

Minutes of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
June 16, 2005

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY, BOARD OF TRUSTEES ROOM – 9:05 A.M.

Today I have the pleasure of introducing, for the first time, three new members of our Board, Vice Chair Vella said. In just a few minutes, they will take the oath of office and be officially sworn in, but first I would like to tell you a little bit about them.

Cherilyn Murer is a successful businesswoman, an attorney, a philanthropist and an active voice in the advancement of quality, cost-effective healthcare and higher education. Cherilyn is the president and CEO of the Murer Group, a legal healthcare consulting firm headquartered in Joliet. Cherilyn's firm represents hospitals and health systems throughout the United States providing strategic planning services and assistance in complying with complex state and federal regulations. She received a Juris Doctor degree with honors from NIU and has coupled her background in law with her previous operational experience as Director of Rehabilitative Medicine at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago. She is a sought-after lecturer and educator at numerous educational conferences sponsored by national and international health-care organizations. In addition, Cherilyn serves on the NIU College of Law's Board of Visitors and, in 2003, was selected to receive the College's distinguished alumnus award. She is also a member of the NIU Foundation Board of Directors and chairs that group's development committee.

Marc Strauss is a long-time DeKalb resident. He is general counsel for First Rockford Group, a real estate company involved in the development and leasing of commercial, industrial and office space as well as the development and sale of residential real estate. He was formerly a managing partner and attorney in law firms in Sycamore and Chicago. Marc attended Northwestern University where he earned a bachelor's degree, a master's in management and a law degree. He has been active on numerous boards, commissions and task force groups in DeKalb County and previously served as assistant city attorney for the City of Sycamore.

Andrew Nelms is our new Student Trustee for Fiscal Year 2006. Andrew will be sworn in today although his term does not begin officially until July 1. Andrew is a senior history major at NIU, has been involved in the Student Association since he first came to campus and has served the last two years as Speaker of the Student Senate. Andrew has helped champion such issues as improved student record software that minimizes the use of Social Security numbers, the adoption of an extended fall break, and making on-campus events possible for student organizations by establishing a special fund to subsidize the costs of security.

Andrew's experience in politics, however, extends far beyond the campus. Last summer he went to Washington, DC as a senior intern in the office of our own Congressman and House Speaker Denny Hastert. Andrew also ran his own successful campaign to become a DeKalb County Township trustee. Not surprisingly, after graduation, Andrew hopes to pursue a career in politics, either in Springfield or Washington, DC. We are delighted to have you join the Board this year, Andrew. Your service in student and community government and experience on campus has provided you with a depth of knowledge that will be a tremendous asset to the Board. This Board takes the opinions and counsel of the Student Trustee very seriously, and I want you to know we are looking forward to working with you next year.

In addition to the three new trustees who are joining the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to tell you that Myron Siegel and I have been reappointed by the Governor to six-year terms as well. Myron and I will be joining our new colleagues today to be sworn in for another six years.

We have the privilege today of being sworn in by Sixteenth Judicial Circuit Court Judge Robbin Stuckert, an NIU College of Law alumna and the winner of the Outstanding Public Service Award from the College of Law in 2004. Judge Stuckert received her B.A. degree from Northern Illinois University in 1987 and her J.D. degree from Northern Illinois University in 1990. She began her career as an associate attorney with a local law firm. She has also served as an Assistant State's Attorney with the office of the Ogle County

State's Attorney. Judge Stuckert served in private practice in the DeKalb/Sycamore area from 1990 to 2001. She was appointed as an Associate Judge of the 16th Judicial Circuit Court in 2001. She was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court as a Circuit Judge in 2003 and elected to that position in 2004. Judge Stuckert is a member of the Illinois Judges' Association and the DeKalb and Kane County Bar Associations. She and her husband, Michael, have three children.

Judge Stuckert made brief remarks as follows:

I was very honored and privileged to be asked today to administer the oath to the Trustees. As an undergraduate of Northern Illinois University and a graduate from the law school here at NIU as well, I am the product of the hard work and dedication that all of the administrators and educators, as well as the Board of Trustees, have given to this great institution and continued to serve. And I thank you all for your service today. It is an honor to be able to administer the oath.

In preparing to administer the oath of office, Judge Stuckert instructed Andrew Nelms to insert the words "Student Trustee" in his oath. All five Trustees repeated the following oath:

"I (*name*) do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois and the laws thereof, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of Trustee (Student Trustee) for the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University to the best of my ability."

Vice Chair Vella invited the newly installed Trustees to make brief comments.

Trustee Murer's comments were as follows:

This is a joyous occasion for me as a student, as a director on the Board of the Foundation, and now on the Board of Trustees, and it is a privilege to serve Northern Illinois University. I am honored to be part of it and to continue in this role. I have had an opportunity to work with the deans in different capacities, and that, I hope, brings a baseline of knowledge that supports the most important element of the university, which is academia. It is the academics of the university, and its people that make a university great. We are privileged to have the vision of Dr. John Peters to lead us. And I hope, as a Trustee, that over the next six years I will get to know each and everyone of you. Thank you.

Trustee Strauss's comments were as follows:

This is a great honor, and I am very excited about the opportunity that has been afforded me. I am also mindful of the fact that this opportunity comes with a great responsibility, not only to the people in this room but to all the other stakeholders of this fine institution. I want to assure you that it is my intention to do the very best I can to do the hard work with everybody here and with the other people who have been so gracious to me to improve upon what has already been done at this institution and to celebrate the accomplishments together. Thank you all, and I look forward to working with each and everyone of you.

Student Trustee Nelms' comments were as follows:

Thank you, Vice Chair Vella, for your kind words. I am humbled and pleased to have been elected by my peers to represent their interests on the Board of Trustees. I am eager to become better acquainted with my fellow Board members and learn from their experience. Over the years, I have watched from a distance as the Board ably and successfully handled the issues before it. And our Trustees are known for their responsiveness to the interests of the students of Northern Illinois University. It is with great pride and a sense of duty to all the students of NIU that I join this Board as the Student Trustee.

Before I go any further, I would like to recognize a number of individuals who are here today. First and foremost, I would like to thank my family for their continued support and especially their patience over the years. Mom, Dad, I promise that soon I will be an alumnus of Northern Illinois

University. Also, I would like to recognize a number of individuals who have helped me along the way. My mentor, James Barr, has counseled me and provided me with immeasurable knowledge over the years, all the while building an incredible bond of friendship. I am also grateful for the friendship of my immediate predecessor, Eric Johnson, who has, without a doubt, left his mark on this campus as a student and a community leader.

The NIU we know today is the culmination of more than a century of growth and progress. Originally, Altgeld Hall was the campus of Northern Illinois State Normal School. Today, it is the centerpiece of a 750 acre main campus with three branch campuses that meet the needs of the nearly 25,000 students who attend NIU. In 1895, it was the gift of \$10,000 from a local philanthropist, Jacob Haish, that allowed for the purchase of the initial library, which was housed here in Altgeld Hall on the second floor. Just recently, the Founders Memorial Library celebrated the acquisition of its two millionth volume catapulting us into the top three percent of academic libraries in the country. This is a quintessential example of the progress we have made as an institution in meeting the needs of the region and our students. As another tangible illustration of our success, students, faculty and the community have redefined Huskie pride by shattering attendance records at our sporting events. The reaction of the Board in response to the \$30 million reduction in state funding over the past three years serves as a prime example of our Trustees dedication to fulfilling NIU's core mission of providing quality education at a reasonable cost. Maintaining the high standard of research, instruction and outreach NIU provides while still insuring the affordability of an NIU degree was no easy task, but the Board held that core mission as paramount and has stayed true to it. Coupled with the stewardship of our eleventh chief executive, Dr. Peters, who is, I am certain, the only man who could convince the federal government to buy us a submarine, NIU is sure to be graduating individuals who will go on to become leaders in their field whether that be science, government or education for generations to come. It is because of this steady leadership that NIU boasts a number of nationally ranked programs and world-renowned faculty. I am excited to begin my work as Student Trustee to build on these successes. Thank you.

