

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS**

January 19, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened on January 19, 2024 at 11:10 a.m. in the MLK Jr. University Union, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois. Mr. Chris Hicks, Vice Chair presided.

Roll Call

Roll was called:

Ms. Baurer	Present
Mr. Biernbaum	Present
Ms. Edwards	Present
Ms. Everett	Absent
Mr. Hicks	Present
Ms. Madigan	Absent
Mr. Timi Ngoboh	Present
Dr. Ranchoero	Present

Also present were the following:

Dr. Jay Gatrell, President
Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Matt Bierman, Vice President for Business Affairs
Mr. Mike Hutchinson, Director of Business Services/Treasurer
Dr. Anne Flaherty, Vice President for Student Affairs
Ms. Amber May, Acting Administrator of Vice President for University Advancement
Mr. Austin Hill, General Counsel
Ms. Cindy Hutchison, Assistant Secretary, Board of Trustees

Executive Session

Mr. Biernbaum moved that the Board of Trustees convene in Executive Session to consider employment of employees, collective negotiating matters and executive session minutes as permitted by Section 2.C.1, 2 and 21 of the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

Mr. Biernbaum moved to return to Open Session. Ms. Baurer seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

The Board of Trustees reconvened after lunch in the MLK Jr. University Union for the remainder of the Board of Trustees meeting.

Report from Board Chair

Vice Chair Hicks welcomed the Trustees and all others to the Board meeting introducing newly appointed trustee, Mr. Timi Ngoboh. All vacancies on the Board are now filled.

Committee Reports

Executive/Planning Committee

Mr. Hicks shared an update on Springfield. IBHE will propose a 5% increase to Education. FASFA challenges are expected to delay the decision date for students. He shared President Gatrell's recommendations for the honorary degrees and introduced Mr. John Blue, SDIO & Executive Director to the Board.

Finance/Audit Committee

Ms. Baurer reported on the line-item status report and introduced Internal Auditor, Natalie Black to the Board. She gave an update on campus projects sharing that the railings at the stadium have been completed and other projects are moving forward.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Ms. Edwards reported on new B.A.A.S. academic programs and the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) Student Survey. There was a 30% response rate and of that, 70% are satisfied. Edwards shared VPSA Flaherty's update on the Greek Life Taskforce. The taskforce has been charged to provide four to five concrete recommendations to revitalize Greek-letter organizations; increase percentage of students who are members of Green Organizations; increase awareness and visibility of Greek values at EIU and recommend the number of chapters for EIU. Ms. Edwards also shared the Dean of Students hire is expected to be completed by summer.

University Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee

Mr. Hicks gave a report on fundraising, the Alumni Association and EIU Foundation. The number of donors has gone up but the dollars have decreased. Alumni events are being planned for the Springfield, Chicago, Scottsdale, Tampa, Naples, Dallas and Houston areas. Alumni Association is currently accepting applications for board members and seeking nominations for Alumni Awards. The Foundation Annual Report 2023 has been sent out by email and can be viewed online at eiu.edu/found/. The next Foundation Board meeting is February 23, 2024. The consulting firm is

currently reviewing the Case Statement and will begin scheduling interviews in February. A final report will be shared in June.

Action Items

- A. Ms. Baurer moved to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2023 meeting. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- B. Ms. Baurer moved to accept the advice of Board Counsel and maintain the confidentiality of Executive Session minutes for November 17, 2023. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- C. Ms. Baurer moved to approve the executive session minutes of the November 17, 2023 meeting and for them to remain confidential. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- D. Ms. Edwards moved to approve the personnel contracts of Sara Thomas (revised) and Chris Wilkerson (extension). Dr. Ranchoero seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- E. Dr. Ranchoero moved to approve the honorary degrees of Kimberly Cheatle (Public Service), Adrienne Coleman (Humane Letters), and Joseph Dively (Public Service). Mr. Biernbaum seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- F. Ms. Edwards moved to approve the new academic programs Special Education, M.A.T.; Applied Engineering, B.A.A.S.; Emergency Management, B.A.A.S. Ms. Baurer seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

Information Items

President's Report

President Gatrell thanked Amber May for serving as Interim VP for University Advancement while a search was conducted. He went on to say Ms. Mindy Spencer will begin in that role on February 5, 2024. President Gatrell introduced Mr. Tom Michael to provide an overview of Panther Athletics.

Tom Michael shared a PowerPoint titled "Winning the Moment" a theme embraced in the last few years. Winning Seasons: softball, baseball, men's and women's cross country and volleyball were all OVC champions in 2023. Football season record was 8-3 with the most wins since 2013. Winning Academics: as of Fall 2023 69% of student athletes have a 3.0 or above; 19% carry a 4.0. Winning Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: many games and events are hosted for example, Pride Night, International Student & Scholars Night, Welcome BBQ, Mental Health Awareness. Winning Relationships: Groniger Arena at the Charles P. Lantz Complex was named. Jerry Groniger is a long-

time supporter of Eastern Illinois University. Winning Facilities: updates are being done to some of the athletic facilities.

Reports from Constituencies

Faculty Senate – Todd Bruns shared that Faculty Senate have met once this semester. Distinguished Faculty Award email call has gone out. Faculty forum happens each semester and this one will be about pass/fail.

Student Senate – August Biernbaum shared there are currently 13 senators but they expect to have 18 after the next week’s meeting. Speaker of the Senate is Madison Veach and Student Body President is Nidhi Patel. Biernbaum gave an update on events that are planned

Staff Senate – No report

Deposit and Investment Report for the Quarter ended 12-31-2023

For the quarter ending December 31, 2023, the University had an average daily invested cash balance of \$102,973,682.63 and a net average daily balance of \$102,127,156.05. The annualized average yield was 5.53%. The market value of the university’s endowment portfolio as of December 31, 2023 was \$9,020,627.15. Included in that, the university’s Buckler Farm had a total market value of \$4,248,742.03 as of December 31, 2023.

Financial Aid Summary, FY23

More than 50% of EIU’s student body received some type of financial assistance in FY 2023 in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, tuition waivers and/or employment, from various federal, state, university, and other programs. Financial aid in FY 2023 totaled \$87,824,085 at Eastern, a decrease of \$1,699,509 or 1.90% over FY 2022.

University Highlights

President Gatrell provided a summary of University Highlights. He also shared that Suzie Park and Crystal Brown worked collaboratively to secure a grant that will provide emergency loans to students in need for things like gas, rent, etc. as well as supplies for the EIU Food Pantry. Mindy Spencer, VPUA will begin on February 5, 2024.

Other Matters – None

Public Comment – None

Adjournment – Ms. Edwards moved, and Mr. Biernbaum seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:53 p.m.