

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

**January 23, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened on January 23, 2025 at 11:37 am in the Tarble Arts Center, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois. Mr. Chris Hicks, Chair presided.

**Roll Call**

Roll was called:

Ms. Baurer	Present
Ms. Edwards	Present
Ms. Everett	Present
Ms. Madigan	Present
Ms. Morris	Present
Mr. Timi Ngoboh	Present
Dr. Ranchero	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. Baurer 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. Ms. Baurer seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

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

The Board of Trustees reconvened after lunch at 1:00 pm in the Tarble Arts Center for the remainder of the Board of Trustees meeting.

### **Report from Board Chair**

Chair Hicks welcomed everyone to the first Board of Trustees meeting of 2025.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Executive/Planning Committee**

Mr. Hicks shared President Gatrell's Springfield update on Formula Funding and invited everyone to attend the Community Town Hall Monday afternoon in the Doudna Fine Arts Center - Lecture Hall, to learn more. He also shared that EIU's accreditation has been renewed through 2034.

Mr. Hicks gave an enrollment update from VP Norman. Due to the difficulty in obtaining visas, international student enrollment is down across most regional campuses, not just EIU. Financial Aid should be packaged before the first on-campus admitted student day on February 17. Four new financial aid programs will be launching this year; AIM HIGH Panther Family Scholarship, International Scholar Awards, Access to Education Auto-Leveraging Award, and the Panther First Generation Scholarship.

#### **Finance/Audit Committee**

Dr. Ranchero shared the Line Item Status Report provided by Mike Hutchinson and gave a brief overview of the Cordogan Clark presentation on Facilities Assessment & Space Utilization. The top two building types not meeting expectations are residence halls and academic buildings. Classrooms are occupied up to approximately 37.4% with the target occupancy rate being 60%. VP Bierman stated that Student fees have been consolidated and simplified. They will be billed by credit hour and the new billing model will roll out in August 2025. The Financial Audit for 2024 has been released.

#### **Academic and Student Affairs Committee**

Mr. Ngoboh shared VP Hendrickson and Michael Gillespie's report on the D.W.F Initiative. Six of eight courses reduced their DWF percentage and three of six did so by greater than 7.5%. Of the total number of sections, 60% reduced their DWF percentage.

Mr. Ngoboh also shared VP Flaherty's update on the Fraternity & Sorority Life Taskforce giving a brief overview of their seven recommendations. 1. Evaluate the structure and staffing of Fraternity & Sorority Life. 2. Market the value and importance of Fraternity & Sorority Life. 3. Re-imagine the

mission, values, purpose, and brand of Fraternity & Sorority Life. 4. Utilize assessment strategies to guide decision-making and marketing. 5. Partner with the EIU Foundation and Alumni Services to Fundraise and Friend-Raise support for programs and initiatives. 6. Enhance recruitment efforts, simplify the process, and clearly communicate the recruitment plan to all stakeholders. 7. Maintain the current moratorium on adding any new IFC/PHC chapters at EIU while expanding NPHC & MGC.

### **University Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee**

Ms. Everett shared VP Spencer's campaign update emphasizing we are currently in the planning phase which is the busiest and most critical part of a campaign. Lauren Bennett has been hired as the Director of Advancement Operations. Brenda Brown has been hired as a Development Officer and Haley Brickey will move from College of Education to full time in Advancement. 5 additional positions are yet to be filled.

FY25 gifts as of January 20, 2025 total \$4,646,084 up from this same time in FY24. EIU Giving Day will be April 22, 2025 with pre-mailers going out in March. The next EIU Foundation meeting will be February 20, 2025 and will welcome new board members Joe Dively, Patricia Poulter, and Mitch Gurick.

### **Action Items**

- A. Ms. Madigan moved to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2024 Board meeting. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- B. Ms. Baurer moved to approve the naming of The Gardella Family Court at McAfee Gym. Ms. Edwards seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- C. Ms. Everett moved to approve the reaffirmation of the University Mission & Vision Statements. Ms. Madigan seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- D. Ms. Baurer moved to approve the multi-year personnel contract for President Gatrell beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2029. The annual salary remains unchanged. Ms. Everett seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- E. President Gatrell requested the board members review the first reading of Regulation Revision, Article II.E.2 and vote on it at the next meeting. The revision is a nomenclature revision that has resulted from revised by-laws of the now former Council on University Planning and Budget. The committee will be known as the "Leadership Council on Mission, Planning, and Budget". No substantive changes in the Board Regulations are requested.

