

Minutes of the  
**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Special Meeting**  
February 15, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 1:03 p.m. by Board Chair Montel Gayles in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall.

Recording Secretary Crystal Doyle conducted a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Vice Chair John Butler: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

Trustee Tim Moore: Absent

Trustee Leland Strom: Present

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Present

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Present

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Interim Executive Vice President and Provost Laurie Elish-Piper; Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer George Middlemist (virtual); Senior Associate Vice President and Chief Human Resource Office John Acardo; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Benjamin Creed and Natasha Johnson.

**MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Strom so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion was approved.

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to amend that motion, in order to approve a consent agenda for action items 7.b. through 7.c. and 7.g. Trustee Athas so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 7, 2023**

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the minutes of December 7, 2023. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

*Trustee Moore joined the meeting at 1:05 p.m.*

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Gayles welcomed the members of the University Advisory Council who were present.

Chair Gayles thanked everyone for welcoming him as the new Board Chair. He mentioned that he looks forward to working with everyone in this new role.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Gayles introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry stated that there were no registered public comments.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT NO. 174**

Chair Gayles asked President Freeman to present the President’s Report No. 174.

President Freeman presented the items that were moved to the consent agenda including:

**Agenda Item 7.b. – Fiscal Year 2025 Room and Board Pricing Recommendation**

**Agenda Item 7.c. – Fiscal Year 2025 Undergraduate Tuition Pricing Recommendation**

**Agenda Item 7.g. – Lease for Resident Hall Appliance Units**

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda items. Trustee Strom so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.a. Recommendation for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2023-2024**

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.a. for approval.

Chair Gayles reminded Trustee Moore he needs to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.a. Vice Chair Butler so moved, and Trustee Wasowicz seconded.

Chair Gayles asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Abstain

Trustee Leland Strom: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.d. Fiscal Year 2025 Graduate and Law Tuition Pricing Recommendation**

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.d. for approval.

Chair Gayles stated that he will need to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.d. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

Chair Gayles asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Leland Strom: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Abstain

The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.e. Fiscal Year 2025 Undergraduate, Graduate, and Law Student Fee Pricing Recommendation**

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.e. for approval.

Chair Gayles stated that he will need to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.e. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

Chair Gayles asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Leland Strom: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Abstain

The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 7.f. Fiscal Year 2025 Student Health Insurance**

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.f. for approval.

Chair Gayles stated that he will need to abstain from voting on this agenda item.

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to approve item 7.f. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded.

Chair Gayles asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Leland Strom: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Abstain

The motion was approved.

### **OTHER MATTERS**

There were no other matters.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held March 21, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Gayles stated that the Board needed to go into closed session and would not take up new business following the closed session. He asked for a motion to close the public meeting to conduct closed session to discuss the following subjects as authorized by the Open Meetings Act: closed session minutes matters as generally described under section 2(c)(21) of the open meetings act; collective bargaining matters as generally described under section 2(c)(2) of the open meetings act; litigation and risk management matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(11) and (12) of the open meetings act; real estate matters as generally described under section 2(c)(5) and (6) of the open meetings act; student disciplinary cases matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(11) and (12) of the open meetings act; and personnel matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(1)(2)(3) and (21) of the open meetings act.

Trustee Wasowicz so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded.

Chair Gayles asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Leland Strom: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 1:15 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 3:07 p.m.

Chair Gayles asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Leland Strom: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Gayles asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Athas so moved, and Trustee Moore seconded.

Chair Gayles asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Vice Chair John Butler: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Tim Moore: Yes

Trustee Leland Strom: Yes

Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes

Board Chair Montel Gayles: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Doyle  
Recording Secretary

*In compliance with Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/1, et seq, a verbatim record of all Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees meetings is maintained by the Board Recording Secretary and is available for review upon request. The minutes contained herein represent a true and accurate summary of the Board proceedings.*