

Minutes of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
March 23, 2006

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Barbara Giorgi Vella at approximately 9:08 a.m. in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Sharon Mimms conducted a roll call of Trustees. Members present were Trustees Robert Boey, Cheryl Murer, Myron Siegel, Marc Strauss and Student Trustee Andrew Nelms. Present via teleconference were Trustee George Moser and Chair Vella. Not present 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, 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 50, Action Items 9.a.(5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (13), (14), (16), (18), (19), (20), (21), and (24), and Information Items 9.b.(1), (2), (3), (4), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11) and (12), and 9.c.(2) to that Consent Agenda. May I have a motion to approve the revised meeting agenda as now proposed? Trustee Murer made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Trustee Boey seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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, and Executive Session Minutes matters are generally described under §2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act.. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Nelms. A roll call vote of the Trustees was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Moser	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Trustee Siegel	Yes
Trustee Strauss	Yes	Student Trustee Nelms	Yes
Chair Vella	Yes		

A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Executive Session was unanimous.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECONVENED

Vice Chair Murer reconvened the public meeting of the Board of Trustees at approximately 11:22 a.m. The Vice Chair said that she would defer to the Chair as soon as she returns via teleconference.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Trustee Siegel to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2005 Board Meeting. The motion was approved.

Chair Vella reentered the meeting via teleconference.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

As you will note, Chair Vella said, we have a very full agenda this morning. At this time, I want to extend my congratulations to our men's and women's basketball teams this year. For the first time ever, Huskie Men's Basketball won the MAC West Division Title. Our women's program deserves accolades as well. It has been four years since they have been invited to Cleveland to play in the MAC Post Season Tournament. I am proud of our outstanding athletes. Their hard work, both on and off the court, is paying off. I also wanted to commend our wrestlers, who just concluded a very successful season at the NCAA Championships in Oklahoma last week. This season NIU matched its best ever finish at the Midlands Championships, a tie for sixth, tallied their fifth consecutive 10-plus win season, upset No. 12 ranked Wisconsin on the road, and sent three wrestlers to the NCAA Championships. They are Pat Castillo, Josh Wooton and Johnny Galloway. They displayed the fight and skill that is synonymous with Northern Illinois wrestling all season. Huskie wrestling continues to garner notice as a program on the rise. Again, my congratulations to all Huskie athletes for a job well-done.

Turning to our agenda today, I am pleased and relieved to be able to offer thanks to Governor Blagojevich for his FY07 budget recommendation which provides a 1.2 percent increase in general revenue base funding to NIU. This is the first General Revenue increase NIU and the other public universities have been in line to receive since 2002. While it is really not enough to make up for the budget reductions and rescissions over the last four years, it is a start, and we are all very grateful.

I am looking forward to hearing from two NIU students later in the meeting as they describe residence hall programs to support NIU students who need additional academic help. Now, I will ask President Peters to introduce those guests from the basketball team who are present.

President Peters asked Athletic Director James Phillips to come forward and introduce members of this year's MAC West Division Men's Basketball Championship team.

It is my pleasure to introduce some of our fine student athletes that represent our men's basketball team, Jim Phillips said. As you have heard me say before, we try to provide a world class student athlete experience academically, socially and athletically. And if I were to model that world class student athlete, we have two examples with us today. Academically, we have Todd Peterson and Anthony Maestranzi, two seniors set on course for graduation. Socially, I will just tell you that they have been engaged in a half dozen community service activities: the Red Cross in the Hurricane Katrina effort, the Kishwaukee Hospital event where they raised money and spent time with sick children in the area, and they are preparing for a cancer walk coming up in April. Finally, athletically, a wonderful season – 17 and 11 – for the first time ever in our history, MAC West champs, and it is not a fluke. It is due to the hard work of these two young men. Without any further ado, I would like each of them to come up and say a few words. Again, Todd Peterson and Anthony Maestranzi, and we also have Coach Sean Harrington with us this morning. Comments were as follows:

Harrington:

Thank you for having us here. It is a pleasure to come and talk to the Board. I am Sean Harrington, director of basketball operations over for the team. Coach Judson wanted to be here, but he is out hot on the recruiting trail. There are a couple of big tournaments where he is trying to find some recruits to replace these two. It is a tough thing to do. I brought a few t-shirts for you Board members – MAC West Champions. Please wear them with pride. But these two are the reason for our success. We had great seniors this year, and we are going to miss them. You are only as strong as your seniors, and they have definitely set the bar up high for us. It was their work ethic, determination and leadership that got us to the championship. So, hopefully, they passed it along to our juniors and sophomores and those team members will be ready to step up.

