

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

**September 11, 2025**

A meeting of the Board of Trustees convened on September 11, 2025, at 11:06 am in the MLK Jr. Grand 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. Veatch	Present
Mr. Timi Ngoboh	Absent
Dr. Ranchero	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  
Ms. Mindy Spencer, Vice President for University Advancement  
Dr. Anne Flaherty, Vice President for Student Affairs  
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. Ranchero 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. Grand Ballroom for the remainder of the Board of Trustees meeting.

### **Report from Board Chair**

Chair Hicks opened the meeting with a welcome to all in attendance. He expressed gratitude to President Gatrell and the administration for their extraordinary dedication and work to support the institution. Chair Hicks welcomed Student Trustee, Madison Veatch, to her first meeting.

### **Committee Reports**

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

Mr. Hicks shared President Gatrell's Springfield and DC update, reporting the TRIO grant will be funded again and consultants in DC are optimistic the funding will continue. WEIU, which is funded entirely with grants that are no longer being offered, and fundraising, is working to find a pathway forward to ensure News Watch and WEIU continue for student learning.

The official 10<sup>th</sup> day count is 8107; a decrease mainly due to reduced international enrollment.

President Gatrell presented the naming recommendations to be brought before the board for vote: Frost Field at Coaches Stadium; Monier Intramural Fields; and The Tarble Museum of Art at Eastern Illinois University.

The university's alcohol policy has been updated to allow sales through Athletics as well as the MLK Jr. University Union.

Tennessee Tech has announced they are leaving the OVC conference effective July 1, 2026.

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

Mr. Hicks reported on VP Bierman's update and Mike Hutchinson's line-item status report. Approval is being requested for a lease with Cisco for IT equipment. FY25 budget ended with a deficit of \$453,000 in Ledger 1. The FY26 budget shows a projected deficit, due in part to the reduction of funds received from the state; 2% was expected but has since been reduced to 1%. The university will continue to closely monitor expenses following 10<sup>th</sup> day numbers and operate conservatively.

Student accounts will no longer be charged a finance charge beyond 12 months. After one year of losing contact with a student, they will be sent to collections. Settlement offers were sent to 4603 former students who have been graduated for over 2 years and have outstanding account balances.

To date, 334 payments amounting to \$468K have been received. The remaining are being sent to a collection agency.

Summer projects that have been completed are the installation of a fiber loop; Gardella Family Court in McAfee; roof work on the Field House; parking lot repairs; lighting replaced in the Booth Library atrium and entrance door repairs; and South Quad Residence Hall improvements. The utility tunnel rehabilitation will go out to bid by the end of September and the new science building project is moving forward with bids expected to be received in late 2025 or early 2026.

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

Ms. Everett shared VP Flaherty's update on the recent ribbon cuttings at the Lantz Complex East pickle ball and basketball courts and the Student Rec Center. Thomas Hall is in the planning stages for a renovation to create pod style bathrooms and update the HVAC and electrical systems. We anticipate bringing this to the board for approval this year with the goal of renovations completed by Fall 2027.

Ms. Everett also shared VP Farley and Dr. Gillespie's report on first-time student enrollment and the retention initiatives EIU currently has in place. One of the newest tools, EdSights (Billy Bot), is live this fall and is an AI generated student chat-bot. 97% of students opted for this tool last school year.

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

Dr. Ranchero shared VP Spencer's update. The campaign is in the planning phase and work is being done to grow annual giving, engagement, storytelling, and build portfolios. Raisers Edge is in the final conversion stage and employee training continues.

A stewardship email will go out in the next week and include a Fall video. JustGive (Crowdfunding/Giving Day) will go live September 29, 2025. The alumni newsletter has gone out and over 121,000 living alumni have been identified.

Final FY25 gifts totaled \$7,754,526.61 and there were 3503 unique donors.

#### **Action Items**

- A.** Ms. Everett moved to approve the minutes of the June 12 & 13, 2025 board meeting and retreat. Ms. Madigan seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- B.** Ms. Madigan moved to approve the Statement on Board Responsibilities for Intercollegiate Athletics for the Academic Year 2025-26. Dr. Ranchero seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- C.** Dr. Ranchero moved to approve the FY26 Budget – Final & Preliminary FY27. Ms. Madigan seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

- D. Ms. Baurer moved to approve the purchase approval – Cisco Network Lease. This is an equipment lease for new network infrastructure. The financing will be provided by Cisco. The purchase will be made to Presidio Networked Solutions Group, LLC. Presidio is an awarded vendor under IPHEC2011. The lease will be paid to Presidio at \$390,523.64 per year for seven years. Ms. Everett seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- E. Ms. Madigan moved to approve the naming request, Frost Field at Coaches Stadium. Ms. Veatch seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- F. Ms. Baurer moved to approve the naming request, Monier Intramural Fields. Mr. Hicks seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.
- G. Ms. Madigan moved to approve the naming request, The Tarble Museum of Art at Eastern Illinois University. Dr. Ranchero seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

### **Information Items**

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

President Gatrell introduced Dr. Shawn Peoples who presented the Annual Title IX Overview to the trustees. Title IX prohibits sex-based discrimination in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance.

#### **Reports from Constituencies**

Faculty Senate – Todd Bruns: Mr. Bruns informed the Board that Faculty Senate had their first meeting on September 9 with the potential department and program mergers being the primary topic of discussion. They hope to revive the EIU Think Tank with new members; with retirements there are currently only 2 remaining members.

Student Senate – Claire Weber: Ms. Weber shared the list of members on the Student Government's Executive Board: Student Body President, Reagan Robson; Executive Vice President, Anna Jones; Student Vice President for Academic Affairs, John Slater; Student Vice President for Student Affairs, Clarie Weber; Speaker of the Student Senate, Megan Fox. At their last meeting the Bylaws were voted on and passed to remove mention of "diversity" throughout the Bylaws.

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

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Type of Purchase</u>	<u>Bids</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Alliant Insurance Services Inc.	Property Insurance	(A)	\$790,929.00
Dell Marketing LP	Campus Computer Purchases	(B)	\$300,000.00
CORE Construction	Thomas Hall Renovation Design	(C)	\$194,085.00
United Rentals North America	80 Foot Articulating Lift	(D)	\$177,134.00
Mythics LLC	Oracle Software Maintenance	(E)	\$170,779.76
Southern Bus and Mobility	Panther Shuttle Buses	(F)	\$168,000.00
EAB Global	Navigate360 Student Retention Platform	(G)	\$168,000.00
HD Supply Facilities Maintenance	Cleaning Products	(H)	\$108,106.00

(A) IPHEC Contract #IPHEC2101; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

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

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

(D) IPHEC Contract # IPHEC1710; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(E) IPHEC Contract #IPHEC1807; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(F) Invitation for Bid (IFB) # EIUMJT2508

(G) IPHEC Contract #IPHEC2222; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(H) IPHEC Contract #188GAL; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

### FY 2025 Deposit & Investment Report

For the year ending June 30, 2025, the University had an average daily invested cash balance of \$105,904,852.47 and a net average daily balance of \$103,692,265.36. The annualized average yield was 4.72%.

### 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

**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 1:55 p.m.