Trustee Siegel's comments were as follows:

It is great to be sentenced by the judge to six more years. Thank you, I could not have asked for a better sentence. This is my fourth appointment to the NIU governing board. As most of you know, I started out on the Board of Regents, and, in its 29-year history, I was the only NIU graduate to have ever served on that board. That is one of the reasons why we are so happy to have our own governing board. Once again it has been an honor to be reappointed and serve on this Board as I have done since 1994. When this term expires, it will be 17 years for me. But I could not have done this without the help and support of many people on and off this campus who have had the best interests of NIU at heart and, of course, my colleagues on the Board of Trustees. This time around, I was honored to have bipartisan support for my reappointment. There are so many to thank, but I want to especially thank the roughly 100 individual people around the NIU community who do not hold political titles or offices, who wrote letters of support to the Governor. I cannot tell you how much your support means to me, but I can say that I will continue to be available and accessible to all, and that I will continue to maintain the highest level of integrity and do the same job I have done for the past 11 years in representing NIU for the next six years.

Finally, I want to thank my family for their support. Aaron, who is no longer with us; my daughter Liz, who will graduate this December; my daughter, Alia, who just finished her freshman year at NIU; my daughter Ariel who will graduate high school next year; and to my friend Debra who is a world-renowned artist and who, when she is not painting, loves to participate in NIU events. Also, I appreciate the support of Don and Joan Scriven, former NIU faculty who have been like parents, friends and advisors for many years. Thank you.

Trustee Vella's comments were as follows:

I am pleased to be able to continue on this Board of Trustees for another six years. Later in the meeting, I will have other remarks. I am very proud of NIU and feel very privileged to serve here.

I have a number of people I could thank, but I am not going to do that at this time. I do want to thank my husband, Frank, for his patience, love, help and support. Thank you very much.

Vice Chair Vella invited the other Trustees to make comments if they wished.

I would just like to say that I am certainly looking forward to working with such a fine board, Trustee Moser said. I know they realize the amount of work we have to do. It is a capable group, and I am looking forward to this term with them. Thank you.

Trustee Moser, I note with interest that with the addition of our new Board members, we now have five lawyers on the Board, Trustee Boey said. And I believe that is about the right balance, five against the two of us. I have had the pleasure from prior associations of knowing very well both Cherilyn Murer and Marc Strauss, and Andrew Nelms I have seen on many occasions. We are very fortunate in the kind of talent, skill and commitment that these people, who are willing to spend the many hours of hard work ahead, bring to this Board of Trustees. And to Eric Johnson, it has been a pleasure to see the many contributions you made as Student Trustee. But more important, I have seen you grow during this past year. I know that your future is very bright, and we wish you the very best. Welcome to Trustees Murer and Strauss and Student Trustee Nelms. Thank you.

On behalf of the entire NIU community, President Peters said, I welcome our new Trustees, Marc Strauss and Cherilyn Murer, and Andrew Nelms in July. And we welcome back for their reappointments Trustees Myron Siegel and Barbara Vella. I would like to introduce two people in the audience, Cherilyn Murer's spouse, Michael Murer, and Marc Strauss's spouse, our own Terri Smialek. Let me say to the NIU community that in my estimation, we have the best and most supportive governing board in Illinois public higher education.

I want to say, Trustee Sanchez said, how discomfited I am that I still have not met two of our new Trustees and look forward to meeting them. However, I am in Portland, Oregon and have to settle for saying welcome to the Board of Trustees. I very much look forward to getting to know the new Trustees soon. I also think that this continues a trend that started nine years ago in having a fabulously diverse and gender representative Board of Trustees. Again, I would just like to welcome you all and extend my congratulations to Barb and Myron on their reappointments, something that is very important to the university.

Thank all of you for attending this ceremony, Vice Chair Vella said. It is now concluded. I want to thank the judge for taking time from your busy day to do this for us; we really appreciate it. After a 10 minute break, we will convene our meeting.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Barbara Giorgi Vella at 9:45 a.m. in the Board of Trustees Room, Room 315, Altgeld Hall at Northern Illinois University. Recording Secretary Sharon Mimms conducted a roll call of Trustees. Members present were Trustees Robert Boey, George Moser, Cherilyn Murer, Myron Siegel, Marc Strauss, Student Trustee Eric Johnson and Vice Chair Barbara Giorgi Vella. Present via teleconference was Trustee Manuel Sanchez. Also present were Board Parliamentarian Kenneth Davidson and President John Peters. With a quorum present, the meeting proceeded.

VERIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Confirmation of Open Meetings Act public notice compliance was provided by Board Parliamentarian Ken Davidson.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

After discussion with President Peters and review of the printed revised agenda before us, Vice Chair Vella said, I propose creation of a Consent Agenda that would immediately precede the beginning of the President's Report for today's meeting, and move President's Report Number 46, Action Item 9.a.(6) and

our receipt of Information Items 9.b.(3) and 9.c.(1) to that Consent Agenda. The Vice Chair asked for a motion to approve the revised meeting agenda as proposed. Trustee Strauss made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Trustee Moser seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Trustee Murer to approve the minutes of the February 16 Special Board Meeting and the March 24, 2005 Regular Board Meeting. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Because of the length of the agenda, Vice Chair Vella said, I am not going to give my comments right now. I will refrain except to note that I am especially pleased that President Peters is bringing a salary increment package for NIU employees to the Board today for approval. As you know, competitive salaries for faculty and staff are one of our top priorities.

ELECTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2006 BOARD OFFICERS

The Vice Chair recognized Trustee Boey to nominate the Board's elected Board of Trustees officers for Fiscal Year 2006.

I would like to place into nomination the following slate of officers to be elected for Fiscal Year 2006, Trustee Boey stated:

Chair:	Barbara Giorgi Vella
Vice Chair:	Cherilyn Murer
Secretary:	Marc Strauss
Fourth Member of the Executive Committee:	Manny Sanchez
Universities Civil Service Merit Board Representative:	Marc Strauss

Allow me to add a few personal comments on this important occasion, Trustee Boey said. It is a great honor and privilege for me to nominate my colleague and good friend, Barb Vella, to chair this Board. Over the past four years, Trustee Vella has taken on some of the most daunting challenges this Board has faced. She has chaired the Finance Committee during the worst budget crisis in NIU's history. And she has chaired the Academic Affairs Committee during years of explosive growth and student demand. In all the issues that have come before us, Barb Vella has proven herself to be a strong, strategic thinker and a great consensus builder. The latter skill may be the most important requirement of all for the Chair's position. As Trustees, we all receive mounds of information to digest, and I have always been impressed by how thoroughly Barbara Vella reviews these materials. She is extremely well prepared and always makes sure she understands the background of each and every issue on which she casts a vote. Barb's personal connections with this university run very deep. She is a graduate of our College of Law; her son is an NIU graduate; her late father, State Senator Zeke Giorgi, was a beloved friend to NIU; and her husband, Frank Vella, is a lawyer as well. Perhaps all those connections explain why Barb Vella embodies the very essence of a good leader for this Board. She has carefully studied and understands the complexity of NIU's service region and the changing nature of the student body. She understands that the political climate in which we operate now and will operate in the foreseeable future, requires NIU to become more self-supporting and less reliant on state funding. Above all else, Barb Vella places NIU and the welfare of the students ahead of all other considerations. For these and many other reasons, I am honored to nominate this slate of officers, headed by my esteemed colleague, Barbara Giorgi Vella. Thank you.

