

Minutes of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
September 21, 2006

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Barbara Giorgi Vella at approximately 9:05 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, George Moser, Cherilyn Murer, Manny Sanchez, Myron Siegel, Marc Strauss, Student Trustee Andrew Nelms and Chair Vella. 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

Trustee Strauss 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, collective bargaining matters as generally described under §2(c)(2) 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 Murer 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

Chair Vella reconvened the public meeting of the Board of Trustees at approximately 10:53 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Trustee Murer to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2006 Board Meeting. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

As many of you know, Chair Vella said, NIU welcomed its largest freshman class in over ten years to DeKalb on August 24 with a Move-In Residence Hall Welcome staffed by hundreds of faculty, staff and student volunteers eagerly greeting new freshmen and their parents and helping transport thousands of golf carts full of computers, TV's, IPOD's, school supplies and clothing to residence halls all over campus. We now have 3,500 new freshmen on campus and almost 2,000 transfer students. Furthermore, applications to attend NIU were up in every category this fall, and over 1,200 fully qualified students remained on a waiting list after final closure of the admissions process for fall of 2006.

As a Board, we need to continue to make the case in Springfield even more diligently this year for added financial support for our base budget so that we can provide necessary access and an affordable college education to more of the 1,200 qualified students that remain on our waiting list.

As I drove in this morning, I took a route through the residence hall areas and around Huskie Stadium to take a closer look at the construction progress on the Academic and Athletic Performance Center. What an improvement that facility will make for our student athletes. And, it is important to note that it was privately financed through the largest compilation of capital gifts to an athletic project in the university's history. My congratulations on achieving this long-sought-after goal to our new Associate Vice President and Director of Athletics, Jim Phillips.

I also want to point out that today is the first official Board meeting for NIU's new Executive Vice President and Provost, Dr. Ray Alden. Ray, on behalf of my colleagues on the Board, I want to welcome you to NIU and let you know that we look forward to working with you to promote academic excellence at NIU, enhanced support for our underprepared students, and a welcoming, lifelong learning opportunity for all of our students, faculty and staff. Please extend our best wishes to Becky as well, who I am sure is still very busy settling in.

Finally, while today is a day of new beginnings for Provost Alden, it is also a day to wish our Police Chief, Don Grady, Godspeed as he has accepted a one-year assignment from the State Department to provide expertise to the leaders of the new Iraqi police force in Baghdad as they attempt to build a police force capable of maintaining peace in that war-torn city and country. Chief Grady will be taking a leave of absence from NIU for the next year, so Chief I will not say "goodbye" today, but wish you Godspeed. Our prayers go with you as you approach this new chapter of service to our country and the people of Iraq. I want to remind everyone on the Board and in the audience that immediately following the Board meeting today, NIU is hosting a reception in honor of Chief Grady in the main reception hall on the 2nd floor of Altgeld Hall. Everyone is invited to stop by and extend their personal wishes to the Chief. We wish him Godspeed and hope he returns very quickly.

I want to acknowledge Former-President Monat, who is present today. And now I would like to welcome the University Advisory Committee representatives who are present this morning: Dr. Paul Stoddard, Dr. Xueshu Song, Dr. Ferald Bryan, Dr. Joseph "Buck" Stephen, Ms. Bobbie Cesarek and Ms. Rachel Turner.

I was listening to WBBM on the radio this morning, Trustee Boey said, when I heard a familiar voice saying that it is the darkest before the dawn. They were interviewing Chief Grady, who did a wonderful job representing NIU. But more important, we all wish you, Chief, the day of your safe return. That is when we will celebrate. Godspeed.

I would like the opportunity to say welcome to a new academic year, Ms. Cesarek said. On behalf of the Supportive Professional Staff Council, we are here to assist you in any way we can as you look for information about supportive professional staff throughout the university.

It is good to see all of you after the summer break, Ms. Turner said. Every year the Operating Staff has an annual staff fest, which is in August. I would like to acknowledge and express our appreciation to the administrators and the campus at-large for their support of the operating staff and making the function possible for everyone who attends, which includes internal operating staff and retirees.

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

Executive Committee

There was no report from the Executive Committee.

Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee

Committee Chair Cheryl Murer reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee met on September 7. We were pleased to have our new provost in attendance at this committee meeting, his first of many Board of Trustees meetings to come. Most of our issues at that committee meeting were informational in nature. These included the 2005-2006 Faculty Emeritus Recognition; Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff; and a presentation on the Fiscal Year 2006 External Funding for Research, Public Service and Instructional Projects. We had one request for a new degree program, a Master's in Family and Consumer Sciences, that was endorsed by the committee. We also heard a report on the Fiscal Year 2006 University Performance Report which Dr. Virginia Cassidy will present later in this meeting.

Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee

Committee Chair Robert Boey reported that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee met on September 7, 2006. At that meeting, the committee considered and approved recommendations for: Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriated and Nonappropriated Capital Budgets; Fiscal Year 2007 Internal Budget; Academic and Athletic Performance Center Foundation Lease Agreement; Intercollegiate Athletics Broadcast Service and Licensing; East Campus Bridge and Street Reconstruction; two items for the Far West Campus, one for the Federal Roads Project and one for utility and infrastructure improvements, and the Housing for Students with Dependents Project Ground Lease and Management Agreements. The committee also received reports including the following: Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Reports on Capital Activities, Transactions Involving Real Property, Cash and Investments, Fiscal Year 2006 Report of Tuition and Fee Waivers, as well as a Fiscal Year 2007 Tuition Comparison for all Public Universities, Quarterly Summary Reports of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000, the Annual Summary Report of Obligations of Financial Resources, Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff and a Presentation on Parking Lots 20 and 21 Reconstruction Update. The recommended items addressed by the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee are included in the President's Report that President Peters will present for Board approval.

Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee

Committee Chair George Moser reported that the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee did not meet during this period. The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, at 10:00 a.m. in Hoffman Estates.

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 he attended a meeting of the Universities Civil Service Merit Board on August 23 at Governors State University. I have previously reported to this Board on proposed rule making related to separations and demotions. This is currently set for hearing before JCAR on September 12. We passed a budget for that body and approved a regulatory agenda for the coming year. It is not binding, but it lists certain topics that the staff of the Civil Service Merit Board intends to pursue. Those include a rule that would deal with delegation of authorities and responsibilities to establish delegation of power in Merit Board authority so that they can engage in possible research and study programs, a rule that would deal with the ability to move various training programs contained in other sections of the rules to a new rule, and some further work on separations and demotions. There was a demonstration of new typing software, which is part of the E-test program, as well as a brief demo of a portion of the constituency survey on which I previously reported. The next meeting is scheduled at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, November 25, at the system office in Champaign.

Northern Illinois University Foundation

Trustees Murer and Boey deferred to Foundation President Mallory Simpson for the NIU Foundation report. As Chair Vella said, the big news since you met last June is that building going up quickly in the North End Zone, Ms. Simpson said. We completed the tax-exempt bond issuance in mid-August. Foundation Controller, Jean Jagodzinski, did yeoman's work on that project and represented NIU beautifully. The building is going up very quickly, and that brick wall and steel structure is a wonderful backdrop for our Huskie football team. We are on track to complete the building by August 2007. We reached our groundbreaking goal and are still working diligently in our fundraising to raise another million to million and a half dollars. We have lots of naming opportunities, including the name on the building. We have all the gift ranges, from the top line of the name on the building to tiles on the walls.

At the close of the fiscal year last year, the generosity of NIU's donors resulted in more than \$13.7 million received, and an additional \$2.5 million in pledges for a combined total fundraising activity of \$16.2 million last year. And we are significantly ahead of where we were last year at this time, largely due to some advance payments on prior pledge commitments. Giving from all of our constituencies – faculty and staff, parents, friends and alumni – is up. Our philanthropic culture is truly emerging visibly in a literal and figurative sense. Our total for the past six years is now more than \$99 million, and we are looking forward to hitting that \$100 million milestone later this fall. We are going to be taking on our biggest challenge ever in building our endowment for academic excellence. I say biggest challenge because we have had great success with these capital projects; but raising funds for endowments will present a greater challenge because donors do not have the tangible and immediate gratification of being able to see a building rise. The good news is that many donors are increasingly seeing the value of providing NIU with a permanent resource to compete for the most sought after faculty and students. And their contributions are going far beyond just financial gift commitments. More and more alumni and friends are contributing to academic excellence by serving on college and department advisory boards and participating in the classroom, bringing their vast experience and success directly to our students. This is all part of building our philanthropic culture. More than \$8.7 million has been raised for scholarship faculty and program endowments since 2001. So we are working on some exciting plans, which will bring the entire NIU family community together to increase the endowment, which is truly a precious and permanent resource.

