

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

April 16, 2026

A meeting of the Board of Trustees was convened on April 16, 2026, at 11:15 am on the Dvorak Stage of the Doudna, Eastern Illinois University, Charleston, Illinois. Mr. Chris Hicks, Chair, presided.

Roll Call

Roll was called:

| | |
|-------------|---------|
| Ms. Baurer | Present |
| Ms. Everett | Present |
| Ms. Madigan | Present |
| Mr. Ngoboh | Present |
| Dr. Rancho | Present |
| Ms. Veatch | Present |
| Mr. Hicks | Present |

Also present were the following:

Dr. Jay Gatrell, President
Dr. Holly Farley, Acting Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Dr. Anne Flaherty, Vice President for Student Affairs/Interim Vice President of Advancement
Mr. Matt Bierman, Vice President for Business Affairs
Mr. Mike Hutchinson, Director of Business Services/Treasurer & Interim FEO
Mr. Josh Norman, Vice President for Enrollment Management
Ms. Laura McLaughlin, General Counsel
Ms. Cindy Hutchison, Assistant Secretary, Board of Trustees

Executive Session

Ms. Veatch moved that the Board of Trustees convene in Executive Session to consider employment of employees, collective negotiating matters, security procedures, student disciplinary cases, and litigation as permitted by Sections 2.C.1.2.8.9.11 of the Open Meetings Act. Ms. Madigan seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

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

The Board of Trustees reconvened after lunch at 1:00 pm on the Dvorak stage in Doudna for the remainder of the Board of Trustees meeting.

Report from Board Chair

Chair Hicks called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and encouraged Trustees to attend Commencement on May 9, 2026.

Committee Reports

Executive/Planning Committee

Mr. Hicks reported on the Executive/Planning Committee. President Gatrell provided a Springfield update, noting the Adequate Funding Bill passed out of House committee by voice vote. Student Government representatives were commended for their part in advocating for EIU. A 10% funding increase was requested; the Governor has proposed a 1% increase in addition to prior allocations, which included a 2% holdback. President Gatrell met with legislators to discuss continued advocacy efforts.

Updates were provided on campus projects, including the tunnel project (in progress) and the science building project (temporarily paused due to design issues). WEIU TV will transition to a digital platform on May 15, 2026.

President Gatrell announced the June Board Retreat will be held in the CENCERE facility, with discussions focused on Ledger 2 spending and budgets.

Acknowledgement was given to staff assuming additional responsibilities, including VPSA Anne Flaherty (Interim VPUA) and others supporting operational needs.

Finance/Audit Committee

Mr. Ngoboh reported on the Finance/Audit Committee. Updates were provided on the line-item status report and purchase approvals.

Tuition increase of 2.5% per credit hour for undergraduate students and 2.90% increase for graduate students was proposed for FY2027. No fee increases are proposed for both on and off campus programs. Room and Board increases at 5% were recommended.

Representatives from Chapman and Culter LLP and Blue Rose Capital Advisors participated via Zoom regarding bond resolution agenda items. Bids were received from five banks; JP Morgan Chase Bank was recommended for financing.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Ms. Everett reported on the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Updates were provided by VP Farley on the restructuring of Academic Affairs, including departmental realignments and the formation of the College of Education, Health & Human Services, effective July 1, 2026.

Recommendations for tenure and promotion were presented.

Updates were provided by VP Flaherty on Thomas Hall renovations and the proposed bookstore management agreement. Representatives from Follett Higher Education gave a presentation on the EIU Spirit Shop.

University Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee

Dr. Rancho reported on the University Advancement and Alumni Relations Committee. Updates were provided by VP Flaherty on year-to-date fundraising totals and upcoming events, including Giving Day and Homecoming. The Alumni Association Board meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2026.

Enrollment Management Update

Mr. Hicks reported on strategic Enrollment Planning efforts. Updates were provided by VP Norman on the progress of action plans, with several completed and ongoing initiatives.

Fall enrollment projections indicate a decline in late indicators for most populations, while honors program deposits have increased. New scholarship initiatives and potential corporate partnerships were discussed.

Additional initiatives include the #EIUGoTime campaign, promotional efforts, and marketing opportunities including a proposed digital billboard and external engagement activities.

Action Items

- A.** Ms. Everett moved to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2026, Board meeting. Ms. Baurer seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

- B.** Ms. Madigan moved to approve the purchase approval of the Amended and Restated AFS Bond Resolution. Ms. Everett seconded the motion.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

| | |
|-------------|-----|
| Ms. Baurer | Yes |
| Ms. Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Madigan | Yes |
| Ms. Veatch | Yes |
| Mr. Ngoboh | Yes |

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Dr. Ranchoero | Yes |
| Mr. Hicks | Yes |

The motion carried.

- C. Dr. Ranchoero moved to approve the First Supplemental AFS Bond Resolution. Ms. Madigan seconded the motion.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Ms. Baurer | Yes |
| Ms. Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Madigan | Yes |
| Ms. Veatch | Yes |
| Mr. Ngoboh | Yes |
| Dr. Ranchoero | Yes |
| Mr. Hicks | Yes |

The motion carried.