Maestranzi:

Thanks for having us, and thank you for recognizing us today. I just wanted to let you know that I had a great experience here at NIU for four years. And, as Mr. Phillips said, the Athletic Department does a great job of giving us a world-class experience. Academically, athletically and socially, Mr. Phillips and our coaches do a great job of helping us and teaching us how life here at NIU is going to relate to the real world. I think I have learned a lot, and Todd will tell you the same thing. I believe we are ready to go out into the real world. We appreciate all your support of the NIU Men's Basketball team and hope that it continues. Hopefully, they will keep bringing MAC championships. Thank you.

Peterson:

Again, thank you for having us here. We appreciate being able to get word out. I could not have picked a better school than Northern Illinois University. I played in a brand new building at the convocation center. I went to school in a brand new building in Barsema Hall. And, it is perfect for me. Northern is a great place, and you all make it what it is. I feel fortunate to be part of it and to receive the benefits from all the hard work you do. So, I am glad to give back a little bit and helping with the MAC West championship. Go Huskies.

I just want to take a couple of seconds to tell our two seniors that I have attended most of our home games, Trustee Boey said, and I want to thank you for the four years that you have given us. The thing I always remember about your efforts is, as I watch you on the court, you exemplify the efforts you give us, win or lose, and we thank you for that. It was a good season, and I hope we can keep going. But, the important thing is that you gave us your best. Thank you again, and may you have a great future, whatever your intentions.

I would like to add my congratulations, Chair Vella said, to the coaches, to the athletic director and, of course, to these two outstanding young men who exemplify well-rounded and mature students. Good luck in your future endeavors.

I want to also thank Director Phillips for bringing these two young men here today, Trustee Murer said. It is always important when the students come to visit. This is what the university is about – the students. Thank you for your help and for your support. We wish you the best in the future.

At this time, then, the Chair said, I want to welcome the University Advisory Committee representatives who may be present this morning: Dr. Paul Stoddard, Dr. Xueshu Song, Dr. Ferald Bryan, Dr. Joseph Stephen, Ms. Shey Lowman and Ms. Rachel Turner.

Shey Lowman, President of the Supportive Professional Staff Council, made the following comments:

I am here to say goodbye. I have been at the university for over 32 years and will be retiring at the end of this month. I wanted to thank the Board and the administration for your support of all staff and faculty and students participating in the shared governance system here. Over the course of my career, I started as a keypunch verifier and ended up being the director of Document Services. I have been able to do things here that I could have never done outside the university. The printing industry is still very male dominated. So, I have been really grateful for the opportunities that I have had. I want to thank all my NIU friends who raised me and taught me things. And I really want to thank the Board and the administration for all their support. Good luck in the future.

I feel that it would be appropriate for us to thank Shey Lowman for her efforts and her contributions to the shared governance system and for her time here at Northern, stated Rachel Turner, President of the Operating Staff Council. Personally, being a newcomer to this environment, Shey has helped me acclimate to it, and I appreciate that. Also, I appreciate her efforts to try to create a stronger relationship between the Supportive Professional Staff Council and the Operating Staff Council. And that is something that we should continue to try to push forward.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The 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.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS

We will move on to Reports of Board Committees and Board Liaisons, the Chair said. In keeping with our new agenda format, thank you for your cooperation in keeping the Committee and liaison reports to two minutes each. This should provide the Board with additional time to consider the action and information items as part of the President's Report.

Executive Committee

There was no report from the Executive Committee.

Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee

Committee Chair Boey reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee met on Wednesday, March 1. At that meeting, the committee considered and endorsed the following action items: Sabbatical Leaves for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff, a Request for a New Minor in Cognitive Studies, Transfer of Tenure Location within the College of Education, and the appointment of the Dean of the College of Business, Denise Shoenbachler. The committee heard reports on the following information items as well: the Annual Oral English Proficiency Report for 2004 and 2005, Regional Delivery Fees and the Annual IBHE Report on Underrepresented Groups for 2004 and 2005.

Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee

Committee Vice Chair Boey reported that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee also met on March 1. At that meeting, the committee considered and approved recommendations for Student Fees and Room and Board Rates for the upcoming academic year as well as regional delivery fees. The recommendations were developed through a consultative process and are reflective of the budget challenges the university faces in Fiscal Year 2006-07. Also presented to the committee was a walk-on item regarding the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center. Additional items considered by the committee were expenditure authorizations and project approvals for student accident and sickness insurance, campus dormitories fire sprinkler system, housing for students with dependents, Swen Parson HVAC upgrade and various other items which are included on the consent agenda. The committee received the following reports: Fiscal Year 2006-07 budget and legislative update, Fiscal Year 2006 increment summary report and various other periodic reports. Many of the items addressed by the committee are included in the President's Report that President Peters will present for Board approval at this meeting.

Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Siegel reported that the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee, met on Tuesday, February 28, at NIU Hoffman Estates. Ken Zehnder reported on the difficult budget climate in Springfield. NIU is scheduled to receive a 1.2 percent increase in higher education funding over the FY06 rate. Ken also explained that there was a small recommendation for capital this year, but the majority of the money will go to deferred maintenance and community colleges still utilizing temporary structures. Other important pieces of legislation included the naming rights legislation, House Bill 476; but there has been no action on this bill since May of last year. An amendment to the fire sprinkler act would mandate that student fees pay for the installation. We are opposed to that legislation as it interferes with student fee decisions which historically have been the decision of the universities. Steve Cunningham gave a brief update on the pension issue in our first fiscal year since the pension funding cut. This year's 5.5 percent contribution by the state is down from 11 percent. Steve also discussed a review in HR concerning employee conduct in the workplace and said that many of the rules and regulations concerning our employees fall under the purview of state and federal laws and standards. Our own policies are extensive and integrate the federal and state policies. The committee asked that certain studies be done, and our formal recommendations will be presented to President Peters in the near future.

Kathy Buettner gave a brief overview of the DuPage Technology Park and NIU's collaboration with Argonne for the proposed proton therapy/hadron therapy facility. The Fiscal Year 2005 Compliance Audit Report was released just before our meeting. We had no repeat findings. There were eight findings in the 2005 report. Bob Albanese thanked Sharon Downen and Keith Jackson for their hard work with the internal auditing procedures but indicated there was more work to be done. We note that the auditing firm assigned to NIU was changed this past year, and it would be naïve to expect them not to find something to report in the first year of their audit. However, eight audit findings is a lot in comparison to our recent history, and the LAEA Committee made its feelings known concerning some of these audit findings. We will keep a very close eye on the areas highlighted in the audit findings and may have the responsible areas report to the LAEA Committee sooner than the start of the next audit to assure that remedial action has been taken to prevent repeat findings. Trustee Strauss raised some very good questions and requested a presentation of our audit process at a future meeting. There continues to be a lot of behind the scenes activity on legislative matters that I hope to report on at our next meeting.

Illinois Board of Higher Education

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

Universities Civil Service Merit Board

Board Liaison Marc Strauss reported that the Universities Civil Service Merit Board met in Champaign-Urbana February 15. Several action items were handled at that meeting. First, as I reported at the last meeting, there is a project designed to codify certain rules and regulations. They were published for comment the first time on January 6. The public comment period has closed. At the May 24 Merit Board meeting, there will again be consideration, and at that point the rules will be forwarded to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules to begin a second 45-day notice period. So, anybody interested in commenting is appropriately advised. Second, there was approval for an increase in the amount of compensation for hearing officers from \$300 to \$500. Provision was made that in the event that there is cancellation of a disciplinary hearing within five days of the scheduled date, the \$500 stipend would still be due. There was consideration of the budget amount of the Universities Civil Service Merit Board, and it will be a 1.4 percent increase for a grand total of \$17,600.

Many of you have had the opportunity to deal with Dennis Smith from the Civil Service Merit Board on occasions in the past. Dennis announced his retirement effective April 30.

At the last Board meeting, I reported that the Civil Service Merit Board was in the process of putting together a constituency survey. They still intend to do that, however, the prototype has not yet been received by the Civil Service Merit Board. The hope is it will be available for our input at the main meeting and be released thereafter.