Lastly, Ms. Simpson said, the Red and Black will be held on November 18 at Arlington Race Track; the theme is "Breaking Away from the Pack." We have a lot to celebrate on that occasion and a lot to look forward to. The Board has been sent invitations, so please join us in this celebration.

In the last six years, Trustee Boey said, the Foundation has raised \$99 million. That is more than the last 100 years combined. And it really makes a statement on how far we have come in that area.

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 52, Action Items 9.a.(5), (6), (7) and (8), and our receipt of Information Items 9.b.(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) and 9.c.(1) to that consent agenda. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 52

I am going to be brief in my remarks this morning, President Peters said, in view of the lengthy Executive Session we had earlier and the number of important items that we bring before you today. First, I want to add my congratulations to all of our Enrollment Services staff and others on the great job they did in building a new entering class this year. As Chair Vella reported earlier, we have the largest freshman class in NIU that we have seen in over a decade, and applications were up in nearly every category. All of that is very good news and reflects very well on the experience our students are having and talking about throughout the region. So, congratulations, again, to all the people who worked hard on that.

We have a number of budgetary items to bring before you today. One involves a fairly routine transfer of ownership, but the subject of the transfer is anything but routine, and that is our new Academic and

Athletic Performance Center (AAPC). That is such an exciting project as it takes shape in our North End Zone during this football season. Every week and every victory we see more of that building going up. I have watched our fans and seen the excitement the AAPC has generated. It is a great feeling to know that such an important facility is finally coming to fruition and that it is happening because our graduates, our fans and our supporters have invested their own money to make it a reality.

Another item you will be voting on today involves approval of a lease and a management agreement for our housing for students with dependents project. All of us are familiar with the concept of married student housing, and there was a nice article in the Northern Star about our current facilities today. But this new complex is a very different undertaking for us. The public-private partnerships we have talked about in relation to the West Campus development are going to come to life in a very real way in this project, and I hope you share that excitement about it.

Finally, I want to draw your attention to an information item toward the end of the agenda, which Provost Alden will tell you more about. The Northern Illinois Research Foundation is another example of the ways in which NIU is positioning itself to take advantage of new research and commercialization opportunities and new potential for sources of income from spin-off businesses and technology transfer operations, as we mature as a research institution.

Also, I want to add my personal congratulations to Chief Grady on his assignment for this country. We wish him Godspeed and great success.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

I would like to rearrange the agenda a bit to accommodate some Trustee timelines, the President said. Under Items Directly from the President, I would like to first bring for your approval Agenda Item 9.c.(3), Collective Bargaining Agreements.

Agenda Item 9.c.(1) – Collective Bargaining Agreements

This is a very important set of items, the President said, and I would like to move them as a package. We have three collective bargaining agreements for your approval. One is our agreement with the University Professionals of Illinois, Local 4100, representing approximately 180 Instructors. This is a five-year agreement through June 2011. The second agreement is with the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, which represents approximately 300 Building and Food Service employees. This is another full agreement through June 2010. The third agreement is a wage re-opener for the International Union of Operating Engineers. That is an agreement on the 2007 salary increases for Heating Plant employees. These three agreements are consistent with our salary increment precedents. I would like to thank Steve Cunningham and his group along with the bargaining units for very fruitful negotiations. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the collective bargaining agreements for the UPI, AFSCME and IUOE. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(1) – Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriated Capital Budget Request

The Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriated Capital Budget Request begins on page 14 with documentation following, President Peters said, and it has two components. One is regular capital, which is large projects, totaling \$143.7 million. The state has not funded a capital bill in four years. This list remains intact with some adjustments, but the priority order is the same. The second component is capital renewal. Those are smaller projects totaling \$9.44 million. That portion also remains the same. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriated Capital Budget Request. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Moser. Trustee Siegel stated that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee had requested that a letter providing the Board's position on this budget request be included with its transmission to the Illinois Board of Higher Education and asked that this be considered a motion to modify the original motion. Chair Vella asked for a second to Trustee Siegel's amendment to the motion. Trustee Boey seconded the amendment. The motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2008 Appropriated Capital Budget Request was approved as amended.