### **Information Items**

#### **President's Report**

President Gatrell introduced EIU Director of Athletics, Mr. Tom Michael to give a report on Intercollegiate Sports. EIU won the OVC Commissioners Cup along with the OVC Sportsmanship

Award last year. Two of six student athletes recognized by the OVC as Student Athletes of the Year were selected from EIU: Mackenzie Alridge (women's cross country) and Chad Smith (men's soccer). Macy McGlone (women's basketball) set a school record for double-doubles, meaning she achieved a record of double digits in points and rebounds in a game.

Fundraising projects that have been completed include replacing the seating in the lower level at Groniger Arena and the videoboard at O'Brien Field which includes a new sound system and static scoreboard on the south end of O'Brien. With the approval of the naming of Gardella Family Court in McAfee, the volleyball program will have a stand-alone facility for practice and competition.

Student athletes are now allowed to transfer to different universities as often as they like making recruiting more challenging and creating fan fatigue as rosters change year after year. Student-Athlete, Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) is often more about pay-for-play than it is about Name, Image, and Likeness. Student athletes look more at the transactional benefit and less at the relational. Mr. Michael has been selected to be one of five D1 Athletic Directors across the country to sit on the NCAA D1 Decision Making Working Group that will be working on the next iterations of governance structure for the NCAA moving forward.

### **Reports from Constituencies**

Faculty Senate: Mr. Todd Bruns reported their first meeting of the Spring semester was on January 14, 2025. Guest speakers attending that meeting were EIU-UIP President Kai Hung, who presented on the proposed Funding Formula. Also in attendance was ITS Director Ryan Gibson, who gave an annual technology update. Faculty Senate will be requesting nominations for this year's Distinguished Faculty Award in the coming weeks as well as a call for a replacement for Michael Gillespie on the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council and a replacement for Michael Dobbs who is stepping down from the EIU Think Tank after serving for 5 years.

Staff Senate: Mr. Jon McKenzie gave a brief overview of what Staff Senate is and who they represent. He noted the Shout Outs page that can be found on the EIU website at [www.eiu.edu/shouts](http://www.eiu.edu/shouts). This page was established by the Staff Senate in memory of UPD Officer Harold Harris and serves as a place to recognize a colleague of the campus community for their hard work and dedication to EIU. Staff Senate has also partnered with Civil Service Counsel to raise awareness and funds to create the Larry Shobe Memorial Garden in memory of Larry Shobe, former grounds keeper at EIU. Master Gardeners have played a key role in designing the garden for beauty and easy maintenance. Special thanks were given to Arlene Brown, Ke'an Armstrong, Tony Craven, and Michelle Morgan for their support of this project.

Student Government: Ms. Taylor Cloud updated the Board on the Executive Board Members of Student Government: President, Taylor Cloud; Executive VP Ameenah Morris; VPAA, Ty Rea; VPSA, Mason Tegeler; Speaker of the Senate, Madison Veatch. She also shared the Student Government Events that will take place during the Spring semester.

**Summary of Purchases \$100,000 - \$249,999**

<b><u>Vendor</u></b>	<b><u>Type of Purchase</u></b>	<b><u>Bids</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Kone, Inc.	Old Main Elevator Modernization	(A)	\$374,228.00
Missouri Floor Company, Inc.	Flooring Installation	(B)	\$978,100.00
Aztec Flooring	McAfee Gym Flooring Install	(C)	\$191,803.85
Commercial Electric	Human Services Generator replacement	(D)	\$111,047.00
C.M. Buck Associates, Inc.	Doudna Lighting Upgrade	(E)	\$224,463.00

(B) IPHEC Contract #2306GAL; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations.

(C) IPHEC Contract #2307GAL; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations.

(D) Exempt per Procurement Code.

(E) Emergency Purchase EIUMRW2502.

(E) Exempt per Procurement Code.

**FY 2024 Deposit & Investment Report for the Quarter ended 12-31-2024**

For the quarter ending December 31, 2024, the University had an average daily invested cash balance of \$97,412,648.41 and a net average daily balance of \$95,292,476.62. The annualized average yield was 4.71%.

**Financial Aid Summary, FY24**

More than 50% of Eastern's total student population and more than 78% of the eligible students received some type of financial assistance in FY 2024 in the form of scholarships, grants, loans, tuition waivers and/or employment from various federal, state, university, and other programs. Financial aid in FY 2024 totaled \$89,494,463, an increase of \$1,670,378 or 1.90% over FY 2023. The percentage breakdown of financial aid sources was: 40% federal, 18% state, 32% institutional, and 10% other.

**University Highlights**

University Highlights were provided as well as spotlight events around campus, student/faculty/staff/alumni honors and achievements, athletic events and honors.

**Other Matters** – None

**Public Comment** –None

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.