The classification examinations developed or being recently completed for electronic administration, as I have reported on previously, is a program that has been receiving increased implementation. Over 750 exams have already been taken. The classification examinations have developed and include job classifications in secretarial series; electrician, plumber, carpenter series; building service worker series; medical, social service series; printers; food service workers; locksmiths; and so on. The Computerized Job Assessment Initiative is also moving forward. This has so far involved admissions and records, customer service representatives and nursing consultant series, and we expect to have continued development in this area as well. The conversion to e-testing is also continuing. Within the next year to 18 months, we hope 50 to 60 percent of all examinations will be completed in the e-test format. There was, unfortunately, one discharge hearing; however, it did not involve any employee of this institution.

Northern Illinois University Foundation

Board Liaison Boey deferred to the President of the Foundation, Mallory Simpson, for this report. I will start with a quick update on the Academic and Athletic Performance Center, Ms. Simpson said. We have raised \$7.3 million to date, exceeding our minimum goal of \$7 million last fall.

Major gift announcements today all focus on endowment giving. Perhaps no group understands the impact of endowment better than our own faculty and staff, and I have three examples to give you today. Having taught voice in the School of Music for 33 years, Diane Ragains Slawin knows the importance of a piano accompanist for vocal music students. When funds were not available, Diane dug into her own pocket often to pay for one. This winter, Diane decided to take care of the problem permanently and made an endowment with a \$25,000 gift, which was matched by \$25,000 from her sister, to ensure that all future generations of vocal students would have the significant benefit of working with an accompanist.

Next, I am very proud to report that one of our Development staff, Deborah Fransen, who is the major gift officer assigned to the College of Education, along with her husband Jim have established their own \$25,000 endowment fund for literacy education providing much-needed scholarship support for doctoral students as well as general program support. To achieve the necessary endowment level, Deborah is taking advantage of something that she advises to her donors often and that is the power of matching gift, made possible, in her case, through Jim's corporation. So one of the messages here is that our donors do not always have to go it alone.

The last gift to announce today is the story of esteemed teacher and researcher, Joseph Harry, who left his mark on the university with a \$162,000 bequest to endow a scholarship fund. Professor Harry taught sociology for 20 years and was a vocal student rights advocate. Now his legacy at NIU will extend beyond the classroom and the research arena, and his dedication to students will be memorialized in this scholarship support.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the items placed on the consent agenda earlier in the meeting. They include President's Report Number 50, Action Items 9.a.(5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (13), (14), (16), (18), (19), (20), (21), and (24), and Information Items 9.b.(1), (2), (3), (4), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11) and (12), and 9.c.(2). Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Nelms. The motion was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 50

We have several action items to consider this morning, President Peters said, so my remarks will be brief. First, I want to reiterate my sense that NIU and the rest of Illinois public higher education continue to watch the Fiscal Year 2007 budget situation very closely. To date, the Governor's budget, with a modest 1.2 percent increase, continues to hold firm, and I believe it eventually will be passed. The amount of our increase is far less significant than the fact that it represents the first increase we have received in more than four years. Last year at this time, I told you that I felt we had at least put the brakes on the spiraling budget decline in the state. And, if we follow on this year with the proposed modest increase, I think we can all feel relatively confident that the turnaround is real and economic recovery in our state is beginning to have positive implications for all agencies of state government, especially higher education.

Later today, I will be sending another of my periodic all-campus e-mails to update you on several issues. One of them I am going to announce at this time as well. Over the past two years, we have saved nearly \$2 million by shutting down most of our campus buildings on Fridays throughout the summer months. Following the enthusiastic endorsement again this year from our Operating Staff Council and our Supportive Professional Staff Council, we will once again have a four-day extended work-hour workweek this summer. I understand that this means working longer hours Monday through Thursday, but the staff have been nearly unanimous in their comments to me in support of the longer hour, shorter workweek option, and it does save dollars.

While I cannot provide any specific information at this time, we are once again working on a salary increment program that builds on raises we have been able to give through reallocation. And, hopefully, this year, with an increase in GR, we can extend that. I have said it before, and I will say it again, salary improvement is my number one priority for NIU because it has ripple effects and impact on the whole university, especially students. We have not had much to work with, but I sincerely believe that we have kept our priorities in the right place during these recent budget years. If ever there were times to reward

people for rising to the occasion, it would be during these tough budgetary times when everyone is working harder, longer and smarter in service to our students and our region. We cannot be any more specific about our plans for 2007 until we have a final budget. And as soon as that is nailed down, I will let the campus community know what to expect.

