

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

June 12, 2025

A meeting of the Board of Trustees convened on June 12, 2025 at 11:33 am in the MLK Jr. University Ballroom, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois. Mr. Chris Hicks, Chair, presided.

Roll Call

Roll was called:

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

Also present were the following:

Dr. Jay Gatrell, President
Dr. Holly Farley, Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Mr. Matt Bierman, Vice President for Business Affairs
Mr. Mike Hutchinson, Director of Business Services/Treasurer
Mr. Jody Stone, Dean of Students (representing the Division of 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. Dr. Rancho seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

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

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

Report from Board Chair

Chair Hicks welcomed all to the Board of Trustees meeting and thanked President Gatrell and the Vice President's for their work.

Committee Reports

Executive/Planning Committee

Mr. Hicks shared President Gatrell's Springfield update noting he spent numerous hours in meetings with the Governor's Office in recent weeks. The community college bachelor's degree initiative will not be moving forward. Governor Pritzker's budget proposes a 3% increase that results in a 1% increase with 2% in reserve; it is uncertain if the 2% will be released later. MAP was increased to \$10 mil; Aim High remains stable, and Pell caps did not change in the senate bill, but based on current proposed language, 15 hours is required to be considered a full-time student.

President Gatrell and Keith Morrison with Van Scyoc Associates went to Washington, DC in June and Katie Anselment visited in March to meet with delegates and share the priorities of Eastern Illinois University.

The Search Committee for the Provost hire have drafted an advertisement for the position that will go live in August. The review will begin October 15, 2025, with campus visits in December.

Mr. Hicks gave an enrollment update from VP Norman who shared deposits are up 13% and orientations up 26%. The largest increase in deposits is from the Honors population, up 21% with 60 more deposits from students with a 4.0 GPA than last year.

New transfer admits and orientation reservations are up 3% while domestic graduate admits are down 15% and visa submissions are down 56% for international undergraduates and down 72% for international grads.

Finance/Audit Committee

Ms. Everett shared the Line-Item Status Report provided by Mike Hutchinson and VP Bierman's update on purchase approvals, the FY26 budget, FY25 appropriated projected results and the FY24 audit findings. FY25 is projected to end the year with approximately a \$2M deficit in ledger 1. FY26 is projected to also see a deficit. VP Bierman explained that appropriated funds are those received from the state and tuition; non-appropriated funds include fees, grants, charges, etc. Reserves will

cover the deficit. Personnel expenses, paired with the loss of revenue from international students' tuition, have impacted these deficits.

The FY26-27 Audit Schedule, FY26-27 Resource Schedule, and FY25 Risk Assessment were presented by Natalee Black. Organizational independence of the internal audit function was confirmed to the board during the presentation.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Ms. Everett shared Dr. Farley's update on the Spring 2025 course redesign results. Overall, the DWF (Drop, Withdraw, Fail) percentage across sections has reduced half a percentage point lower than Fall 2024, with Math 1160G showing the most improvement from the initiative. As the initiative continues, Fall 2025 data will be the real interest.

Mr. Jody Stone joined today's meeting as representative for VP Flaherty who could not be here. He gave an update highlighting the Dean of Students office and spoke about his team's focus on student centered retention. 2024-2025 has seen an increase in mental health issues, basic needs, and crisis intervention/crisis response. They saw over 200 more 1st year students last year than the year before. His team works to establish the importance of a sense of belonging, developing a culture of support with peers "Panthers Supporting Panthers" and encouraging student involvement. Their mantra to students and their families is to focus on happy, healthy, safe, and graduating.

University Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee

Dr. Ranchero shared VP Spencer's campaign update stating Raiser's Edge will go live on July 21, 2025, with June 30 as the sunset date for Banner Advancement. Brandon Kurzweg has been hired as the Director of Alumni and Constituent Engagement. Additional hiring continues for two Directors of Advancement and other positions that are still vacant. Campaign training is ongoing. As of June 9, 2025 gifts totaled \$5,922,182 and Day of Giving resulted in over 1080 gifts. EIU's partnership with EAB includes a currently active lead form, being shared on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. The short survey presented will help us gauge interest from our alumni while also gathering updated contact information.

