

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University  
**Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee Meeting Minutes**  
April 18, 2024

A meeting of the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, April 18, 2023 in the Third Floor Lounge at the El Centro building located at 3390 N. Avondale Avenue, Chicago, IL 60618. Trustee Marvin Garcia called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m.

**Roll was called and the following Trustee Committee members were present:** Marvin Garcia; Edwin Medina; and Michelle Morales

**Committee members not present:** Betty Fleurimond and Ann Kalayil

**Also present:** Katrina Bell-Jordan, Interim President and Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board

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

Trustee Garcia announced the opportunity for public comment. There was one registration placed in advance.

1. **Heidi Rios and Sophia Ruiz** representing NEIU Golden Eaters  
**Topic:** University cafeteria and catering methods, and alternative meal options to create a more representative, student-based environment

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**Chair's and President's Remarks**

Interim President Bell-Jordan reported that NEIU recently hosted an Open House for prospective students and their families, as well as the Midwest's first National College Resource Foundation's (NCRF) Latino college expo on April 4. The expo provided access to over 40 college and universities with a special focus on Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI), networking opportunities with local businesses and community organizations, and participation in bilingual Spanish/English college and career access seminars. The University's Telemundo Academy partnership also occurred on April 4.

Trustee Kalayil, Chair of the Committee, joined the meeting at 9:14 a.m. and stated that she is looking forward to the exciting end of semester events coming up, notably commencement.

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**ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION**

**Academic Affairs**

Action Item I. A. Committee Recommendation Regarding 2024 Tenure Awards

Trustee Morales, seconded by Trustee Garcia, moved to recommend approval of tenure awards to the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Academic Department</u>
Maura Baron	Communication, Media and Theatre
Tung Cu	Accounting, Business Law and Finance
Hulya Ermis-Demirtas	Counselor Education
Beth H. Gilfillan	Counselor Education
Adam Goldstein	Communication, Media and Theatre
Juan Martinez	Sociology
Noe Mojica	Social Work
Edward Remus	Library
Judith Rocha	Social Work
Jia-Rung Wu	Counselor Education
Yi Yang	Computer Science

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond:            Kalayil: Yes            Morales: Yes

Garcia: Yes            Medina: \*

The motion carried and the matter is recommended. \* *The Student Trustee may not vote on tenure*

Action Item I. B.    Committee Recommendation Regarding the Doctorate in Leadership, Equity and Inquiry Program (Ed.D.)

Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Morales, moved the recommend approval of the Doctorate in Leadership, Equity and Inquiry Program (Ed.D.) as presented.

Discussion: Current scholarships and other aid will be available to prospective students. The University is working on community partnerships to generate interest in the program and Trustees offered additional suggestions of groups to contact. The curriculum presented today will expand over time. Dr. Kamau Rashid, Director of the Doctoral Program and Dean Thomas Philion, Goodwin College of Education, provided additional curricular and material context and answered Trustees' questions.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond:            Kalayil: Yes            Morales: Yes

Garcia: Yes            Medina: Yes

The motion carried and the matter is recommended.

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**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**Academic Affairs**

Financial Aid/FAFSA Updates

Director of Financial Aid, Maureen Amos reported that communication to students regarding changes to FAFSA began in Spring 2023 and will continue through Fall 2024. The changes to FAFSA have resulted in significant application errors and delays in award status. However, the changes to FAFSA have significantly reduced the number of documents needed by institutions and incorporate family financial information directly from the IRS. The new rules now have three different methods for calculating federal Pell grants. Illinois is projected to have the 6<sup>th</sup> largest increase in federal Pell grant recipients. Selective Service requirement and Drug Conviction questions have been eliminated from the application.

Trustees are disappointed in the delays created by changes to the FAFSA application but pleased that the changes are making access to federal financial aid easier and more equitable.

Student Enrollment Updates

Director of Undergraduate Enrollment, Ryan Trout, reported the latest enrollment figures for Fall 2024. First Year Student applications received as of April 10 were 9,182, representing a 15% increase over same time last year. So far, 6,251 applicants have been admitted, representing an 11% increase over same time last year. Intent to Enroll stood at 428 representing a 15% decrease over same time last year. Some of these figures are being hampered by the FAFSA changes and will change before Fall 2024. Transfer Student applications as of April 10 were 1,039 representing a 22% increase over same time last year. So far, 511

have been admitted representing a 19% increase over same time last year. Intent to Enroll stood at 243 representing a 53% increase over same time last year.

Director of Graduate Enrollment, Tim Sheahan, reported the latest enrollment figures for Fall 2024. Applications received as of April 10 were 791 representing an 8.6% increase over same time last year. So far, 238 applicants have been admitted representing a 27.3% increase over same time last year. Intent to Enroll stood at 122 representing a 19% increase over same time last year. As of April 10, 16 students have enrolled representing a 16.6% decrease over same time last year.

The enrollment team continues to actively recruit, admit and enroll students on a daily basis. The summer will be busy with orientations and campus visits.

### Student Success and Retention

This Spring, the Office of Student Success and Retention has co-sponsored events with Friends of the Chicago River, Illinois Junior Science Academy, Annual April Student Symposium, and Athletic-Academic partnerships with Chicago Sky, Chicago Fire, and Chicago White Sox. The Office has held seven combined open houses and preview days. Some faculty-initiated events included CYT Theaterfest and high school visits. The Office also helped host the Midwest's first National College Resource Foundation's Latino College Expo which included campus open house, over 40 faculty-led departments and programs were showcased, along with bi-lingual Spanish/English college and career access seminars. A First-Year Experience Advisory Council was activated.

The Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion issued College statements on Servingness in Teaching and Learning, distributed AACSU surveys and held sense-making conversations, held fall and spring equity retreats, and adopted a rewritten Accessibility Statement for course syllabi. The College Equity Teams are active and are conducting analysis of low course completion rates. These activities include training on NEIUStar Strategic Analytics, reviewing disaggregated data on courses with lowest completion rates, utilizing Data Analysis Guide and CTL Equity Toolkit to guide review, working on reports to be submitted to Deans each December for further strategic implementation with Department Chairs, and establishing benchmarks progress by third year.

### Student Affairs

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Terry Mena, reported on the Nest occupancy for the Spring semester. Current number of leases is 327 representing an occupancy rate of 75.89%. The target occupancy rate for this semester was 91%.

Highlights from NEIU's implementation of Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act (MHEACA) for the March 1, 2023 – March 1, 2024 period includes orientations, online screening, Peer Wellness Coach Program, use of third-party services TimelyCare, Mindwise and Protocol for after-hours help, adding an Extra Help Therapist to the Counseling Services Office, and participation in mental health and suicide prevention trainings. TimelyCare reported 323 registrations and 468 visits. 50% of visits were after hours. Most common themes are anxiety, adjustment, and depression. Mindwise performed 21 screenings. Student Counseling Services answered 31 after hours calls

The Peer Wellness Coach Program outcomes were 254 outreach events, 171 mentee appointments, and attendance at events was 1,425. Student Counseling Services logged 2,821 scheduled appointments, 59% in person and 41% online. 94% (2,652) of students served would recommend Student Counseling Services to a friend.

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### **Old / New Business**

Trustee Kalayil asked if there was any old or new business to address. Hearing none, there was no further business.

**Motion to Adjourn**

At 11:01 a.m. Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Morales, moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalayil, Chair of the Committee  
Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary  
Approved May 28, 2024