We have a number of routine items to deal with today. Most of them have already been put on the consent agenda. Even at that, the remaining items up for discussion range from the formal appointment of a new college dean to information on a new building project aimed at students with young families.

But before we delve into those specific issues, I want to update the community on the status of our search for a new executive vice president and provost. The Provost's Search Committee continues to meet. In fact, we are progressing efficiently but thoroughly through our review of candidate applications. Without breaching the pledge of confidentiality, I can tell you that NIU has attracted a very impressive pool of candidates for this position. And I had expected that. Our search consultants have been in conversations with many of these candidates. And it has been very interesting to learn what the candidates are saying about NIU and why they see this position as a plum. First of all, and I think this is a key, the region we serve with all its diversity, rich complexity and mix of rural, suburban and urban cultures is a huge draw for top administrators from around the country. Second, the consultants tell us they are consistently hearing candidates express their admiration for the way NIU is engaged with its region; how our faculty take advantage of the living laboratory we call the Chicagoland area. By weaving real world experiences in the learning process, these candidates have looked closely into the academic and scholarly life of our university. And I have seen myriad examples of faculty research and publications that are heavily influenced by our region and by the region in which they work. Third, they mention our shared governance system which they say is a model for mutually beneficial relationships between and among various employment groups, the administration and our governing board. They also mentioned that our governing board is a strength, because it appears that they are supportive of such actions as sabbaticals, tenure and the progress of the university. So all in all, the process of finding a new chief academic officer has once again provided these wonderful windows for us to see our institution through the eyes of strangers. Their observations remind us that the practice and values that we may take for granted seem quite extraordinary to others. And I will continue to keep you updated on this very important search. We remain on target so far and fully expect to be able to allow Ivan to begin a well earned rest in just a few months.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 9.a.(1) – Fiscal Year 2007 Student Fee Recommendations

The Fiscal Year 2007 Student Fee Recommendations, begins on page 12 of your Board report with detailed explanations on pages 13 through 16, President Peters said. All of the recommendations in my report come from our Board of Trustees committees and have their unanimous support. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2007 Student Fee Recommendations. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Nelms. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(2) – Fiscal Year 2007 Room and Board Rate Recommendations

The Fiscal Year 2007 Room and Board Rate Recommendations begin on page 17, the President said. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2007 Room and Board Rate Recommendations. Student Trustee Nelms so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(3) – Fiscal Year 2007 Regional Delivery Fees

We are requesting a \$10 marginal increase in programs for health sciences, for the basic outreach delivery fee and a conference tuition rate to provide our faculty with a subsidy to be able to evaluate the academic papers associated with conferences that are brought to the Chicagoland area, President Peters said. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2007 Regional Delivery Fees. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(4) – Fiscal Year 2007 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Contract Renewal

The Fiscal Year 2007 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Contract Renewal was negotiated, the President said, and is related to the increase in the rate that we charge students for insurance. This continues to be a very favorable rate. Students who can show proof of insurability can opt out of this program. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2007 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Contract Renewal. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Nelms. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(5) – Fiscal Year 2007 Mass Transit Contract Renewal

Agenda Item 9.a.(6) – Fiscal Year 2007 Athletic Sports Camp Housing and Meal Expenditure

Agenda Item 9.a.(7) – Fiscal Year 2007 International Programs Division Contracts Renewal

Agenda Item 9.a.(8) – Fiscal Year 2007 *Northern Star* Contract Renewal

Agenda Item 9.a.(9) – Fiscal Year 2007 Waste Management Contract Renewal

Agenda Item 9.a.(10) – Fiscal Year 2007 Document Services Copier and Controller System Contract Renewal

Agenda Item 9.a.(11) – Fiscal Year 2007 Copy Paper – ITS Document Services and Materials Management

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.a.(12) – Campus Dormitories – Install Fire Sprinkler Systems – Capital Project Approval

This is a request to begin the process of evaluating the installation of fire sprinkler systems in the residence halls, President Peters said. This is a safety issue mandated by legislation signed by the Governor. Chair Vella entertained a motion to approve the campus dormitories fire sprinkler systems installation. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(13) – College Avenue – Street Reconstruction – Capital Project Approval

Agenda Item 9.a.(14) – Davis Hall – Construct Cleanroom and Organic Lab – Capital Project Approval

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.a.(15) – Housing for Students with Dependents – Capital Project Approval

This item was replaced by Information Item 9.b.(14).

