

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

September 5, 2024

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened on September 5, 2024 at 11:10 am in the Grand Ballroom of MLK Jr. University Union, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois. Mr. Chris Hicks, Chair presided.

Roll Call

Roll was called:

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

Also present were the following:

Dr. Jay Gatrell, President
Dr. Ryan Hendrickson, 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. Mindy Spencer, Vice President for University Advancement
Mr. Josh Norman, Vice President for Enrollment Management
Mr. Austin Hill, General Counsel
Ms. Cindy Hutchison, Assistant Secretary, Board of Trustees

Executive Session

Ms. Madigan 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. Dr. Ranchoero seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

Ms. Madigan moved to return to Open Session. Dr. Ranchero seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

The Board of Trustees reconvened after lunch at 1:00 pm in the MLK Jr. University Union for the remainder of the Board of Trustees meeting.

Report from Board Chair

Chair Hicks welcomed everyone to the Board meeting. He complimented the facilities and grounds team for the campus improvements saying it has added an extra vibrancy to campus.

Committee Reports

Executive/Planning Committee

Mr. Hicks shared President Gatrell's Springfield update stating the formula funding bill is forthcoming. Panther Palooza was moved inside this year to due to extreme heat but was well attended. Initial indicators for Greek Life recruitments are positive. Fall Update takes place on September 25, 2024 in Dvorak and the Presidential Service Awards will be given out at this time. President Gatrell asked to begin a dialogue to potentially reframe the mission and structure of the Council on University Planning & Budget (CUPB).

VP Norman updated the Board on FASFA's impact on students and Pell eligibility, the suspension of MAP implications as well as F-1 Visa denials. An agreement with the Greater St. Louis Council for Scouting is in the near-final stages. This partnership will benefit Scouts, Volunteers, and Employees of the organization. There are currently over 25,000 scouts in membership.

Finance/Audit Committee

Dr. Ranchero shared VP Bierman's report which included the FY24 appropriated/income fund results; the FY25 budget; and the FY26 IBHE Operating and Capital Request. VP Bierman was pleased to share that EIU received a one tier rating upgrade from Moody's in August.

Roof replacements at Lantz, Greek Court, and East Hall have begun. The video and scoreboard have been replaced in O'Brien Stadium. ADA work near MLK Jr. University Union and Buzzard is complete. Exterior work at the Student Recreation Center is complete. The Field House and FPM south roof will be replaced this fall.

Ronnie Spurgeon was hired as the Environmental Health & Safety Director and Eric Wahls has been named Interim Director of Facilities, Planning, and Management.

University Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee

Mr. Hicks shared VP Spencer's report. A First-Generation Scholarship initiative is underway as donor support is changing and the support for first generation students is on the rise. Final FY24 gifts totaled \$6,648,872 and unique donors totaled 3,894.

EIU – UIUC Tailgate was well attended with over 200 attendees. An ISU pre-game event is being planned. Homecoming is the week of September 30 – October 5 with many events taking place throughout the week.

In preparation for the campaign two Development Directors and a Director of Advancement will be hired. VP Spencer is working on implementing Blackbaud Raisers Edge and hopes to launch it by the Day of Giving in March. Arrangements are being made for professional development relating to the campaign and will be offered to three main groups; board members, administration, and staff.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Mr. Hicks shared VP Hendrickson's report. In AY2023-2024, 57 students participated in Study Abroad. Under Strategic Plan 2028, VP Hendrickson hopes to increase study abroad participation by 50 percent.

The Illinois Cooperative Work Study Grant awarded \$44,500 for work study eligible students engaged in rural health internships. Regional partners include Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital, Charleston Parks and Recreation Department, Edgar County Health Department, Douglas County Health Department, Prevail IL (SACIS). EIU received 10 awards to pay interns \$15.80 per hour for 240-320 hours.

