

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
April 18, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, April 18, 2024 in the Third Floor Lounge in the El Centro Building located at 3390 N. Avondale Avenue, Chicago, IL 60618. J. Todd Phillips, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Roll was called and the following Trustees were present: Betty Fleurimond; Marvin Garcia; Ann Kalayil; Jorge Leon; Edwin Medina; Anna Meresidis; Michelle Morales; J. Todd Phillips; and Paula Wolff

Also present: Katrina Bell-Jordan, Interim President; Nicki Bazer, Interim General Counsel; Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board; vice presidents; students; staff; and University community members both in person and via video conference

Administration of Past Meeting Minutes and Records

Trustee Wolff, seconded Trustee Leon, moved to approve the following written past open and closed minutes, and to keep the closed minutes closed:

- Open and closed minutes from the February 15, 2024 Regular Board meeting
- Open and closed minutes from the March 21, 2024 Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting

Discussion: there was no discussion and no recommendations to revise the records

The motion carried by acclamation.

Trustee Wolff, seconded by Trustee Fleurimond, moved pursuant to Section 2.06(d) of the IL Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120) the following prior approved confidential closed session written minutes...

- March 6, 2023 Regular Board meeting
- March 20, 2023 Executive Committee special meeting
- April 4, 2023 Executive Committee special meeting
- April 13, 2023 Regular Board meeting

...require confidential treatment and will remain confidential.

The motion carried by acclamation.

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

Chair Phillips announced the opportunity for public comment. There were 4 registrations placed in advance.

1. **Steven Frankel** representing the Biology Department
Topic: invitation to Trustees to visit the University's Gensburg Markham Prairie
2. **Gabriel Cortez** representing the El Centro Advisory Council
Topic: to share input from the El Centro community on its preferences for the next University President
3. **Erica Meiners** representing the University
Topic: to provide University community feedback to the Board
4. **Nikolas Hoel** representing the Faculty Senate
Topic: to provide a farewell message as the outgoing Faculty Senate Chair and thank the Board for its Support

Chair’s and President’s Remarks

Interim President Bell-Jordan reported out that the NEIU hosted an Open House for prospective students and their families, as well as the Midwest’s first National College Resource Foundation (NCRF) Latino College Expo on April 4 on the main campus. 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 NBC Universal/Telemundo Academy partnership also launched on April 4. NEIU testified before the House and Senate higher education appropriations committees in Springfield March 13 and 14. Governor Pritzker is advocating for a 2% increase in higher education appropriations in FY2025. Additional Legislative advocacy initiatives will be announced soon to help support funding for the nursing program, the University’s Afghan Refugee Transition Program cohorts, and additional funding for equipment for the new education building. The nursing program is moving through the IBHE approval process while the University concurrently plans to construct its nursing simulation lab. The first nursing program cohort is expected to begin Fall 2026. The University must obtain approval from the Illinois Board of Nursing before recruitment can begin. The Proyecto Pa’Lante 50th Anniversary celebration took place last Friday. Special thanks to Trustee Morales for representing the Board at this special occasion. Upcoming events are Academic Honors and Master’s Hooding ceremonies and commencement.

Chair Phillips thanked the soon-to-be tenured faculty members for their part in the University’s shared value of excellence. NEIU’s standard of excellence is needed in today’s world.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee

Trustee Kalayil reported that the Committee met this morning in the same room where it received several informational briefings and is presenting the following recommendations for Board action:

Action Item I. A. Board Action on Committee Recommendation Regarding the 2024 Tenure Awards

Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Wolff, moved to approve the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee’s recommendation to award tenure to the following faculty members:

<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: this recommendation comes with the support of Shayne Cofer, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Trustees applauded the awardees and thanked them for their dedication to Northeastern’s students.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Medina: *	Morales: Yes	Wolff: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Yes	Phillips: Yes	

The motion carried. * *The Student Trustee may not vote on tenure*

Action Item I. B. Board Action on Committee Recommendation Regarding the Doctorate in Leadership, Equity and Inquiry Program

Trustee Kalayil, seconded by Trustee Garcia, moved to adopt the Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee’s recommendation to approve the Doctorate in Leadership, Equity and Inquiry Program.

Discussion: Trustees are gratified that the University is finally embarking on this program. Trustee Garcia encouraged the Board to approve the program. The program is designed for practitioners in urban education and nonprofits. Special thanks to Dr. Kamau Rashid, Director of the Doctoral Program and Dean Thomas Phillion for their tireless efforts in getting this program assembled.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes	Kalayil: Yes	Medina: Yes	Morales: Yes	Wolff: Yes
Garcia: Yes	Leon: Yes	Meresidis: Abst.	Phillips: Yes	

The motion carried.

Trustee Kalayil thanked Deputy Governor Grace Hou for meeting with several of the Afghan students following this morning’s committee meeting.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

The Information Items within the President’s Report are incorporated herein by reference. Chair Phillips asked Trustees to take special note of the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) report for FY23. Trustees thanked departing Director of Procurement, Vicky Santiago, for her special leadership and oversight of the University’s BEP response.

NEIU Marketing and Communications Update

Executive Director of Marketing and Communications, Chris Childers, reported on a recent awareness survey conducted about the University and how those responses informed the development of strategic marketing efforts, both new and ongoing, and the University’s planned next steps.

Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 2:45 p.m. Trustee Fleurimond, seconded by Trustee Kalayil, moved to convene in Closed Session pursuant to Sections 2(c)1 and 2(c)11 to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

Discussion: there was no discussion

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Fleurimond: Yes Kalayil: Yes Medina: Yes Morales: Yes Wolff: Yes
Garcia: Yes Leon: Yes Meresidis: Yes Phillips: Yes

The motion carried.

Motion to Reconvene in Open Session

At 4:28 p.m. Trustee Morales, seconded by Trustee Kalayil, moved to reconvene in Open Session. The motion carried by acclamation.

Legal Report

Trustees received the Legal Report in advance of the meeting and had an opportunity to ask questions in Closed Session.

Old / New Business

Old business

- Statement of Economic Interests and Supplementary Statement of Economic Interests filings are due by May 1.

New business

- Upcoming Board Events and Meetings:
 - Tuesday April 30, 2024 – Academic Honors Ceremony
 - Wednesday May 1, 2024 – Master’s Hooding Ceremony
 - Friday May 10, 2024 – Commencement Exercises
 - Tuesday May 14, 2024 – Finance, Buildings and Grounds Committee meeting
 - Thursday May 16, 2024 – Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee meeting
 - May 28, 2024 – Rescheduled Regular Board meeting

Motion to Adjourn

At 4:37 p.m. Trustee Garcia, seconded by Trustee Morales, moved to adjourn. The motion carried by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Todd Phillips, Chair of the Board
Karl Voigt, Assistant Board Secretary
Approved May 28, 2024