test takers over 70% of registered placement test takers showing up same time last year. Graduate enrollments are up due to the University processing applications quicker, as well as maintaining consistent communication with applicants. Transfer enrollment campaigns, such as One Stop Enrollment sessions, are improving enrollment rates and closing registration gaps quickly. The University will pursue new student enrollees throughout the summer, so overall enrollment figures should continue to improve.

There was no further business.

Adjourn

At 11:24 a.m., Trustee Palos adjourned the meeting

Jim Palos, Chair, Academic/Student Affairs and
Enrollment Management Committee
Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary
approved September 19, 2019