Agenda Item 9.a.(2) – Fiscal Year 2008 Nonappropriated Capital Budget

The Fiscal Year 2008 Nonappropriated Capital Budget beginning on page 23 includes individual projects of more than \$100,000 and those less than \$100,000, totaling approximately \$3.2 million. They are smaller projects that are approved according to a very rigorous priority setting process based upon needs, the President said. Funding comes from revenue bonds or reserves. I do not want to beat the subject to death, Trustee Boey said, but I have been saying this for the last ten years. As a state university, our state budget revenue is less than one-third of our overall revenue. I just want to make that point each year, and it is not going to get any better. It is going to, at best, remain the same. And with inflation, it will worsen. Trustee Vella asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2008 Nonappropriated Capital Budget. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Nelms.

Agenda Item 9.a.(3) – Fiscal Year 2007 Internal Budget

Board of Trustees *Bylaws* require Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2007 Internal Budget internal budget. Table 1 lists the budget for appropriated and nonappropriated revenues. Our total internal budget is about \$380 million, President Peters said. And as Trustee Boey said, of that, about \$103 million comes from state sources. Tracking that over time, a smaller and smaller share of our total budget comes from state resources. Table 2 shows the breakdown by categories that we report to the state. Table 4 is a shows a breakdown by appropriated and nonappropriated in those categories. Trustee Strauss moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2007 Internal Budget, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(4) – Academic and Athletic Performance Center – Foundation Lease Agreement

As I mentioned earlier, President Peters said, the university is requesting approval for a lease with the NIU Foundation for the Academic and Athletic Performance Center for a term not to exceed ten years, at a rate of approximately \$698,000 semiannually per fiscal year beginning August 15, 2007. We need to continue to commend this relationship with the Foundation and the unique structures that we put forth between the Foundation and the university, commented Trustee Murer, and this is a fine example of that. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Academic and Athletic Performance Center Foundation Lease Agreement. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(5) – Authorization to Continue Intergovernmental Agreements for Federal Participation of Far West Campus Roads Project

Agenda Item 9.a.(6) – East Campus – Bridge and Street Reconstruction Scope Change to Previous – Capital Project Approval

Agenda Item 9.a.(7) – Far West Campus – Utility and Infrastructure Improvements – Capital Project Approval

Agenda Item 9.a.(8) – Intercollegiate Athletics Broadcast Service and Licensing

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.a.(9) – Housing for Students with Dependents – Ground Lease and Management Agreements

We are seeking your approval for a ground lease and a management agreement for our Housing for Students with Dependents, President Peters said. This is a very important public-private partnership that we would like to enter into with Collegiate Housing Foundation for the land lease so they can begin construction. We hope to have our groundbreaking ceremony on October 12. The management agreement will make provision for day-to-day operation of the housing unit by the university during the term of the ground lease agreement. I have been approached by some in the community who have a fear about this being the first installment of a thousand or more units that we intend to build, Trustee Strauss said, and I wonder whether we could have some reassurances as to the scope of the intended activity. In response to his comment, Dr. Williams stated that when this project began over a year ago, both the Vice President of Student Affairs and the President made it very clear within the university and with this Board, with the DeKalb School Board, and with the City of DeKalb that the whole purpose of this project was replacement only, and we had no additional plans for a major development of student housing. We also have plans to renovate many of our existing facilities similar to that done in Stevenson Towers. So our focus is on renovation and replacement only. I appreciate Trustee Strauss bringing this

matter up so that I could clarify it one more time, because we have been saying this for over a year and still there are people who are very concerned about our intentions.

Although I do not want to adversely impact the property owners out there, Trustee Siegel said, it would be my position that we should not get into any type of position that guarantees anything to anybody about what this university will do, because we should do what benefits our students and our constituencies. Trustee Moser said that he agreed with Trustee Siegel's statement that we are here for the students.