VP Flaherty reported EIU held the inaugural Block Party on the Charleston Square, a joint venture with Charleston CAN and New Student & Family Programs, open to both EIU students and Charleston community members. President Gatrell shared that VP Flaherty has been selected to participate in the Academic Engagement Network, Seminar Signature Series. This program is a cohort of higher education administrators that meets virtually monthly to develop ways to support an inclusive community for Jewish students.

Ms. Bobbie Kingery gave a PowerPoint presentation during the morning committee meeting on the Community Partner Internship Program through State of Illinois Central Management Services. This is an equity-based, paid summer cohort for undergraduate students. EIU provided 7 students for the 22 internships available in both Springfield, Chicago, and remote.

Action Items

- A. Ms. Edwards moved to approve the minutes of the June 19, 2024 Board meeting and the June 21, 2024 Board retreat. Dr. Rancho seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

- B. Dr. Ranchoero moved to approve the Statement on Board Responsibilities for Intercollegiate Athletics for Academic Year 2024-2025. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- C. Ms. Baurer moved to approve the FPM South and Fieldhouse Roof Replacement. This purchase is for replacing the FPB south roof and the Fieldhouse roof, not to exceed \$3,500,000. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- D. Ms. Edwards moved to approve the following multi-year Personnel Contracts – Intercollegiate Athletics:
- Kristi Paulson, Head Women’s Softball Coach; Offering initial term of three years, effective starting date of July 11, 2024, with starting annual salary of \$85,000.00, and usual terms offered to EIU coaches.
 - Craig Toler, Head Men’s and Women’s Golf Coach; Offering initial term of three years, effective starting date of August 5, 2024, with starting annual salary of \$50,000.00, and usual terms offered to EIU’s coaches.
 - Scott Teeters, Head Men’s and Women’s Swim Coach. Offering initial term of three years, effective starting date of September 5, 2024, with starting annual salary of \$45,000.00, and usual terms offered to EIU coaches.

Ms. Madigan seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

- E. Ms. Madigan moved to approve the FY25 Budget- Final and FY26 Projected. Ms. Baurer seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- F. Ms. Edwards moved to approve the Sale of Real Estate, former East Hall. It is requested that the Board of Trustees designate 2103 12th Street, Charleston, Illinois, as “surplus property,” and approve the above real estate conveyance of 2103 12th Street to Eta Mu House Corporation of Sigma Chi Fraternity. It is requested that Vice President of Business Affairs Matthew Bierman be authorized to sign the deed of conveyance on behalf of the university. Ms. Madigan seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

Information Items

A. President’s Report

President Gatrell introduced Mr. Kevin Perry and Ms. Ameenah Morris to give updates on their CMS Springfield Internship Experience. Mr. Perry shared a PowerPoint presentation outlining his experience working as a CMS Diversity & Inclusion intern with the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. Ms. Morris shared her experience working in the Human Resources area of the Department of Agriculture. Both reported their experiences were positive.

B. Reports from Constituencies

Faculty Senate, Todd Bruns: Mr. Bruns shared he will do a listening tour with each department and compile a report he will later share with VP Hendrickson and President Gatrell. Faculty Senate is working with FDIC on templates faculty can insert into their syllabus.

Student Government, Ameerah Morris: Ms. Morris shared Student Government has filled 14 senators’ seats and reached quorum. The Student Action Team is collaborating with the Office of Leadership and Engagement for Voter Registration Day and Early Voting Day. The Vice President of Student Affairs that was elected last semester has stepped down. They are working to fill the position by the end of the semester.