Agenda Item 9.a.(16) – Neptune West – Roof replacement – Capital Project Approval

Consent Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 9.a.(17) – Swen Parson Hall – College of Law HVAC Upgrade – Capital Project Approval

We are in the process of repairing roofs and sealing brick work on Swen Parson Hall, which houses the College of Law, the President said, but it also needs an HVAC Upgrade to repair the ventilation system. Therefore, we are requesting a budget of \$575,000 to provide for this much-needed upgrade. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Swen Parson Hall College of Law HVAC Upgrade. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Moser. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(18) – Zulauf Hall – Elevator Replacement – Capital Project Approval

Agenda Item 9.a.(19) – Business and Industry Services Training Contract Extension

Agenda Item 9.a.(20) – Information Technology Services computer Laboratory Equipment

Agenda Item 9.a.(21) – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology Research and Development

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.a.(22) – Recommendations for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for the 2006-2007 Academic Year

The Recommendations for Faculty and supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for 2006 and 2007 were discussed in the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee meeting on March 1. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve these recommendations. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Trustee Moser. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(23) – Request for a New Minor

This request is for a new Minor in Cognitive Studies, President Peters said. It was very much the idea of Former Dean Fred Kitterle. This is a very good interdisciplinary major that focuses on the study of the brain and brain function as it impacts on any number of academic areas. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the request for a new Minor in Cognitive Studies. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(24) – Transfer of Tenure Location

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.a.(25) – Appointment of the Dean of the College of Business

It is now my pleasure to recommend approval of the Appointment of the Dean of the College of Business, President Peters said. After a national search, Dr. Denise Shoenbachler has been selected for appointment as the Dean of the College of Business. I enthusiastically, on behalf of the College of Business, the Provost and the entire NIU academic community, request approval of this appointment.

I know Denise from the days of the last presidential search committee, Trustee Boey said, which was made up of over 22 committed members. From that experience, I gained a lot of comfort that we are getting a dean who is a person of commitment and a person of courage under fire. I am delighted, and my congratulations of support go to Denise.

Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the appointment. It was the consensus of the Board that the entire Board of Trustees move the motion and unanimously second the appointment of Dr. Denise Shoenbachler as Dean of the College of Business. The motion was approved.

Dr. Shoenbachler's comments were as follows:

I would like to thank you very much. As I said in the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee meeting, I am very pleased with this opportunity to take the College of Business into the future. Thank you all for your support. I look forward to working with you.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 9.b.(1) – Fiscal Year 2006 Increment Summary report

Agenda Item 9.b.(2) – Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000

Agenda Item 9.b.(3) – Periodic Report on Investments

Agenda Item 9.b.(4) – Energy Infrastructure Improvements Performance Contract

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.b.(5) – Implementation of University Commercial Procurement Credit Card System

Implementation of the University Commercial Procurement Credit Card System was previously discussed in the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee meeting, President Peters said, and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. As I understand it, Trustee Strauss said, under the current system, there would be some check required before a purchasing decision was made. With the use of the card, what checks and balances continue to be in place as opposed to requiring preapproval of the expenditures?

There has been a very deep concern that this be done properly, Dr. Williams said. We have an agreement with the Bank of America, which will issue the cards, for limits to be placed on the amounts

that can be charged. There are limits on vendors and the places where they can be used, and there are limits on the items that can be purchased. Also, there are three levels of review on campus, which include the individual department and college, our Procurement Office and our Accounting Office will be involved in conjunction with periodic reviews from Internal Audit. We are using this as a pilot program, so there are only 16 departments involved in the initial implementation. This will give us the experience and the opportunity to fine tune the procedure to make sure that we are covering all bases.