Trustee Sanchez seconded that motion. It is my distinct honor and privilege to second the nomination of this slate of officers, he said, and I am particularly taken by the fact that we now have the next generation of new officers about to be elected, about to take the leadership helm and about to continue the progress of this fabulous institution, our alma mater, Northern Illinois University. I wish I were there in person to demonstrate, as I tend to do in a very emotional way, how excited and elated I am to have the privilege of

seconding this slate of officers. In particular, I deem it essential to take particular note of Barb Vella's chairship nomination. It is an historic moment for Northern Illinois University. From the beginning of NIU's Board of Trustees' start nine years ago, diversity and gender representation always distinguished NIU's Board of Trustees from all of the other boards of trustees in the state. Therefore, it is only natural that we should subsequently, in the year 2005, proudly be in a position where we are about to have the leadership of our first madam chair of our Board of Trustees. I believe that Governor Edgar, at the beginning of NIU's Board of Trustees, and subsequent governors realized how important the trustee's role is in every higher education institution. Selfishly, I focus strictly today on my alma mater, Northern Illinois University, and the pride that all of us must have in the faculty and staff, my fellow Trustees and the students of NIU in seeing this historic progression of leadership come to fruition. Myron, George, Bob and I knew nine years ago that we were being given the privilege, as Trustees, to lead a wonderful academic institution. Today, we witness the historic election of our first female chairperson of the NIU Board of Trustees. Barb, I think I speak for my fellow Trustees, including our new fellow Trustees – Cherilyn, Marc and Andrew – in welcoming you, Madam Chair, as I proudly second your nomination as well as the nomination of the other members on the officers slate. Thank you.

The Vice Chair called the motion. The vote was unanimous for the proposed slate of Board of Trustees officers for Fiscal Year 2006.

Chair-Elect Vella made comments as follows:

First of all, I would like to thank the Board for their vote. I am very respectful of the trust they have placed in me. Let me say at the outset that I know I will need to fill some very big shoes – Gary Skoien, Manny Sanchez, George Moser, Bob Boey and Myron Siegel. They have all been good teachers and role models as Board Chairs and Trustees, and I hope to follow in their tradition.

What have I learned in my five and a half years about the operation of the Board? A unified Board is essential to a healthy university. In the past years, I have observed that an effective Board Chair listens to the other Trustees. I have also learned that it is important for Trustees to listen to each other. We can then agree or disagree. However, we have always tried to work toward a consensus. During my term, the Board has voted unanimously on practically all matters of substance. I am committed to a unified Board. I am committed to listening to my fellow Board members, keeping them informed and working to find common ground. I believe that all our Board members, old and new, are committed to NIU and putting their personal agendas aside; and I believe that a unified Board is essential to a strong university. I ask that my fellow Board members let me know when I am not listening to them, when we are not listening to each other and when they are not informed. I will work to see that our Board continues to work in a unified manner.

I am committed to supporting our President. I believe it is the Board's role to develop the mission of the university, its long-range plans, oversee budgets, evaluate the quality of the programs and assess the effectiveness of our institutional operations. However, I believe that the Board delegates its authority to the President to implement these policies and plans. In the past, this Board looked to our President to exercise academic and administrative leadership. In President John Peters, I believe we have the kind of leadership that we require. Our most important job is the hiring of the president. Our second most important job is to support the President when he is doing what we asked him to do. I believe that our Board has held President Peters to a standard of excellence, and he has not let us down. I believe that a unified Board and a strong president make a strong institution. I am committed to seeing NIU grow both externally and internally. We can continue to do this if we are committed to a unified Board and a strong president. I am, and I know that my fellow Board members are.

Some of the activities which I see in the future include seeing the campus grow externally. Through the assistance of our legislative representatives, the university has an opportunity to expand and grow with the development of the Monsanto building, and I am eager to continue that process. At this time, the university is proposing to develop the site into a Family Health, Wellness and Literacy Center. This will provide teaching, research and service programs that will

benefit the university and the northern Illinois region. In addition, there will be plans to develop the West Campus. I believe the Board is committed to promoting the growth of the campus.

I am committed to our work with the Foundation and its outreach to donors and alumni. I look forward to the opening of the Alumni and Visitors Center. I applaud the work of the Foundation and will work with them to promote this project. I know the Board is committed to assisting the Foundation in the development of endowed scholarships and endowed chairs. To quote Dr. Peters, "Endowment is the financial bedrock of every institution of higher learning and one of the key measures of a university's vibrancy and potential." I am committed to working to get our fair share from the State of Illinois. We know and understand there have been budget cuts and that higher education seems to be taking the brunt of these. Our college tuition has increased, and there have been increasing financial strains on our students. I know that the Board is committed to keeping costs down and to providing accessibility and accountability.

Finally, there comes a time when the chair presents her own specific vision or thoughts for the future. Let me say at the onset that I know and respect NIU's commitments to its students. I understand that we have programs in place to address the needs of our students in academic counseling, personal counseling, residential counseling and programs such as CHANCE (Counseling Help and Assistance Necessary for College Education). My own personal challenge to the university is to address our retention and dropout rates. Many institutions have become aware that we have students who are coming to us under-prepared. They are not ready for the academic challenges, they do not have the necessary financial stability and they do not have the necessary commitment to complete a four-year degree. And we all know they need that, but they need extra help. Their needs are greater and more complicated. They need assistance with finances. They need assistance with choosing their classes. More importantly, they need to understand why a college degree is important to them and to their futures. I see this as a challenge to the campus community as a whole. We do not need new programs necessarily, but we need to identify those students and develop an integrated model to address their issues. I believe that the help is here at NIU, but the under-prepared are not necessarily prepared to take advantage of this help. I am asking the assistance of the campus community – the community as a whole – to address these issues. I ask that we educate ourselves, the Board included, on all the programs that are available to our students to help them. I ask that we be ready, willing and able to offer assistance to our students. A university campus is a community working together to assist people in reaching their potential and helping them make a contribution. NIU is that kind of campus for many of our students. We have to make it that kind of campus for all of our students, especially our under-prepared.

Thank you again for your confidence in me and all the nice words. And I look forward to working with all of you. And thank you for letting me share these thoughts with you.

Since last we met, Vice Chair Vella said, we have lost a valuable member of the NIU community, Dr. Fred Kitterle, Dean of the NIU College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a champion of the undergraduate experience. Fred served as dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the university's largest college, for ten years. Fred worked to incorporate research into the undergraduate experience, established the Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP) which allows undergrads to obtain funding for research and work alongside faculty members. He also launched Focused Interest Groups (FIG's), which grouped general education students who are still exploring possible majors into small learning communities built around common academic themes. The NIU community mourns the loss of Fred Kitterle, and this Board extends its sympathy to his wife Janet, his daughter Kristine and his grandson Benjamin.

