

Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University
Academic/Student Affairs, Enrollment, and Technology Committee Meeting Minutes
October 17, 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, October 17, 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 1:21 p.m.

Roll was called and the following Trustee committee members were present: Ann Kalayil; Itzel Linares; and Michelle Morales

Other Trustees present: Betty Fleurimond joined the meeting at 2:13 p.m. via video conference

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

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

Trustee Kalayil announced the opportunity for public comment. There was one registration placed in advance and one presentation.

1. **Rosetta Cash**, representing Key Control
Topic: job satisfaction, safety, and morale versus micro-management

Chair's and President's Remarks

President Bell-Jordan thanked everyone for their participation in and attendance at her recent inauguration. Marketing and recruitment activities for Fall 2025 are now underway. The University has two academic programs under IBHE review: the MS Nursing and the Ed.D., with Ed.D. being reviewed in November. Preparation for the annual big picture meeting with the IBHE will take place soon, and will include a financial deep dive exercise. The Faculty Senate has invited the President to present a State of the University address on October 29 which will include a call to action for the University's strategic plan. The last strategic plan was completed in 2008 and refreshed in 2014.

ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Academic Affairs

Academic Affairs Updates

Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Shayne Cofer, reported that the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) will be conducting a site visit October 20 – 22. ABET accreditation assures that a collegiate program has met standards essential to prepare graduates to enter critical STEM fields in the global workforce. The following program is being reviewed: Computer Science degree (general track). Future programs to be reviewed are Cybersecurity and Information Technology degree programs. The University will hear its result in July 2025.

Acting Associate Provost, Sudha Srinivas, reported on the mandatory IBHE program review process which consists of disciplinary-level accreditation, college-level accreditation, and self-study by program. 15 academic programs were in the 2023-24 review cycle which covered both undergraduate and graduate programs. IBHE reviewed 14 academic programs and 1 program was reviewed by its accrediting body. All programs were deemed to be in good standing. 12 academic programs, 11 under IBHE review and 1 accrediting body review are in the 2024-25 cycle, along with 5 academic programs under accreditation review by 2 accrediting bodies. 4 academic program and accreditation reviews are slated for 2025-26.

Robin Harris, Information Services Librarian, and Liz Rodriguez, Coordinator of Learning Innovations, reported on the expanding use of affordable course materials at NEIU. Since 1977, the cost of college text books has increased 1,041%. More than 60% of NEIU students have reported that they do not buy the required texts for their courses based on cost, which goes on to have the collateral effects of students taking fewer courses, avoiding certain courses, earning lower grades, dropping courses, failing outright, and withdrawing from the university. The Affordable Course Materials Committee was formed in 2021 to address and promote free and low-cost learning, teaching and research materials to NEIU students. Certain courses at the University are being identified as affordable utilizing low or no-cost materials. The University continues to develop these types of resources for its students and expects to expand their use in more academic course offerings going forward.

Dean of the College of Business and Technology (CBT), Mike Bedell, reported the University is continuing its pilot certification project for CBT students through Coursera. The three-year (2023-26) pilot program provides CBT students the opportunity to earn industry-rated certifications while they attend NEIU thereby helping them with employment prospects following graduation. The College is paying for the licenses via the tuition differential and plans to add Coursera AI Academy.

Student Success and Retention Updates

Interim Associate Vice President for Student Success and Retention, Irma Ortiz, reported that the Fall 2025 retention goal for Fall 2024 first-time full-time students is 64% (342 students). Faculty use of progress survey 1 within NEIUSar during weeks 4-5 is 65%. Survey 2 will take place weeks 8-9. Progress surveys prompt faculty to raise flags so advisors can intervene with students accordingly. A NEIUSar campaign to raise attendance awareness by Week 2 will be implemented in the Fall 2025 term. A collaborative tracking program has been developed which includes all current first year students. First year advisors are inputting qualitative and quantitative information to identify and prioritize students most at risk of not being retained for financial and/or academic reasons for immediate intervention. First Year Experience improvements include development of a standardized course syllabus that aligns with other success program course syllabi. Peer mentors are providing more direct outreach support to new students to guide them to the resources they need. FYE and Success Programs are offering daily study sessions to reinforce academic resources available to students.

Enrollment Management

Enrollment Management Updates

Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, Claudia Mercado, reported on the progress toward the new One Stop Center. The University Planning and Budget Council made a recommendation in Spring 2024, based on prior climate surveys and research that began in 2018, that the One Stop Center would serve the students at NEIU by streamlining access to consolidated services, and housing these service areas in the same location and by remote access. The One Stop Center's physical location would be in the former bookstore location, which is currently empty. Next steps are to create the implementation team, hire a center director, build out the physical space, and create the virtual platforms. One Stop Center operations would be accessible to students at both the Carruthers Center and the El Centro location.

Student Affairs

Student Health and Wellness Initiatives

Interim Director of Student Health Services, Jennie Lasko, reported on FY24 medical encounters. The 1,200 encounters included 40% for immunizations/vaccinations, 10% for neurological/mental health reasons, 20% for ortho/skin/ENT reasons, 20% for sexual health reasons, and 10% for other reasons. Student favorite programs include doggy therapy, Narcan/alcohol awareness, STI testing, flu vaccination, and women's health. The University is partnering with med+proctor for immunization management and is

offering extended hours for students. Student Health Services is beginning a collaboration with the Friendship Center Food Bank as an additional resource for students.

Afghan Refugee Transition Program (ARTP)

Interim Associate Dean of Students, Paola Vargas, reported on the status of the program. There are currently 6 students from Cohort 1 enrolled in courses (3 undergraduate and 3 graduate). The average number of credit hours for these students is 12-14 c.h. and the average g.p.a. is 3.26. Seven program participants from Cohort 1 have already graduated. There are currently 11 students from Cohort 2 enrolled in courses (8 undergraduate, 1 graduate, and 2 SAELL). The average number of credit hours for these students is 12-14 c.h. and the average g.p.a. is 3.59. ARTP students receive support and services with case management, program planning, academic planning/advising, and mentoring. In FY24, the University received a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services of \$1.25 million to provide support for these student cohorts. In FY25, the University received approval to expend the remaining FY24 funds up to \$700,000 and was awarded a special appropriation of \$500,000 toward costs for this program.

Technology

Technology Updates

Chief Information Officer, Eliot Rodriguez, reported on the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) review. Since January 2024, the University has been engaged in a stakeholder-centric review and evaluation of 2 financial ERP systems; Elucian Banner Finance and Workday Finance. NEIU stakeholders reviewed and analyzed peer institutions across Illinois, engaged in comparative analysis exercises, a proposed implementation schedule and the financial overview of each platform for return on investment. This extensive system analysis and review resulted in the University's selection of Workday Finance with the implementation phases beginning in 2025. The University will continue to use Banner for students.

Old / New Business

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

Motion to Adjourn

At 4:06 p.m. Trustee Morales, seconded by Trustee Linares, moved to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Kalayil, Chair of the Committee
Karl Voigt, Assistant Secretary to the Board
Approved November 21, 2024