Agenda Item 9.b.(6) – Oral English Proficiency Annual Report 2004-2005

Agenda Item 9.b.(7) – Annual IBHE Report on Underrepresented Groups 2004-2005

Agenda Item 9.b.(8) – Substantive Legislation

Agenda Item 9.b.(9) – Fiscal Year 2007 Higher Education Budget Recommendations – Operations and Grants

Agenda Item 9.b.(10) – 2006 Congressional Legislative Update/Budget Reconciliation Update

Agenda Item 9.b.(11) – NIU Institute for Neutron Therapy at FermiLab

Agenda Item 9.b.(12) – Northern Illinois University's Research Initiatives at DuPage National Technology Park at DuPage Airport

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.b.(13) – Fiscal Year 2005 Compliance Audit Report

Agenda Item 9.b.(14) – Housing for Students with Dependents

There were no questions from the Trustees regarding the above items.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 9.c.(1) – Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center Acquisition Agreement

I am very pleased to recommend to the Board an agreement for the transfer of Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center from the NIU Foundation, who we thank greatly for being the developer of this project, to the university. This is a great partnership with the Foundation that allows us to be able to complete projects that we otherwise would not be able to do, Trustee Strauss commented, so I heartily endorse this.

Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center acquisition agreement. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.c.(2) – Summary of Grant and Contract Awards

In regard to our report on Grant and Contract Awards, President Peters said, I want to thank all faculty who have gone out and done the hard work of securing external funding for their research and artistry programs.

CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 35

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 parts of the minutes they should make available to the public because they no longer require confidential treatment. Accordingly, Chair Vella said, this item is proposed for compliance with the legal requirement by taking action upon the duly approved Executive Session Minutes of January 1996 through December 2005 of either the full Board of Trustees or standing committees of the Board which have not been previously released from confidentiality. Upon review and advice of the Board's Parliamentarian, who is also the university's General Counsel, I recommend that the Board approve the following sections of Executive Session Minutes for release from confidentiality: Item 2.a. referencing Property Matters and Item 4.a. referencing Personnel Matters from the Executive Session of the June 16, 2005 NIU Board of Trustees meeting; Item 3.b. referencing Property Matters from the Executive Session minutes from September 15, 2005; and Item 4.b., representing Personnel Matters from the December 1, 2005 Executive Session of the Board of Trustees. Those sections which are still subject to confidentiality, together with sections from subsequent meetings, will be considered again in six

months. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve this review and determination for Executive Session Minutes release as stated. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion as approved.

Agenda Item 10.b. – Report on Underprepared Student Programs

Chair Vella asked Dr. Brian Hemphill to introduce two NIU resident assistants who would be speaking to the Board about resident hall life.

It is indeed a pleasure to introduce two outstanding NIU leaders, Ms. Kim Hiller and Mr. Charles Gardner, who serve as community advisors in our residence halls, Dr. Hemphill said. As community advisors, these two are truly on the front lines from day one assisting our entering students with their transition to NIU and this whole world of new independence and responsibility. They are 24/7 hands-on mentors, encouraging students to become engaged in the entire NIU experience. While emphasizing academics, our community advisors encourage students to become involved in all aspects of the rich cultural community here at Northern. These students are integral partners with the Division of Student Affairs, looking at our mission to create student learning opportunities beyond the classroom that inspire intellectual, personal and civic roles for leadership in a diverse and very complex world. So I think you will enjoy hearing from them and looking at the student experience from their perspective.

Ms. Hiller's comments were as follows:

Thank you, Dr. Hemphill, and good morning to the Board of Trustees, President Peters and guests. My name is Kim Hiller, and I am a community advisor in Grant Towers. I am a senior and have worked with freshmen for the past three years. As a community advisor, I witness first-hand the transition freshmen go through adjusting to college life. For some, it is a quick transition. But for others, it takes encouragement to get them out of their rooms to participate in resident life, activities or other NIU events. For example, in my first year as community advisor, I had two residents who were roommates – one who grew up in the city and one who grew up in the country. The transition for the resident from the city was very easy. She quickly made friends on the floor and joined several activities. But her roommate did not have any friends on the floor and spent most of her nights in her room. As a community advisor, I always encourage my freshmen to make the most of their college experience, so I decided to take them both out to lunch. At lunch, both roommates realized that though they came from different backgrounds they did have a lot in common. In the next couple of weeks, I saw a significant change in the young woman who had grown up in the country. She was actually going out with her roommate and interacting with other people from the floor.