I want to welcome University Advisory Committee representatives who may be present this morning: Dr. Paul Stoddard, Dr. Joseph Stephen, Dr. Xueshu Song, Dr. Ferald Bryan, Ms. Shey Lowman and Ms. Donna Smith. Thank you for coming. Vice Chair Vella invited Dr. Stoddard to make comments.

I would like to echo the Vice Chair's comments regarding Dean Kitterle, Dr. Stoddard said. As a member of the College of LA&S, I know he brought many innovative ideas to the college and was definitely a champion of undergraduate education. And those ideas, hopefully, will be able to continue. Also, you

alluded earlier to the salary increment that the Board will be voting on today. Considering the pension situation in Springfield, a salary increment at this time is a great reinforcement to the faculty and staff of NIU. It is tangible evidence that people do value our contributions. It will help keep us competitive in attracting talented new people here. And it will help maintain the positive morale on campus among faculty and staff.

I would like to thank the Trustees for their efforts in Springfield on behalf of NIU and higher education. We all know how dedicated all of you are to this institution, the students and the staff and faculty. I would like to join Dr. Stoddard in thanking you for your support of President Peters' longstanding commitment to making salaries for staff and faculty competitive and for considering this year's salary increments. We know how hard President Peters, Dr. Williams and the rest of the administration have worked to be able to offer increments. During these years of reduced or flat budgets, we greatly appreciate their efforts and your as well. Thank you. Dr. Stoddard added his congratulations to the newly elected Board officers, to Trustees Vella and Siegel on their reappointments, and to the new Trustees on their appointments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Vice Chair asked Board Parliamentarian Kenneth Davidson if any members of the public had registered a written request to address the Board in accordance with state law and Board of Trustees *Bylaws*. Mr. Davidson noted that he had received no timely requests to address this meeting.

MEETING AGENDA REVISION

A motion by Trustee Siegel to move Agenda Item 10.b. for immediate consideration by the Board was seconded by Student Trustee Johnson. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.b. – Resolution – Former Chair Gary J. Skoien

Agenda Item 10.b. contains a resolution honoring Gary Skoien, our former chair, for his distinguished service to this Board, Vice Chair Vella said. Gary has been a great colleague and a Trustee of this Board for over six years. He has served as our chair for the past two years, and I know that we have all relied upon his strong and valuable leadership as chair. On behalf of my colleagues, I request a motion to approve this Resolution honoring Gary Skoien's distinguished service to Northern Illinois University and to its Board of Trustees.

Serving with Gary has been a great pleasure, Trustee Moser said. Gary, we are going to miss you, very much, and I wish you the best in the future.

I want to say publicly what everybody knows privately, Trustee Sanchez said, and that is that Gary is owed a great debt of gratitude for his fabulous commitment to NIU and most recently for his leadership as Chair of our Board. It is the kind of leadership that I know, Madam Chair, you will continue as well. He has not publicly received the kind of accolades that he is worthy of for the fabulous commitment he has made throughout his tenure as a Trustee of NIU. So, I am delighted to speak as a proponent of this resolution.

Gary, I cannot tell you what a hole you will leave on this Board, Trustee Siegel said. Fortunately, we have three new very qualified members, but your experience on the Capital Development Board, your experience politically, your experience with all that you brought to the Board will be greatly missed. I do not think the general public understood what a wealth of background you had, how well you fit into this Board and how dedicated you have been. Gary is not an alumnus of NIU, but you would not have known it. He deserves the support and thanks of the entire NIU community. Gary, words cannot express what we all think of the job you did. You did a great job. And we hope that we will continue to see you around NIU with Enny and your children at our football games and other events. I know you have a busy plate, but please don't be a stranger. Those of you who know anything about Gary know that time is a very valuable resource of Gary's, and he gave us a lot of his time. Thank you.

I will not be redundant and repeat all those truthful things that the other Trustees have said to you, Gary, Trustee Boey said. So I will just add my thanks for the great service you have given to this Board, both

as a Trustee and as its chair. I certainly understood what you went through and the remarkable expertise you had in guiding this Board in its ultimate compromises and consensus on some issues. We will miss you, obviously. But I think that Enny, at home, is applauding this moment. Other than the achievements that you have shown in your chairship, Gary, the other greatest improvement I have seen is in your golf game. I do not know how you find the time to do that. But thank you for your leadership, thank you for all the accomplishments, and Godspeed.

Former Chair Skoien, Student Trustee Johnson added, as a student coming in, it was very nice to be welcomed by all the Board members, but especially the Chair of the Board. I have had the privilege of working with you both on the Board and in other endeavors and look forward to working with you in the future. You have been a great asset to the students of NIU.

Gary, on behalf of the NIU community, administration, faculty and staff, President Peters said, I want to thank you for your service. You have left a mark. You have made a difference. And I have enjoyed your support and your friendship. When I think of Gary Skoien, my mind goes back to a moment a few years ago when we were riding on a bus from the Tuscaloosa stadium to the airport. Gary had represented the Board on that trip, and he had his young son with him. We were riding through a gauntlet of Alabamans who were pleased that we were leaving. But Gary looked at me and said, "This is really big time isn't it?" That sums up Gary Skoien. Thank you, Gary.

Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Distinguished Service Resolution honoring Former Chair Gary Skoien. Trustee Moser so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

RESOLUTION – FORMER CHAIR GARY J. SKOIEN
Distinguished Service to Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, Gary J. Skoien has faithfully served as a member of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees since 1999; and

WHEREAS, prior to his election as Chair of the Board of Trustees in 2003, Gary Skoien served as the Board's vice chair for two years and as a member of the Finance, Facilities and Operations and Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committees of the Board; and

WHEREAS, Gary Skoien invested significant amounts of valuable time and energy in service to the Board of Trustees and the students, faculty, staff and administration at Northern Illinois University for over six years; and

WHEREAS, we as his colleagues on the Board of Trustees want to express our appreciation for his six years of service to the NIU community and his leadership of the Board in recognizing and reacting to the development of a highly volatile funding environment for public higher education; and

WHEREAS, Gary Skoien led the effort on the Board to develop an agenda that helped Northern Illinois University to realize many of its larger goals, despite historical funding reductions from the state, including renewed work on the West Campus Development plan, enhancing NIU's advocacy role in public higher education in Springfield and Washington, and stepping up private fundraising efforts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University in formal meeting herein assembled, extends its grateful appreciation to Gary J. Skoien for his distinguished service to Northern Illinois University, its Board of Trustees and its students, faculty staff and administration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this **RESOLUTION** be presented to Gary J. Skoien and a copy of this document be placed in the official files of the Board of Trustees as part of the permanent record of the university and the great state of Illinois and as a lasting tribute to the accomplishments of Gary J. Skoien.

Adopted in a regular meeting assembled this 16th day of June, 2005.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

Chair

Attest: _____
Secretary



(SEAL)

I would like to say that Gary is a great guy, Vice Chair Vella said. It has been wonderful working with him. He is a very kind, real human being; and he is a very good role model.

Former Chair Skoien's remarks were as follows:

You know, this is not what these folks used to say about me in Executive Session. But this is all public. Bob mentioned golf, and I am disappointed about leaving the Board because I was hoping this summer to show Bob, John and Manny how this pacemaker has improved my backswing – it slowed it down.