I want to clarify our position on this, President Peters said, and it is based on what is best for NIU students. Given our current student numbers, our policy for the near term is replacement and improvement to levels of about 1991. This is clear and has been communicated to everyone. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Ground Lease and Management Agreements for the housing for students with dependents. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(10) – Request for a New Degree Program

We now bring for your approval a new degree program, the President said, a Master of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences that is focused on apparel studies for family and consumer science education. It is a degree that has market value for those coming back for post-baccalaureate education and is needed in our region. It is a packaging of courses that are already being taught, so resource implications are minimal. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the new Master of Science in Family and Consumer Sciences. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 9.b.(1) – Fiscal Year 2006 Report of Tuition and Fee Waivers

Agenda Item 9.b.(2) – Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Report of Cash and Investments

Agenda Item 9.b.(3) – Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000

Agenda Item 9.b.(4) – Fiscal Year 2006 Annual Summary Report – Obligation of Financial Resources

Agenda Item 9.b.(5) – 2005-2006 Faculty Emeritus Recognition

Agenda Item 9.b.(6) – Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff

Agenda Item 9.b.(7) – Fiscal Year 2006 External Funding for Research, Public Service and Instructional Projects

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.b.(8) – Fiscal Year 2006 University Performance Report

President Peters stated that the Fiscal Year 2006 University Performance Report was given and discussed in the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee and all of the Board members had received copies. The Board had no further questions on this report.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 9.c.(1) – Summary of Grant and Contract Awards

Consent Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 9.c.(2) – Northern Illinois Research Foundation, a University Related Organization (URO)

President Peters asked Provost Alden to address the Northern Illinois Research Foundation, which is a URO-related organization. Dr. Alden reported that the Northern Illinois Research Foundation (NIRF) was established in 2001 as a 501(c)(3) corporation. Since that time, it has largely been dormant. At this time, he said, we are reengineering it to aid the university in its economic development, public service and research educational missions. We will be operating this entity as a university-related organization under the Illinois Legislative Audit Commission University Guidelines. The NIRF will allow us to participate in partnerships in equity agreements and commercial ventures that the university otherwise could not enter into. These would be largely those enterprises resulting from university research and service ventures. It

will be governed by an 11-member board of directors appointed by the university president. The board will consist of experts in a variety of areas such as capital venture, Foundation Board members, a member from the Board of Trustees as well as NIU administrators. This board will establish policy and guidelines in achieving the objectives of the research foundation. Funds for the research foundation will be generated from sources including grants, public-private partnerships, venture capital investments, royalties, licensing fees, equity agreements resulting from commercializing research and service initiatives. It will also be available for donations of intellectual property from outside agencies for the purposes of developing the commercial entities. Funding will be provided to NIU researchers from the research foundation to support projects with great potential for commercialization and job creation. The research foundation will partner with researchers both from NIU and various other affiliates and partner them with various entrepreneurs on the outside to create spin-off corporations, particularly in areas such as health care, engineering and physical sciences, that have great potential for commercialization.

Basically, this will coordinate with our Office of Research here at the university and will take technology transfer opportunities when they become available for commercialization and help researchers to secure copyright and patent rights for those commercialization opportunities. The research foundation will adhere to the guidelines established by the legislative audit committee. In future meetings, we will be presenting more details as we redesign the research foundation for these purposes.

CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 37

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

Few college programs that assist underprepared students to succeed are as meaningful or have had as much impact on the lives of so many students as the NIU Deacon Davis CHANCE program, Chair Vella said. Thousands of lives have been changed since its creation in the late 1960s. For the second year in a row, NIU has received an additional \$700,000 in base budget funding from Senate President Emil Jones to enhance the support services provided through the CHANCE program to further assist these and other underprepared students to graduate from NIU. Dr. Leroy Mitchell, Executive Director of the Deacon Davis CHANCE program here at NIU, is here this morning to provide us with an overview of the program and what it means to the 527 current freshmen who are participating.

To the Chair of the Board of Trustees, the Board, President Peters and guests, Dr. Mitchell said, it is my pleasure to share with you some quick information on NIU's CHANCE Program. I have served in the greatest position of this university since June 16, 1980. There is only one position more important than mine, and that is President Peters. President Rhoten Smith was prophetic in his inaugural speech in May 24, 1968, when he said, "It is my conviction that the universities can and must change their thinking about how one comes to higher education. The public universities, especially, can and must find ways to make more widely available opportunities for earning this passport to the good life." Through the ongoing efforts of the presidents and their staffs, including President Monat, who hired me, CHANCE has been admitting young and mature people who do not meet all the admission requirements to the university. Through developmental course work, counseling and much exultation, we have been able to watch young people "who are not supposed to be here" graduate. We have seen the directions of families change because one child who persisted in his or her desire to earn a degree has made that difference. We understand, like President Smith, the power of education. The commitment of this entire university and people like State Senator Emil Jones to serve disadvantaged students has been phenomenal, and I am grateful.