- D. 1. Ms. Everett moved to approve the 2026 Parking Lot Bids. This purchase is for parking lot and drive maintenance at up to six campus locations. Invitation for Bid EIUMJT2601 was conducted in accordance with 30 ILCS 500. Ne-Co Asphalt Co., Inc. is the recommended vendor at a bid price of \$398,314.50 with a 10% contingency. Ms. Baurer seconded the motion.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Ms. Baurer | Yes |
| Ms. Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Madigan | Yes |
| Ms. Veatch | Yes |
| Mr. Ngoboh | Yes |
| Dr. Ranchoero | Yes |
| Mr. Hicks | Yes |

The motion carried.

- 2. Dr. Ranchoero moved to approve MLK, Jr. University Union Structural Repairs. This purchase is for the replacement of damaged structural framing, repairs to a retaining wall and associated replacement of guardrails, and miscellaneous concrete and masonry repairs. Invitation for Bid EIUDLS2603 was conducted in accordance with 30 ILCS 500. Not to exceed

\$393,800.00. Grunloh Construction is the recommended vendor. Ms. Everett seconded the motion.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Ms. Baurer | Yes |
| Ms. Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Madigan | Yes |
| Ms. Veatch | Yes |
| Mr. Ngoboh | Yes |
| Dr. Ranchoero | Yes |
| Mr. Hicks | Yes |

The motion carried.

3. Ms. Madigan moved to approve Underwriting Services Renewals. Approval is requested for renewal of our contracts with Stifel, Nicholas & Company (Stifel) and Mesirow Financial Inc. (Mesirow) as managing underwriters for the University's currently anticipated and future debt issuance. The University proposes to renew both contracts under the same terms and process as the original award. The underwriters will help the University and bond advisor, Blue Rose Capital Advisors, LLC to obtain the best possible price for the sale of the refinanced bonds. The original awards to Stifel and Mesirow had an initial term of April 1, 2022 through June 30, 2026 with the University's option to renew for one additional five-year period. We are requesting to exercise the five-year renewal option for a term of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2031. Not to exceed \$400,000.00 each. Ms. Veatch seconded the motion.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Ms. Baurer | Yes |
| Ms. Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Madigan | Yes |
| Ms. Veatch | Yes |
| Mr. Ngoboh | Yes |
| Dr. Ranchoero | Yes |
| Mr. Hicks | Yes |

The motion carried.

4. Dr. Ranchoero moved to approve Thomas Hall Renovation Construction. Thomas Hall requires partial renovation to improve student retention and recruitment. We intend to use CORE Construction for this project under IPHEC1708. This is the third part of the overall Job Order Contracting project. Per V.B.1.d of the Board Regulations, purchases from vendors

awarded via IPHEC do not require Board approval, however we would like full Board consideration due to the size of the scope. Not to exceed \$13,000,000. Ms. Madigan seconded the motion.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Ms. Baurer | Yes |
| Ms. Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Madigan | Yes |
| Ms. Veatch | Yes |
| Mr. Ngoboh | Yes |
| Dr. Ranchoero | Yes |
| Mr. Hicks | Yes |

The motion carried.

5. Ms. Everett moved to approve Food and Non-Food Items for Resale. Chick Fil A food and non-food items are purchased for resale at the Chick Fil A location in the food court. This location has recently expanded to a full store. Not to exceed \$413,000 for the term of July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027. Ms. Veatch seconded the motion.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| Ms. Baurer | Yes |
| Ms. Everett | Yes |
| Ms. Madigan | Yes |
| Ms. Veatch | Yes |
| Mr. Ngoboh | Yes |
| Dr. Ranchoero | Yes |
| Mr. Hicks | Yes |

The motion carried.

E. Ms. Baurer moved to approve the personnel contract extensions - Intercollegiate Athletics:

- Martin R. Simmons, Head Basketball Coach (through March 31, 2029)
- Dirk Bennett, Head Soccer Coach (through March 31, 2029)

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

F. Ms. Madigan moved to approve the following items collectively:

- 2026-2027 Tuition (F)
- 2026-2027 Student Fees (G)
- 2026-2027 Housing & Dining Rates (H)

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

- I. Ms. Baurer moved to approve Academic Affairs Restructuring. The University proposes a restructuring that consolidates the academic landscape from four to three colleges, combines selected departments, and renames specific units. The reorganization will be effective July 1, 2026. Ms. Everett seconded the motion. By unanimous vote, the motion carried.