I had a number of thoughts about what I was going to say here, but I was really kind of taken aback by everything I just heard. And what Manny said about not being an alumnus is absolutely true. I have cherished my involvement with NIU for a number of reasons. It is a terrific institution, all of you know that. But coming from the outside, it is kind of easier to look at it with an unbiased eye and understand what it is all about. Secondly, I have over time served on corporate, government and civic boards, and there is not a better board that I have served with. Every one of these individuals is the highest caliber and the highest quality, and I have heard the same thing about the newly appointed trustees. You really do not know how lucky you are to have that kind of quality. John has done an absolutely outstanding job leading the university over the last five years. He is terrific, and you are lucky to have him.

For me, this, above all, has been a privilege. I don't know what great things I did, but I appreciate all the kind words. It was a privilege for me to have a chance to work with all of you on this fine Board and to work with this administration. I am going to miss it. I was supposed to come a little later today, but my second son has a gymnastics program that I need to go see. So, I am going from higher education to lower education, but that is very important to me. Actually, I joined the Board twice, but that's another long story. But both times that I joined the Board, I said there are two things in my life that have been the most important in shaping it and in helping me. Number one, of course, was a very supportive family, and number two was my education. My education was absolutely critical to what I have been able to do and what I have enjoyed doing in my life. And NIU, hopefully, will provide that same thing to thousands and thousands of people as it has in the past. I wish you all the best. I am going to show up again. In fact, I wanted to get a ticket to the Michigan game. I am a graduate of Michigan, but I am going to be rooting for Northern. Thank you very much.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS

Executive Committee

There was no report from the Executive Committee.

Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Robert Boey reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee met on Wednesday, June 1. The following action items were discussed and approved: Recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotions with Tenure for the 2005-2006

Academic Year; three appointments with rank and tenure to two new department chairs and one faculty member; and three administrative appointments – a new Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, an Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and an Interim Dean of the College of Business; and an information item, the 2004-2005 Program Review Summary.

Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee

Committee Chair Barbara Giorgi Vella reported that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee met on Wednesday, June 1, and the following action items are being presented for Board consideration and approval: Budget Guidelines for Fiscal Year 2007; Fiscal Year 2006 Internal Operating Budget Interim Approval; Fiscal Year 2006 Tuition Recommendations; Fiscal Year 2006 NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract; College of Engineering and Engineering Technology Research Survey; and Grant Towers Student Lounge Furniture and Equipment. The following information items are also brought for Board review: Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000, Report on Investments, Report on Active Capital Projects with a Budget over \$100,000; Fiscal Year 2005 and 2006 Appropriated Budget Updates; and the Student System Replacement Project Update.

Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee

The LAEA Committee has not met since the last Board of Trustees meeting, Committee Chair Myron Siegel said, but there are many things to report. As I have previously reported, following the example set by Trustee Moser when he first chaired this committee in 1996, the committee has continued to stress a goal of zero material audit findings and made it clear that audit findings will not be tolerated. To assist the administration and the internal auditor, we passed legislation to give the President an enforcement mechanism. This year, the outside auditors reported zero material audit findings. This is a compliment to all involved, and I want once again to recognize the fine work of Keith Jackson, Bob Albanese, and Sharon Downen and her staff. As part of the compliance requirements, I met with the outside auditors on June 1 to answer questions about our procedures and processes. Also in attendance at the meeting were Ken Davidson and Kathy Buettner. I explained to them that as Chair of LAEA, I received a monthly status report on all existing audits and reviews and that if there is anything of substance, we investigate it further. I also explained to the auditor that the committee has in the past and will in the future bring people in to answer questions about audit and compliance issues that the committee or its chair deem worthy of investigation. I also explained that the first act this Board took after approving the regulatory documents was to pass a strict ethics and conflicts of interest legislation applicable to the Trustees and all senior administrators. The outside auditors were pleased at how effective and professional our Board operated. Any questions the auditor had were answered completely and satisfactorily. However, with changes in the state ethics law, we will be reviewing the current Board Conflict of Interest and Ethics legislation to make sure it continues to be stronger and stricter than the state requires.

I met with Jim Kaplan, the Illinois Board of Higher Education chair, this summer, and I believe we made some progress with the IBHE in pushing the NIU agenda. As money becomes available, I am hopeful we will start to see a shift in our favor for capital funds.

I was in Springfield several days this year and met with many of the state representatives and senators, gave testimony and answered questions before the various appropriations committees. I made a special effort with the Senate to review House Bill 476 and its affect on our ability to raise money from donors. I am pleased to report that House Bill 476 remained in the Senate Rules Committee. And hopefully, if it is brought back next year, we can work with the legislature on drafting a bill that meets their needs without adversely impacting ours. The Board of Trustees, President Peters and the administration continue to be well respected by the legislature, in large part due to the efforts of our External Relations people, Kathy Buettner and Ken Zehnder. Ken will be giving a report later during the meeting about specific budget and appropriation issues in Springfield. Our committee will meet after veto session in late August.

Illinois Board of Higher Education

There was no report from the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

University Civil Service Merit Board

The Universities Civil Service Merit Board met on May 18, Board Liaison Barbara Giorgi Vella reported, and I represented NIU telephonically. There was one discharge hearing on an employee from the University of Illinois in Chicago. We authorized our budget; made some changes to our bylaws; authorized our errors and omissions insurance; and received some reports. We now have an in-house legal counsel, Mary Follmer, and we do not have the law offices and external legal representation. Our next meeting is scheduled for August 17 at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Northern Illinois University Foundation

First, Trustee Boey said, I want to make note that Trustee Murer and I will be co-liaisons from the Board to the Foundation. He then asked Mallory Simpson, President of the Foundation to give the report.

I add my congratulations to the new and renewing Trustees and to Chair-Elect Vella, Ms. Simpson said. It has been a busy spring. We have been wrapping up one facility campaign; at the same time, we have publicly launched another. And I'll give you some specifics on those in a moment.

First I want to tell you where we are overall in development, Ms. Simpson said. Total gifts received this year to date are roughly \$7.2 million with a goal of \$11.2 million. Yearend is always very packed, and we have a lot of things in the pipeline. I am especially pleased this year to see that our annual fund is up 12 percent this year. As you know, we are conducting a comprehensive, all-alumni solicitation during our Bricks Campaign for the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center. Ms. Simpson recognized Shannon Taylor for the hard work she and her team have done to make sure the Bricks Campaign did not erode annual fund support for the university's academic departments. It is a tremendous accomplishment to grow the annual fund at the same time that we are conducting a special campaign, she said. Shannon and her team have raised \$320,000 through the Bricks Campaign this year, and that will continue through next year. Total gifts for the Alumni and Visitors Center are nearly \$5.8 million, just shy of a \$6.2 million goal. Our staff objective is to reach the \$6.2 million by the end of this month. I would also like to acknowledge Alberta Solfisburg's effective leadership in this campaign as well as the Academic and Athletic Performance Campaign, which kicked off on April 24 with a goal of \$7 million. During a two and a half year quiet leadership phase, we have raised more than \$5.1 million. I was going to spend a little more time telling you about some of those major gifts, but the two key players, Jim Phillips and Tim Stedman, are on the road working with donors, so I will save that for another meeting. I am proud to say that between our two capital projects alone 30 donors in the last two and a half years have committed gifts of \$100,000 or more.