By ensuring the life of this program through university funds for close to 40 years now, we are able to touch the lives of students who still have hopes and dreams for their future, even though many times the environment they come from does not possess the same. From the Chicago Housing Authority, gifted students have come to learn at Northern Illinois University. From the south side of Chicago, we found students like Miss Lisa King, who you will hear from soon. From the service region of this university, students have come of every color and cultural experience for an opportunity to learn. Through this program at Northern Illinois University, young people have moved into medicine, law, teaching at all levels, administration, business, law professions and professional athletes. Last year, I received an e-mail from one of our graduates who informed me that he has accepted a position as assistant professor of biology at Yale University. However, there is no doubt in my mind that every young person who has

spent any time on this campus but did not graduate will never be the same again. They will know deep down inside the possibilities available to them through education. And I know many of them will return to higher education to complete their degrees. The legacy of McKinley Deacon Davis and the CHANCE Program was made sure two years ago when President Peters named the program for its very first director. And it has been my honor and privilege to serve this program and this great university through it.

Miss Lisa King was a CHANCE student admitted to Northern Illinois University. She graduated and earned a master's degree here and has worked professionally at this university for Upward Bound, Student Housing and Dining Services, and the CHANCE Program. What a marvelous gift this university has been blessed with.

Ms. King's comments were as follows:

I am originally from Chicago and grew up on 35th Street. If you are not familiar with 35th Street in Chicago, it is populated by mostly minorities and the majority of them are Black. It is an impoverished, working-class community. I grew up with my mother, who was a single parent, and I did not really have goals or ambitions to go to college. It was not my dream, and it was not the dream of a lot of people around me. Some people went to college, but it was not a big deal for most of us. When I graduated from high school, I had a 13 on the ACT and my rank was 527 out of 557. So, that means 30 people did worse than I did when I graduated from high school. As Dr. Mitchell said, I graduated from Northern. Undergrad was a struggle, but I managed. When I graduated with my master's, my GPA was 3.67 out of a 4.0 scale. I am very proud of myself. I worked very hard. Had I not been admitted to Northern through CHANCE, I don't know what my life would be like or where I would be.

CHANCE is a wonderful opportunity for not just me but for many students. One's life is forever changed when you come to an environment like this if you have never been in this type of environment. As a brief example, where I live, if they knock down a building or if a business leaves, the building just remains open and abandoned. It is an eyesore, and people use it for drugs and other things. But in DeKalb, when they knock down a building, they knock it down, they pick the bricks up and it is either a spacious clean area or they are putting up a new building. People used to that take it for granted, but for people who do not take it for granted, that is a big deal.

Where I grew up, it is also a big deal to say to people – and please don't be offended – that not all white people are racist, even if they are mean to you. I say that because sometimes there is some difference between blacks and whites, and it is not always about race. But for somebody who grows up around all blacks and only sees or hears about white people from TV or in limited interactions, it is a real shift. When I came to Northern, I had a roommate named Mary Shields, a white girl from Brookfield. All I knew about Brookfield was the zoo. Every day Mary came home and had this routine. She would come to the residence hall, put on her sweats, make some tea, chew her gum and go study. Every day! That was not my routine. I would come home, relax, talk to my friends. One day Mary, who was always bubbly like the stereotype, came home really upset and crying. I asked, "Mary, what's wrong?" And she said, "Man, I got a 'B'." I said, "You got a 'B'?" She said, "Yeah, I got a 'B'," and she was upset. Now, I told you my rank, 527 out of 557. So I am thinking a "B" is have a party, call your parents – that's not a bad thing at all. But she wanted to get into the College of Business, and I had no ambition for the College of Business, so I did not really know that was a big, big thing. Mary was really upset about this "B," and I'm saying, "Why are you upset about a 'B'? A 'B' is REAL Good. Look, I get C's and D's. You should be proud." And she said, "No, because I worked for an 'A'." And that was the first time ever that I had seen anybody upset about a grade, somebody that I knew, and somebody who was white because I kind of thought white people were just naturally smart. That was monumental for me because, one, it dispelled the myth. And two, Mary really worked at it. I used to see her studying and think, "Man, she studies a whole bunch. I probably should study like her." After that, I began to study more. And, Mary ultimately did get into the College of Business.

