

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University
Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee Meeting Minutes
September 5, 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, September 5, 2024 in the Student Union Room 214 located at 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625. Trustee Ann Kalayil, Chair of the Committee called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m.

Roll was called and the following Trustees were present: Marvin Garcia; Ann Kalayil; and Itzel Linares

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

Michelle Morales joined the meeting at 10:12 a.m.

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

Trustee Kalayil announced the opportunity for public comment. There were three (3) registrations placed in advance and three presentations made.

1. **Rosetta Cash** representing the Key Control office
Topic: issues affecting key control that spread university wide
2. **Mary Kroeck** representing self
Topic: disparities between Main Campus, El Centro, and the Carruthers Center
3. **Mary Serio** representing AFSCME Local 1989
Topic: technology issues

Chair's and President's Remarks

Dr. Bell-Jordan welcomed everyone back for the Fall 2024 term. A special thanks was extended to the student recruitment and enrollment teams for their diligent work over the summer. The Fall 2024 student census will be certified on September 6. Dr. Bell-Jordan announced that the University will begin a refreshed strategic planning process this year.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Academic Affairs

Fall 2024 Updates

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Shayne Cofer, provided a brief introduction to all of the new tenure-track faculty who have joined the University beginning this Fall:

- Li Wang, Computer Science
- Lizi Zhu, Computer Science
- Kirsis Dipre, Counselor Education
- Kyle Goodwin, Counselor Education
- Jennifer Ventimiglia, Literacy Leadership and Development
- Todd Irwin, Art and Design
- Denana Miodragovic, Chemistry
- Sara Salavati, Psychology

Dr. Sudha Srinivas, Interim Associate Provost and Dr. Sandra Beyda-Lorie reported on the most recent Faculty Institute held August 22, 2024. 133 attendees participated in any number of 17 breakout sessions

throughout the day. Surveyed faculty feedback was very positive. To supplement the institute, each college hosted its own day of professional development.

Shayne Cofer reported that the Pell-55 grant through IBHE will be \$2.24 million for NEIU in FY25. NEIU receives the largest portion of this unique funding, Chicago State University being the other recipient.

AASCU Student Success Equity Intensive

Sandra Beyda-Lorie reported that NEIU is in year 2 of its grant from the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AASCU) supporting the Student Success Equity Intensive (SSEI). The grant is being funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation designed to guide regional public universities through a multi-step continuous improvement process utilizing AASCU facilitation and tools. Year 1 (Academic Year 24-25) consisted of a self-study and development of priority areas to be identified to be addressed the following year. Academic Year 24-25 will be the implementation of improvement of the advising experience and the onboarding process for NEIU students. The focus includes development of a universal advising model, and establishing an intentional "Intent to Enroll" onboarding process. The SSEI project is being aligned with the IL Equity Plan initiatives adopted by the University last year.

Program Realignment Update

Shayne Cofer reported on the University's ongoing qualitative and quantitative levels of review and assessment. The University's program accreditation review or program review is performed by an external reviewer on a 7-year cycle. Other ongoing initiatives are the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) accreditation and re-accreditation (10-year cycle) and HLC mid-cycle review (4th year); unit accreditation review by Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP); college accreditation review by Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB); annual assessment of student learning by program; and annual reporting by programs.

The IBHE review is on a 2-year cycle, a review one year, followed by an update the next year requires annual Academic Program Efficiency and Effectiveness Reporting (APEER) on the enrollments in our academic programs. Based on IBHE requirements, academic programs focused on the Environment, Earth Science and Geography were asked to identify synergies, realign, and/or consolidate. In 2024-25 Geography, Environmental Studies and Earth Science will work on the curricular governance process that will result in these three programs merging into a single academic program with 3 distinct concentrations.

Enrollment Management

Enrollment Updates

Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, Claudia Mercado, reported on the latest enrollment figures for Fall 2024. As of September 5, 2024 there are 574 new first-time freshmen against a goal of 610. This represents a 3% increase over the same time last year. There are 686 transfer students against a goal of 690, representing a 13% increase over the same time last year. There are 440 graduate students against a goal of 540, representing an 8% decrease over the same time last year.

Enrollment: Recruitment, Retention and Completion Outlook and Planning (AY 24-25)

Claudia Mercado provided an overview of the strategic plan to date for the current academic year which aims to optimize current practices and future strategies in the universal recruitment and enrollment environment. Part of the planning development will include student feedback sessions over the coming year. The plan's student data will be refreshed following the Fall 2024 census.

Fall-to-fall retention of first-time students is 52% and retention of transfer students over the same period is 83%. The Fall 2024 credit hours are 60,288 toward an annual goal of 115, 544. Spring and Summer goals will be established when enrollment opens for those terms.

Student Affairs

NEST Updates

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, Terry Mena, reported that the NEST is experiencing its 3rd-highest occupancy level of 93% since the building opened. As of September 5, 2024 there are 4 students on the waiting list. The University's financial contributions to the Collegiate Housing Foundation has steadily declined as occupancy has increased. This year the LLC awards are for 50% of the cost of the housing. Students in the LLCs are being asked to pay the remaining rent for the year.

Technology

Addressing Artificial Intelligence

Shayne Cofer reported on the University's responses to the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the academy. The University currently does not have a formal AI policy, but the College of Business and Technology (CBT) has recently adopted its own policy and guidelines following a review by the Faculty Council on Technology. The Faculty Institute presented a well-attended breakout session on AI, and the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) has been actively providing resources for faculty training in generative AI since Spring 2023. CTL has been ramping up its training initiatives over the past year.

Old / New Business

Trustee Kalayil announced that the Afghan Student Organization is presenting a program featuring a guest speaker from the Urban Institute on Thursday, September 12. There are several activities and panel discussions will happen from 4 – 8 p.m. Look out for registration information.

Trustee Kalayil asked committee members about any matters they would like to see the committee address this fiscal/academic year.

- An analysis of the Afghan Refugee Transition Program (ARTP) and whether or not the University would consider expanding this initiative to include a wider audience.
- Student retention and the Trustees' role.
- A deeper dive into the undocumented student experience.
- Continuing conversations on AI

Motion to Adjourn

At 12:16 p.m. Trustee Morales, seconded by Trustee Garcia, moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalayil, Chair of the Committee
Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board
Approved September 19, 2024