You may recall that at the March meeting I told you about the remarkable relationship Dean Fred Kitterle had forged with a member of his advisory board and prominent NIU alumnus, Ray Smerge, which resulted in two \$25,000 gifts and a gift of \$50,000 from Mr. Smerge's corporation in honor of his retirement. I received the following note in the mail this week:

Dear Mallory,

Here's our check for \$100,000 to honor the memory and legacy of Fred Kitterle. Pat and I are lucky to have been friends with this remarkable man and inspiring leader. We hope this gift will keep Fred's memory alive at Northern.

Ray Smerge

So, out of this great loss to the university family comes hope for many generations of students who need help to achieve the dream of a college education through the establishment of an endowed scholarship to support students in need. Thank you.

After an inquiry from Trustee Siegel, Ms. Simpson reported that Foundation staff member John Bass had a health emergency a couple of weeks ago, had major surgery and is recuperating well at home.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to close the public meeting to conduct an executive session to discuss the following subjects authorized by the Illinois Open Meetings Act: personnel matters as generally described under §2(c)(1) and (3) of the Open Meetings Act, litigation and risk management matters as generally described under §2(c)(11) and (12) of the Open Meetings Act, property matters as generally described under §2(c)(5) and (6) of the Open Meetings Act, Executive Session Minutes matters are generally described under §2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Executive Session was unanimous.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECONVENED

Vice Chair Vella reconvened the public meeting of the Board of Trustees at approximately 11:32 a.m. Members present were Trustees Robert Boey, Cherilyn Murer, Myron Siegel, Marc Strauss, Student Trustee Eric Johnson and Vice Chair Barbara Giorgi Vella. Trustee Manuel Sanchez rejoined the meeting in progress via teleconference.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the items earlier placed on the consent agenda, which include President's Report No. 46 Action Item 9.a.(6) and our receipt of Information Items 9.b.(3) and 9.c.(1). Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer.

Vice Chair Vella requested that Parliamentarian Kenneth Davidson briefly identify the items being considered for the consent agenda to be followed by an opportunity for discussion before taking a vote. There are only three items on the consent agenda, Mr. Davidson reported: Action Item 9.a.(6), Grant Towers Student Lounge Furniture and Equipment; Information Item 9.b.(3); 2004-2005 Program Review Summary; and Information Item 9.c.(1), Summary of Grants and Contract Awards. The motion to approve the consent agenda items under consideration was unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 46

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Good afternoon and congratulations to our newly elected chair, Barbara Vella, who will take over those duties in July, President Peters said. Congratulations to our newly appointed Trustees, Marc Strauss and Cherilyn Murer, and congratulations to both Myron Siegel and Barbara Vella on their reappointments. I am going to forego my remarks given the length of the agenda and go right to the action items on the President's Report.

Agenda Item 9.a.(1) – Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Guidelines

As required every year by state statute, the President said, the university must set the Fiscal Year 2007 budget guidelines. They are essentially the same as last year. The chart on page 21 shows what was proposed last year as well as the final disposition by the Governor and the legislature. We are sticking with our priorities, which include salary increases, a utility increase, price increases and money for new faculty. Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Guidelines. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(2) – Fiscal Year 2006 Internal Operating Budget and Guidelines

This Interim Operating Budget approval is required, the President said. It also includes our authority to provide a much needed and deserved salary increment for our employee groups. That proposal, in general, calls for a four percent salary increase for each employee group broken down as specified.

For faculty: three percent effective at the beginning of their contract period, which for most is August 16, and that three percent is broken down by a two percent average merit increment and then one percent

allocated for critical retention and long-term merit. Then in January, assuming the budget holds, we will add an additional one percent based upon critical retention and long-term merit.

For supportive staff and exempt civil service: a similar structure of a three percent increment effective July 1 or whenever the contract period begins. Two percent of that is an average merit increment. For SPS staff, one percent on the basis of critical retention, long-term merit and increase in job responsibilities because some of our folks have picked up the duties of other individuals as jobs have contracted. For exempt civil service, the one percent will be across the board. Then, in January, if the budget holds, an additional one percent distributed in the same method as just outlined.

Finally, for hourly civil service: A three percent total increment effective July 1, allocated in an across-the-board manner. Then, in January, if the budget holds, up to an additional one percent across the board.

This is very good news for our faculty, the President said. I want to thank all the administrative staff – Dr. Williams and his group, and Fred Schwantes from the Provost’s group and Steve Cunningham – for coming up with the best possible salary increment proposal. I wish it could be more. But it is your priority and my top priority to keep pace competitively with salary increases.

Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2006 Internal Operating Budget and Guidelines. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. A roll call vote on the motion was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Murer	Yes
Trustee Siegel	Yes	Student Trustee Johnson	Yes
Trustee Strauss	Present	Vice Chair Vella	Yes

Trustee Strauss noted that he voted Present not because of disinterest, but because of potential family conflict. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(3) – Fiscal Year 2006 Tuition Recommendations

Given the fact that we are in another year of a flat state budget, President Peters said, we have carefully assessed our instructional and other needs, including the need for a salary increase, and we have set tuition rates. Because of the complexities involved in the Truth in Tuition Act, there are differential rates. Truth in tuition for all entering freshmen, beginning in Fiscal Year 2005, means the tuition rate that is set when they enter as freshmen is in effect for eight semesters, plus NIU is granting one grace semester. So that means new freshmen receive nine semesters at a fixed, predictable tuition rate. We are setting the rate for new students next year at an increase of 9.75 percent, which is similar to other state universities. For continuing degree-seeking students who are not covered under Truth in Tuition, the increase will be 6.75 percent. And I think that is a lower continuing tuition increase than any other state university, the President commented. Graduate and law school increases are 6.75 percent. We never like to recommend tuition increases, but this is needed.

Although this comes from my Committee, the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee, Vice Chair Vella said, none of us likes to see an increase in tuition. However, we have these flat budgets coming from the State of Illinois, and we understand they are also having problems. This is a very difficult situation. But we have to have quality here at this university and deliver the best product that we can. It is always hard for us to vote on these tuition increases, but we feel we have no other choice here.

As we said in our committee meeting, Trustee Boey said, when we first established our Board of Trustees in 1996, the ratio of the appropriated General Revenue Fund to the total budget was about 80 percent. Now, it is less than one-half of that at 33 percent. State support has shrunk from 80 percent to 33 percent. Somewhere along the way, the gap has to be closed in order to maintain quality. I am not so old that I have forgotten my college days and the burden of tuition. So, I share Vice Chair Vella’s feeling of hating to increase tuition. But that is a reality of life right now. At the same time, the typical tuition, room and board today at NIU is about \$14,000. Compare that to any of the other universities, private or

otherwise. To get a quality, four-year degree from NIU at that rate really means something. So I support this tuition increase.

I want to commend Dr. Williams and his staff, Student Trustee Johnson said. In addition to the year-to-year problems that the university has been facing, we are forced to predict four years in advance what is going to happen with budgets and enrollments. And putting these numbers together is not easy, especially, when we do not know whether or not we are going to lose more from the Governor or in veto session. Although it is never easy to vote to raise tuition, this is definitely needed to keep the university funded at levels that allow for faculty and staff to continue doing the good job that they are.

Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2006 Tuition Recommendations. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved with Trustee Siegel voting Present.

Agenda Item 9.a.(4) – Fiscal Year 2006 NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract

The Fiscal Year 2006 NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract is the annual renewal of our contractual services with the NIU Foundation, President Peters reported. The contract agreement is required by Legislative Audit Commission guidelines. The \$523,000 contract amount is offset by a Foundation payment to the university for personal services, fringe benefits, administrative services, etc. Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the fiscal Year 2006 NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Johnson. Trustees Boey and Murer recused themselves from the vote since they are both members of the NIU Foundation Board of Directors.

Vice Chair Vella asked for a roll call vote to approve the Fiscal Year 2006 NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract. (Although not present for the roll call due to technical difficulties with telephone service from Portland, Oregon, Trustee Sanchez requested later in the meeting that he be registered in support of this motion.) The vote was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Present	Trustee Strauss	Yes
Trustee Murer	Present	Student Trustee Johnson	Yes
Trustee Sanchez	Yes	Vice Chair Vella	Yes
Trustee Siegel	Yes		

The motion was approved with five voting Yes and two voting Present.

Agenda Item 9.a.(5) – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology Research Survey

This is a very exciting research project in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, which has received a major federal grant for its ROCK (Rapid Optimization of Commercial Knowledge) program, the President said. This request is to sole source a contract with the Center for Tribology in order to provide its \$1.1 million contract. This is a pass-through to this firm for the application of coatings to military vehicles. Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology Research Survey request. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(6) – Grant Towers Student Lounge Furniture and Equipment

Consent Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 9.a.(7) – Recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotions with Tenure for the 2005-2006 Academic Year

This item is the annual approval of the recommendations that have come forward after a long deliberative and consultive process, through the academic ranks, from the Provost through the Board's Academic Affairs Committee to the Board of Trustees for faculty promotions, tenure, and promotions with tenure, the President said. The list is smaller than it normally is because of the contraction of our faculty recently. This is a rigorous process. These individuals have met the test, and I am extremely pleased to bring these faculty forward as listed for promotion, tenure, and promotion with tenure.

Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotions with Tenure for the 2005-2006 Academic Year. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. Student Trustee Johnson noted that Board *Bylaws* prohibit the student trustee from casting a vote on this item. The roll call vote was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Strauss	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Student Trustee Johnson	Present
Trustee Sanchez	--	Vice Chair Vella	Yes
Trustee Siegel	Yes		

The motion was approved with five voting Yes and one voting Present.

Agenda Item 9.a.(8) – Appointments with Rank and Tenure

We are requesting that the Board of Trustees grant tenure to three experienced individuals who will be joining the university, two in administrative professorial capacities and the other as a full professor, President Peters said. Steven Ralston, with the rank of professor, will chair the Department of Communication effective July 1. His biographical statement is attached. Kurt Michael Thurmaier is being appointed to the rank of Professor in our prestigious Division of Public Administration. And Deborah Holdstein, with the rank of Professor, will chair the Department of English. These are outstanding individuals. They have achieved academic tenure at other universities, and it is only appropriate that we consider their tenure at this time, the President concluded.

Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the appointments with rank and tenure of Drs. Steven Ralston, Kurt Thurmaier and Deborah Holdstein. A roll call vote was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Strauss	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Student Trustee Johnson	Present
Trustee Sanchez	--	Vice Chair Vella	Yes
Trustee Siegel	Yes		

The motion was approved with five voting Yes and one voting Present.

Agenda Item 9.a.(9) – Appointment of the Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology

After a very long, thorough and appropriate search, the Provost has recommended the appointment of Dr. Promod Vohra to be Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, the President said. Dr. Vohra is well known to our academic community. He has served us well for many years as a professor and as interim dean, and he emerged to be selected from a very strong national field.

I know that I can vote yes on this motion, Student Trustee Johnson said, and will enthusiastically do so. As I said during the committee meeting, this year there were not many items that students called the student trustee about. Most of the calls had to do with complaints on fees or other such items, but the one positive thing that students kept calling about was Dr. Vohra being made Dean of the College of Engineering. And I hope that as we go forward with searches for Business and Liberal Arts and Sciences that we recruit the caliber of candidate that we have in Dr. Vohra.

I would like to say that Dr. Vohra is an excellent administrator, Trustee Siegel said. He is dedicated, he is deserving, he has the best interests of NIU at heart, and it was a solid decision for the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. I believe that Dr. Vohra is the best choice for Dean of the College of Engineering.

I have known the dean for many years, Trustee Boey said, and have seen the accomplishments and the growth of Dr. Vohra through the years. Everything that is possible has been said many times over, so I will only say this: I have great confidence and am extremely comfortable voting for Dr. Vohra to be the permanent dean.

The dean has always been very gracious to anyone who comes to the university, Trustee Murer said, and when I first joined the Foundation Board, he extended himself to me as a Foundation Board member and graciously showed the Foundation the Engineering department. I think this is a wonderful accomplishment, not only for the dean himself, but also for the university.

Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Promod Vohra as Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Johnson. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(10) – Appointment of the Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

We have a vacancy in the deanship of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences due to the tragic death of our beloved Dean Kitterle. Fortunately, there is an outstanding individual who has served the college well in many capacities for many years, and that is Dr. Joseph Grusch. He has the unanimous support of the Provost, the college councils and the faculty. And I ask you to affirm the appointment of Dr. Joseph Grusch as Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. I echo what Dr. Peters just said, Trustee Boey commented. I also have extreme confidence in Dr. Grusch and feel we are fortunate to have such a great replacement at this particular time.

Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Joseph Grusch as Acting Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(11) – Appointment of the Interim Dean of the College of Business

The appointment of Interim Dean of College of Business would be effective as of June 30, President Peters said. David Graf, dean of the college, is retiring. We have an ongoing national search for a dean of business, but we need to appoint an interim dean of the College of Business that would be effective June 30. Again, we have another outstanding individual who we can appoint with great confidence, and that is Dr. William Tallon.

Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. William Tallon as Interim Dean of the College of Business. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 9.b.(1) – Fiscal Years 2005 and 2006 Appropriated Budget Updates

President Peters asked Ken Zehnder, Assistant Director-External Affairs and Economic Development, to give a brief report on the Fiscal Year 2005-2006 appropriated Budget.

Mr. Zehnder reported that the General Assembly concluded their regular session at the end of May, just a few days after the adjournment date. The budget bill that was signed by Governor Blagojevich last week contained \$2.2 billion for all of higher education, which represents a two-tenths of one percent increase.

For the second year in a row, there was no capital bill, Mr. Zehnder said, only some rollover reappropriations from prior years. That means there was no new deferred maintenance money and no funding for the projects on our IBHE capital list. There were a total of 7,140 bills and resolutions introduced this year, 715 of which passed both chambers. Of the 95 of those on our tracking list that had significant impact on NIU, 29 passed. Some of the subject areas were students in military service status; course transferability; athletic trainers licensing; teacher certification; ticket scalping reforms, which impacts the convocation center; student registration information – we have to put voter registration information in our mailings; privacy issues; and open meeting requirements. Some of those bills have not yet reached the Governor's desk, but we anticipate he will be signing, if not amending, most of those.