- J. Dr. Ranchoero moved to approve the 2026-2027 Tenure Recommendations for the following individuals.
 - 1. Dr. Kelly Best, Assistant Professor, School of Technology
 - 2. Dr. Lynne Cameron, Assistant Professor, Communication Disorders and Sciences
 - 3. Dr. Danessa Carter, Assistant Professor, Counseling and Higher Education
 - 4. Dr. Eden Effert-Fanta, Assistant Professor, Biological Sciences
 - 5. Dr. Jacy Ghast, Assistant Professor, Nursing
 - 6. Dr. Nora Heist, Assistant Professor, School of Communication and Journalism
 - 7. Dr. Jill Rennels-Hutti, Assistant Professor, Department of Human Services
 - 8. Dr. Hyunsun Kim-Hahm, Assistant Professor, School of Business
 - 9. Dr. JungSu Oh, Assistant Professor, Psychology
 - 10. Dr. Bradley Olson, Assistant Professor, Art and Design
 - 11. Dr. Elizabeth Tacke, Assistant Professor, English
 - 12. Dr. Laurel Teller, Assistant Professor, Communication Disorders and Sciences

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

- K. Ms. Everett moved to approve Follett Spirit Store – MLK, Jr. University Union Bookstore Operations. Concessionaire Agreement to operate University Bookstore/Spirit Store. The scope of the contract is for apparel, spirit items and other related products in the MLK Jr. Union building and does not include the EIU textbook rental program. Ms. Veatch seconded the motion. Term of agreement is July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2031. By unanimous vote, motion carried.

- L. Ms. McLaughlin conducted the election of officers for the Board of Trustees 2026-2027 term by secret ballot.

Mr. Hicks nominated Ms. Everett as Chairperson. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed and Ms. Everett was elected Chairperson by secret ballot.

Ms. Everett nominated Dr. Ranchoero as Vice Chairperson. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed and Dr. Ranchoero was elected Vice Chairperson by secret ballot.

Dr. Ranchero nominated Ms. Madigan as Secretary. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed and Ms. Madigan was elected Secretary by secret ballot.

Mr. Ngoboh nominated Ms. Baurer as Member Pro Tem. There being no other nominations, nominations were closed and Ms. Baurer was elected Member Pro Tem by secret ballot.

Information Items

President's Report

President Gatrell introduced Dr. Suzie Park who gave a presentation on the End Student Housing Insecurity (ESHI) Grant. Dr. Park has worked to secure the \$200,000 grant for Eastern Illinois University for three consecutive years. These funds are used to pay vendors on behalf of students for housing, utilities, childcare, transportation, medical bills, supplies, purchase food for the EIU Campus Food Pantry, and sponsor programming outreach for youth in Illinois. The grants' mission is to address the root or systemic causes of homelessness and basic-needs insecurity among students. To date, over 400 students have been awarded aid from this grant.

Reports from Constituencies

- Faculty Senate – Dr. Jeffrey Stowell reported that spring elections and appointments for faculty representation on university committees have been completed. A proposal has been submitted to the administration identifying committees that are no longer necessary or have overlapping functions with existing campus processes. Elections for Faculty Senate leadership positions (Chair, Vice Chair, and Recorder) will take place at the final spring meeting.

The Budget Transparency Committee has prepared a comprehensive report on the university's financial commitments to NCAA athletics, a will be discussed at an upcoming meeting.

Dr. Hongshan He has been selected as the recipient of the Distinguished Faculty Award.

- Student Senate – Ms. Madison Veatch reported that executive board elections have been completed. The results are as follows: Mason Tegeler was elected Student Body President; Sam Erwin, Executive Vice President; Valerie Harmon, Vice President of Student Affairs; Shiloh Fredrick, Vice President of Academic Affairs; and John Slater, Student Trustee. Additionally, four senators were elected and will take their oath of office on April 22.

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 | O'Brien Stadium Repairs | (A) | \$459,725.00 |
| Cengage Learning | Textbooks | (B) | \$300,000.00 |
| McGraw-Hill Education | Textbooks | (C) | \$300,000.00 |
| Pearson Education | Textbooks | (D) | \$300,000.00 |
| Air Charter Service of Delaware | Charter flights for Football | (E) | \$188,812.48 |
| Macmillan Holdings | Textbooks | (F) | \$150,000.00 |
| WW Norton & Co. | Textbooks | (G) | \$150,000.00 |
| Nevco Sports LLC | Video Boards – McAfee | (H) | \$130,954.99 |
| Sage Publications | Textbooks | (I) | \$110,000.00 |
| John Wiley & Sons | Textbooks | (J) | \$100,000.00 |
| MBS Textbook Exchange | Textbooks | (K) | \$100,000.00 |

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

(C) IPHEC Contract #2303TXBK; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(D) IPHEC Contract #2311TXBK; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(E) IPHEC Contract #2313GAL; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(F) IPHEC Contract #2143; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(G) IPHEC Contract #2309TXBK; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(H) IPHEC Contract #2317TXBK; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(I) IPHEC Contract #2315GAL; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

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

(K) IPHEC Contract #2306TXBK; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

(L) IPHEC Contract #2310TXBK; Exempt per VB1d of Board Regulations

Deposit & Investment Report for the Quarter ended 3-31-2026

For the quarter ending March 31, 2026, the University had an average daily invested cash balance of \$114,241,932.41 and a net average daily balance of \$111,947,944.96. The annualized average yield was 3.75%.

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>

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

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.