Eastern Illinois University
Board of Trustees
Closed Meeting Minutes
9/10/2026

The Board entered Executive Session at 11:20 am by unanimous approval of motion made by John Slater and seconded by Joyce Madigan.

Present:

Board Members	
Julie Everett, Chair	Barbara Bauer
Dr. Bernie Ranchero, V. Chair	Joyce Madigan
Chris Hicks	John Slater

Administration	
Jay Gatrell, President	Laura McLaughlin, General Counsel
Matt Bierman, VP Business Affairs	Anne Flaherty, VP Student Affairs & Interim VP of Advancement

1. President Gatrell began the session by discussing his past rationale and decision to move EIU's student orientation under the leadership of VP of Enrollment Josh Norman. Under Norman's leadership we've seen a higher level of initial engagement of freshman and transfer students.
2. Anne Flaherty and the President discussed a draft organization chart for Advancement and how she would be able to lead the group along with Student Affairs. A discussion was had on Advancement and its current individuals' strengths and weaknesses. President Gatrell discussed Flaherty's current role and the need to restack/remove direct reports. A discussion was had of current organizational and staff strengths and weaknesses. Also discussed was the realigned of UPD to be under the leadership of Bierman due to labor issues and best practices within the state.
3. Human Resources. Bierman discussed the resignation of HR Director Fantasy Sharrett and his plans for an Interim HR Director.

Bierman and Flaherty left the room.

4. Personnel Contracts. The President discussed his rationale for hiring Mark Wilson as the Athletic Director and indicated that his contract was an action item for the Board's consideration. Next, the President discussed the rationale/need for bringing forward for the Board's consideration an extension for Coach.
5. Interim GC McLaughlin then discussed the proposed faculty resolution in effect stating that the President violated a state statute in naming Dr. Holly Farley as the Provost, VP of Academic Affairs. McLaughlin provided the Board a memo she

prepared outlining the background to the law's development and how it did not apply to EIU and its hiring/posting requirements. A discussion was had.

Following the discussion, a motion to leave executive session was made by Trustee Madigan, seconded by Trustee Ranchero which was unanimously approved.

Closed session ended at 12:01 p.m.