C. Summary of Purchases \$100,000 - \$249,000 and Exempt Purchases

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Type of Purchase</u>	<u>Bids</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Alliant	Property & Other Insurance	(A)	\$902,565.00
CORE Construction	Baseball Stadium Repairs	(B)	\$690,000.25
Ohio Valley Conference	Arbiter Fees FY25	(C)	\$300,950.00
Trane U.S. Inc.	HVAC product, installation	(D)	\$257,798.00
CORE Construction	O’Brien Stadium Repairs	(E)	\$234,800.00
Dell Marketing	Campus Computer Purchases	(F)	\$200,000.00
Kone	Elevator & Chair Lift Maintenance	(G)	\$187,481.76

- (A) IPHEC Contract #IPHEC2101; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (B) IPHEC Contract #IPHEC1708; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (C) Exempt per Procurement Code
- (D) IPHEC Contract #2404GAL; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (E) IPHEC Contract #IPHEC1708; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (F) IPHEC Contract #IPHEC2207; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations
- (G) IPHEC Contract #2306GAL; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

D. FY 2024 Deposit & Investment Reports

For the year ending June 30, 2024, the University had an average daily invested cash balance of \$105,336,336.16 and a net average daily balance of \$103,778,273.04. The annualized average yield was 5.45%. The market value of the university’s endowment portfolio as of June 30, 2024 was \$4,224,000.00, which was the Buckler Farm land.

University Highlights

University Highlights were provided as well as spotlight events around campus. President Gatrell shared that IT is implementing a 5-year rotation plan for replacement computers and the University

received a one tier rating upgrade from Moody. He was happy to share that EIU student retention has increased.

Other Matters – None

Public Comment – Jason Farias – majoring in History Education addressed the Board. Full statement inserted below.

Jason Stone Farias Board of Trustees Public Comment 9.5.24

Good afternoon Trustees, my name is Jason and I am an undergraduate History major here at Eastern. I would like to thank the Board for accepting my public comment in consideration of the extended Labor Day weekend.

The EIU Business Office Audit Report from 2023 indicates that Eastern holds investments with the companies Mercer, Goldman Sachs, and BlackRock totaling roughly \$7.5 million dollars. BlackRock in particular represents Eastern's 2nd largest holding with a single private equity firm. These 3 companies have a history of maintaining financial ties to weapons manufacturers and fossil fuel industries that are contributing to the accelerating climate catastrophe and global destruction of people and the planet.

The most devastating example is seen in Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza. This genocide on the Palestinian people constitutes the greatest human catastrophe of the 21st century as we awake nearly everyday to the news of dozens of civilians killed in Israel's bombardment of Palestinian homes, hospitals, schools, universities, refugee camps, churches, mosques, public infrastructure, journalists, and children in playgrounds. The world's leading medical journal, Lancet, estimates that over 186,000 Palestinians have been killed by the state of Israel in Gaza in the past 10 months.

Maintaining financial ties to companies funding this genocide is clearly a violation of whatever the University's guidelines must be on ethical investments. You all possess a moral obligation to cut ties and divest from these companies and you all occupy a unique position to be able to do so. We cannot simply look away from Gaza. It was Arundhati Roy who said, *"The trouble is that once you see it, you can't unsee it. And once you've seen it, keeping quiet, saying nothing, becomes as political an act as speaking out. There's no innocence. Either way, you are accountable."*

Students of good conscience, who constitute a core stakeholder at Eastern, cannot continue to morally or ethically support our tuition dollars being invested into companies such as BlackRock, Mercer, and Goldman Sachs. It is my understanding that the Board has no little to no power in determining where or into what companies investments are made, however, the Board does have the power to determine where and how that money is allocated. The Board had the power to unanimously approve a 2.5% increase in our tuition back in April. And as far as we are concerned, the university is dealing in blood money and we cannot accept an increasing amount of our tuition going towards companies complicit in Genocide, especially as Eastern's student body continues to

struggle year after year to afford housing, education, and even food. Final point: **In addition to implementing a more comprehensive investment ethics policy, I call on the Board to immediately investigate their financial holdings, disclose any additional discoveries, and divest from all companies complicit in Israel's Genocide in Gaza.**

For future correspondence, you can contact me at my school email, jfarias@eiu.edu. Thank you for your time, and Free Palestine.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 p.m.