I realize, as community advisor, we have a lot of influence on how our residents will spend their years at NIU, especially succeeding academically. Community advisors who work with freshmen in Grant towers, also work with NIU learning assistants. A learning assistant helps freshmen in each hall with their study techniques, choosing classes or even changing their majors. It is amazing how much of a change we see in a freshman's academic success and involvement when they take advantage of this type of assistance. Another significant academic program that made a huge impact on me as a freshman is the Freshman Interest Group, or what we call FIG's. FIG students take several classes together for their first semester. This provides a positive learning environment with several students that they know from the residential halls. They form study groups in the lounge and get help for homework from their next door neighbors. And it is also easier for me to help them as well. For example, if I am helping one student with their communications homework, I know I might be helping others in the same topic. Or, that student may go back to help others with their homework. It is not uncommon for these FIG residents to take classes together, thus building long-lasting friendships.

As a community advisor, I feel NIU has given me the leadership skills, the drive and the opportunities that will prepare me for the future. In addition to being a community advisor, I have participated in 14 different student organizations, served as a University 101 Peer Instructor, studied abroad in Europe, completed three job-related internships, and I am graduating within four years with a minor. I am so honored to have gone to NIU and to have the opportunities to

take part in what this university has to offer. These are the experiences that I will cherish the rest of my life. And now, I would like to introduce my colleague, Charles Gardner.

Mr. Gardner's comments were as follows:

Good morning to the Board of Trustees members, President Peters and guests. My name is Charles Gardner, and I am a sophomore BFA Theatre major with an acting emphasis, which is a fancy way for saying that I study acting. I am also a community advisor for the Fine Arts House, which is a residence hall geared towards Fine Arts majors. There are so many benefits to being a community advisor: being given the responsibility of taking care of 54 students, the honor of being a role model, not to mention the great single room that comes along with the job. But the most rewarding aspect of being a community advisor is being able to motivate students. I am going to be honest, college can be a very complicated and tiring process for some people. After working with the orientation staff last summer, I now know that all most new students need is an encouraging pat on the back, and they will be fine. For example, last semester, one of my residents came to me in total anguish. He was not doing well in his General Education classes, he never had anywhere to play his instrument because the practice rooms in the Fine Arts House were frequently booked, and he was having a hard time meeting new students and making new friends. In a nutshell, he was ready to give up and leave the university. So I sat him down and talked to him. I told him that this was a part of being an artist and, more importantly, part of being a student. You cannot appreciate your success if you have never experienced difficulty or failure. He now is on his way to being in one of the top jazz combos here at Northern, he is the vice president of our residence hall floor, and he also is always in good spirits. Instances like this are why I really love being a community advisor.

Another chance I have had to motivate students was related to the art tables that we will be receiving in the fall. One of my residents did not like the condition of the art tables in the drawing rooms, which is the place where Fine Arts majors and other majors in the Fine Arts House can go to do art projects or work on other homework. So I told him that if he went to the Residence Hall Council and voiced his concern something might be able to be done. So he did. He and I worked very closely researching art tables and their prices, and when we found the best buy, he presented it to the Hall Council as a request for hall improvements. The request was passed, and we will be receiving the tables next fall.

But the coolest thing about being a community advisor is the fact that being a motivator rubs off into every aspect of my life. I am able to use these skills that I receive as a community advisor, as an acting major and as an orientation leader in every aspect of my life. So you can say, in a way, that this leadership position has and will continue to mold me into the person that I hope to become.

I just want to say what a pleasure it is to have both of you, Trustee Murer commented. I think this experience and the leadership that you are showing will continue to be part of your lives.

I want to congratulate you two on the work that you do also, Student Trustee Nelms said. I know the community advisors' roles are very important for the students that live in the halls. And it is certainly in line with Dr. Hemphill's mission of increasing retention and graduation rates. And Kim, congratulations, you succeeded where I failed in graduating in four years.

I just want to tell you how wonderful it is to hear Kim and Charles talk about their experiences, their community work and their work with the students, Chair Vella said. You are wonderful examples of the work that NIU does to help our students acclimate emotionally and socially as well as academically. So, I congratulate you, Dr. Hemphill, and I look forward to future presentations.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, June 15, in DeKalb.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no Other Matters, Chair Vella asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Mimms
Recording Secretary