The other experience I had when I was on academic probation. As I told you, I had some struggles when I was here because it was so new. I didn't want to go back home because I did not want to be embarrassed or fail – me, the person who never even thought about it and to whom school never mattered. So I called my mother and asked her, "If I flunk out of school, are you still going to love me?"

And she said, "Yes, I will, Lisa. It's your life. I'll still have my apartment; I'll still have my car; I'll still have my life. But you, what are you going to do with your life." I had never thought about it like that, and I decided then that I had to do this. So I went to see Florence Ledwig Rigby, who taught biology, about what I should do. Now, I had been, for the first time in my life, really studying. I had been reading the book, taking notes from the book, going to class, taking notes from class, reviewing both sets of notes, reviewing the book, asking questions, and I still was not doing well on the tests. I would get a "D," a "D+," and I was not happy about that. It was not okay, because it meant that I was going to have to leave, and I did not want to leave because I was learning things and I was having fun. I had learned about the SA and become involved with the Black Student Union and was seeing students who really cared, believing that somehow this was going to change their lives. After knowing Mary, I kind of believed there was something to that also. So, Ms. Rigby said, "Lisa, study every day except the day before the test." Now remember, I am from 35th Street, so I am thinking this woman is trying to flunk me out of school because she is racist. And I was upset because the day before the test is when studying kicks in heavy. That was major study time for me – some of you are smiling, maybe for you too. But I had never heard anybody say study up until the day before the test. She said, "In fact, just go bowling or something the day before the test. Just go bowling." So I thought, "Okay, this is all I can do. I've talked to everybody. This is what I need to do." And I did. I studied every day except the day before the test. The day before the test, I went bowling. I didn't know that she didn't mean literally to go bowling. I did that, but I was also thinking she wanted me to flunk out of school because, here I am black, trying to make it. But that was not at all her intention. And it worked. I got a "C" on that test and a "C" out of the class. It also turned me around on my thinking about white people.

So, I said all this to say, there is not time enough for me to tell you how different my life is and how different the lives of so many students are as a result of coming to Northern and having these experiences. I know that not everybody is glad that students are on Northern's campus through CHANCE, but those students are working and learning and growing and changing lives for generations. They are breaking the cycles of poverty and ignorance. It is tough sometimes when you try to tell your parents that you have to be here to study and prepare for a test when they are saying they need you at home. Thank you for this opportunity, and please continue to help students. It makes a difference. I would like to quickly acknowledge my colleague, Lieutenant Darrin Mitchell, who also came to Northern through CHANCE, and is now going to be one of the men in charge when Chief Grady makes his departure. Thank you.

Some years back, Trustee Boey said, I was invited to speak at the CHANCE Graduation Luncheon. For those of you who have been there, you will know what I mean. For those of you who have not, I will tell you that it is an absolutely emotional experience, all in a positive way, because the graduates of the CHANCE Program will come back to speak to those who are still going through the system. And I am talking about the graduates that came through CHANCE who became Rhoades Scholars, lawyers, professional people. The second thing I will always remember, is calling Dr. Mitchell and saying, "I'm supposed to speak at the luncheon, help me a little bit in understanding the CHANCE Program." And he said, "Chair Boey, all you need to know is this – 'They ain't supposed to be here.'" I wrote my speech around that, and what a wonderful experience that was. My point is, this is a wonderful program that more of us need to have a better understanding of as the years go on, and I would encourage that.

That was wonderful, Chair Vella said. Thank you, Dr. Monat for appointing Dr. Mitchell. Also, I would like to say, from my own personal experience, that once a person is really turned on to learning, their life is changed. You know how I believe that. And that is why I want this focus on the underprepared student, because sometimes they do not know what they are missing out on. It could be anybody here, anybody in the area. But once you are turned on to learning, your life is changed for the good forever.

OTHER MATTERS

Chair Vella reminded everyone of the reception right after the meeting to honor Chief Grady.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, December 7, on the main campus in DeKalb.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no Other Matters, Chair Vella asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Moser. The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon M. Mimms
Recording Secretary