As mentioned earlier, Mr. Zehnder said, what often happens is the bills that do not pass are of more importance to us than those that do, such as House Bill 476, the Naming Rights Bill, impacting the Foundation, which did not get out of Senate committee. Another was Senate Bill 131 which would have permitted a community college in our service area to grant baccalaureate degrees. This did not get out of

the chamber of origination. These bills and a summary and their status can be obtained by going to the NIU web site, Office of External Affairs and Economic Development, and keying on legislative updates. A full summary of all the bills we are tracking is there along with links to the General Assembly web page where you will find the full text of each bill.

Item 9.b.(2) – Student System Replacement Project Update

As the Board knows, Dr. Williams said, we have been in the process of evaluating the effects of the Oracle's hostile takeover of PeopleSoft and the impact on our pending purchase of a new student system. The student system deals with registration, eliminates the use of social security numbers and has many other fundamental qualities, provisions and benefits that we need. This is a major acquisition for us. We are in the process of negotiating with two vendors on how we should proceed. I would like to commend Steve Pace, who has become our chief negotiator. He has sliced millions of dollars off of the proposals for these systems.

We are not prepared at this point to present a proposal. We are working on reducing and investigating other costs that might be connected or associated with any one of the two choices before us. For example, one choice may require us to add air conditioning and ventilation systems to one of our rooms so that the required equipment can be properly accommodated. What we would ask, Madam Vice Chair, is that the Board be receptive to information on this possible transaction over the summer. If we are able to conclude our negotiations and provide a favorable recommendation to you, we will certainly want to have the opportunity to share that information and move forward with deliberations on the proposals. We thank you for your patience with this. We are at a major crossroad and want to make sure we are taking the proper steps. We do not want to expose the university to future losses because of a system that will not either meet our specifications or that will not be available on the market after five years. We will keep you apprised and look forward to providing you with information this summer.

Item 9.b.(3) – 2004-2005 Program Review Summary

Consent Agenda Item.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 9.c.(1)— Grant and Contract Awards

Consent Agenda Item.

CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 32

Agenda Item 10.a. – Executive Session Minutes Release

The Illinois Open Meetings Act requires public bodies to review the minutes of their executive sessions on a semiannual basis and determine what part of the minutes they should make available to the public because they no longer require confidential treatment, Vice Chair Vella said. Accordingly, Item 10.a. is proposed for compliance with the legal requirement by taking action upon the duly approved executive session minutes of January 1996 through March 2005 of either the full Board of Trustees or standing committees of the Board which have not previously been released from confidentiality. Upon review and advice of the Board's General Counsel, I, as presiding officer, recommend that we approve 10.a. and release from confidentiality specified sections of the executive session minutes as reviewed and advised above. Those sections, if any, which are still subject to confidentiality, together with sections from subsequent meetings, will be considered again in approximately six months. Vice Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Executive Session Minutes Release. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.c. – Resolution - Student Trustee Eric J. Johnson

Agenda Item 10.c. contains a resolution honoring our outgoing Student Trustee, Eric Johnson. I want to personally thank Eric again for his leadership and outstanding service to this Board of Trustees, Vice Chair Vella said. You have been a valued member of this Board and an excellent representative for the students. Their viewpoints have been heard because of your insight and perspective, and you did an

outstanding job. On behalf of my colleagues, I request a motion to approve the Resolution before you today honoring Eric Johnson's contributions to the Board. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel. On behalf of my colleagues, I request a motion to approve the Resolution before you today honoring Eric Johnson's contributions to the Board. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel. The motion was approved.

The Resolution was as follows:

RESOLUTION – STUDENT TRUSTEE ERIC J. JOHNSON

WHEREAS, Eric J. Johnson has faithfully served as a student member of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees for the year ending June 30, 2005; and

WHEREAS, prior to his election as student trustee in 2004, Eric J. Johnson served as chief justice of the Student Association Supreme Court, capping four years of service to the Student Association at Northern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, Eric Johnson invested much time and energy in his studies as a Political Science major at Northern Illinois University as well as in service to students, contributing valuable insight and information to the Board of Trustees regarding the student perspective on the rising costs of textbooks, promoting campus diversity and striving to maintain NIU's affordability despite major budget reductions from the state; and

WHEREAS, we as his colleagues on the Board of Trustees want to express our appreciation for his service to the NIU students and community; and

WHEREAS, we are proud of his May 2005 graduation from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and are pleased his leadership skills extended not only to students and to the Board of Trustees but also to the DeKalb County Board where he has been elected to represent the residents of County Board District #6; and

WHEREAS, Eric J. Johnson has led by example and been involved in the political process, serving in the NIU College Republican organization, as well as being elected state chairman for the Illinois College Republican Federation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University in formal meeting herein assembled, extends its grateful appreciation to Eric J. Johnson for his leadership and service to Northern Illinois University students, the Board of Trustees and the DeKalb community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this **RESOLUTION** be presented to Eric J. Johnson and a copy of this document be placed in the official files of the Board of Trustees as part of the permanent record of the university and the great state of Illinois and as a lasting tribute to the accomplishments of Eric J. Johnson.

Adopted in a regular meeting assembled this 16th day of **June, 2005**.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Barbara Giorgi Vella
Vice Chair

Attest: George A. Moser
Secretary



Student Trustee Johnson's remarks were as follows:

I want to be really brief about this. Since I was sworn in a year ago, we have seen amazing accomplishments. In my year on the Board, we have witnessed the opening of Altgeld Hall, the purchase of the Monsanto center, the opening of the Neutron Therapy Lab, the NIU Huskies winning the Silicon Valley Football Classic, the groundbreaking for the Alumni Center and the announcement of an end zone facility for Athletics. I do not think there was much more we could

do. Despite reductions in state budgets and problems that pop up here and there, we have done good things, and I hope this Board continues to push forward in these endeavors.

I just want to say a couple of thank yous. First, to my fellow Board members who welcomed a student coming onto a Board that deals with over \$300 million, a heavy responsibility. Dr. Peters, Dr. Williams, Dr. Legg, I do not know how you keep this university running so efficiently. I have a hard time balancing a checkbook, yet you manage to keep things going. As a political junkie, I want to thank Kathy Buettner, Ken Zehnder and Rena Cotsones for their knowledge of state, federal and local politics. They were always willing to share that knowledge and give me insight, which I appreciated as a political science major. To Dr. Seaver and Dr. Hemphill, thank you for taking the *Northern Star's* heat this year instead of letting it be put on the Student Association. Hopefully, you will be willing to continue that role next year. To Kevin Miller and Andrew Nelms, my predecessor and successor, as well as the rest of my friends who have been there and stood by me through these times. To Dean Vohra, once again, congratulations and thank you for your guidance. Although not my college, I consider you my dean. And most importantly, to the students of Northern Illinois University, thank you for electing me to serve in this role.

Thank you very much, Eric, Vice Chair Vella said, it has been a real pleasure to work with you. You student trustees give us a lot of insight into what the students are thinking, and that is very helpful to all of us.

Eric is part of a long line of distinguished student leaders who have served in many capacities, President Peters said, particularly as a student trustee.

OTHER MATTERS

I would just like to thank Kathy Buettner for this whole meeting, which was brought together by her and her staff, Vice Chair Vella said. We had three events to get through in this meeting, which lasted a little over four hours, and we all appreciate Kathy's hard work for helping us make it a nice, smooth procedure.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The Vice Chair announced that the next meeting of the Board of Trustees was scheduled for Thursday, September 15.

ADJOURNMENT

The Vice Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Mimms
Recording Secretary