Action Items

- A.** Ms. Madigan moved to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2025, Board meeting. Dr. Ranchero seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- B.** 1. Ms. Baurer moved to approve Fiber Life Safety Loop. This purchase is for running an alternative path for EIU's fiber lines that provide network connections, phone lines, and fire alarm connections. The recommended vendor is Commercial Electric, Inc. with cost not to exceed \$400,000. Ms. Everett seconded the motion.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Ms. Baurer	Yes
Ms. Everett	Yes
Ms. Madigan	Yes
Ms. Morris	Yes
Mr. Ngoboh	Absent
Dr. Ranchero	Yes
Mr. Hicks	Yes

- C. Ms. Madigan moved to approve the FY26 Preliminary Budget. Ms. Baurer seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- D. Dr. Ranchero moved to approve the Non-Indentured Reserves. Ms. Everett seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- E. Ms. Everett moved to approve the 2026 Board Meeting Calendar. Ms. Baurer seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- F. Ms. Madigan moved to approve the Transfer of Faculty Appointment. Ms. Baurer seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- G. Ms. Baurer moved to approve the personnel contract extensions for K Paulson, Softball Head Coach and J. Anderson, Baseball Head Coach. Ms. Everett seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- H. Mr. Austin Hill conducted the election of secretary for the Board of Trustees for the 2025-2026 term by secret ballot. This position was made vacant due to the non-renewal of membership from the governor's office.

Ms. Everett nominated Ms. Madigan for Secretary. Ms. Morris seconded the nomination. Ms. Madigan was elected Secretary by secret ballot.

Information Items

President's Report

President Gatrell thanked student trustee Ms. Ameenah Morris for her service on the Board this past academic year. He then introduced Professor, Chris Kahler who gave a presentation on Student and Faculty Creativity at the Tarble Arts Center. In 1982 the Tarble Arts Center (TAC) hosted the first Department of Art Faculty Exhibition and continued it annually until 1993. It re-appeared every few years from 2009 to 2017, the date of the last Faculty Exhibition. TAC will hold the Department of Art + Design Faculty Exhibition in August 2025 of this year, and an Alumni Exhibition in November 2025 celebrating students over a 25-year period between 2000 – 2025. An

Undergraduate Exhibition will be held in February 2026 and a MA in Studio Art Exhibition in April 2026. TAC is open to the public with free admission, and membership is offered for member-only events.

Reports from Constituencies

None

Summary of Purchases \$100,000 - \$249,999 and Exempt Purchases

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Type of Purchase</u>	<u>Bids</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Core Construction	South Quad Refresh	(A)	\$625,860.00
EBSCO Information Services	Library Subscriptions	(B)	\$470,000.00
City of Charleston	Fire Protection	(C)	\$418,959.58
Pace Systems Inc.	Veeam Data Platform	(D)	\$191,008.00
Kone Inc.	Elevator Maintenance	(E)	\$187,481.76
Air Charter Service	Charter Flights for Football	(F)	\$184,113.60
United States Postal Service	Postage for meter	(G)	\$180,000.00
Commercial Electric	Electrician Services	(H)	\$174,975.00
Dell Marketing LP	Microsoft 365 Renewal	(I)	\$159,877.97
City of Charleston	Beach Volleyball Courts	(J)	\$150,000.00

(B) IPHEC Contract #IPHEC1708; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(C) IPHEC Contract #2400LBM; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(D) Exempt per Procurement Code

(E) IPHEC Contract #RM071017; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

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

(G) Exempt per Procurement Code

(H) Exempt per Procurement Code

(I) Invitation for Bid (IFB) # EIUDLS2502

(J) IPHEC Contract #IPHEC2207; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(J) Exempt per Procurement Code

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 – Chair Hicks thanked Student trustee Ameena Morris for her engagement and overall insight while serving on the Board and wished her well in future endeavors. He introduced Ms. Madison Veatch who will serve as student trustee in 2025-2026.

Public Comment –Mr. Mike Strack addressed the Board with concerns about his denied grade appeal to the Graduate School and submitted documents to Secretary, Joyce Madigan. These documents were shared with the full board.

To learn more about the procedures for public comment, please visit:

<https://www.eiu.edu/trustees/regulation01.php#:~:text=At%20the%20end,to%20the%20Board>

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