

Minutes of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
December 7, 2006

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Barbara Giorgi Vella at approximately 9:12 a.m. in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Sharon Banks-Wilkins 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

After discussion with President Peters and a review of the revised printed agenda before us, 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 53, Action Items 9.a.(4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9), and our receipt of Information Items 9.b.(1), (2), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9) and 9.c.(5) to the consent agenda. Trustee Strauss made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Trustee Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

At this time, the Chair said, I have the special privilege of congratulating Athletic Director Jim Phillips, Coach Joe Novak, and his Number One tailback, senior Garrett Wolfe and defensive safety Dustin Utschig, representing the NIU Huskies who will take on TCU at the Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego on December 19.

The Huskies have worked long and hard for many seasons to gain a bowl bid, and we are very excited by the prospect of bringing home a bowl victory from California. This time, however, I hope the weather and the power cooperate and our Huskies have sun and warm weather to propel them to victory. I remember the stories from the Silicon Valley Bowl two years ago – the monsoon rains, the power outage at the stadium delaying the game and the many who came home with colds and sniffles from braving the elements to cheer the Huskies to victory.

Joe, would you and Garrett like to say a few words at this point?

Dreaming of San Diego on a day like this is a wonderful thought, Coach Novak said, and we leave on December 15. I was concerned we might end up in Saginaw, Michigan. But going to San Diego is a tremendous opportunity, and I am really proud of our football team. We had a bit of a roller coaster season, but it worked out. TCU is an outstanding football team. But I know that our team will be at their best. We started practice yesterday in the Recreation Building at DeKalb High School, where it was good and warm after they turned the fans off. I wanted it that way so the team could get used to the heat, and we had a great practice. But I certainly want to thank everybody – Jim Phillips for his efforts, President Peters and the Board for their support. This is not only a great opportunity for our team, it is also an opportunity for the university to get some great exposure, and we certainly appreciate the support. It is

an exciting time right now in our program, the coach said. This is our seventh straight winning season and another bowl game. And I cannot tell you how much that beautiful building going up on the end zone is going to mean to us. So, once again, I would like to thank you. Now, I know you want to hear from our great All American Running Back, Garrett Wolfe.

A summary of Garrett Wolfe's comments follows:

On behalf of my teammates and everyone in the Huskie Stadium, I would like to thank you for having us here and honoring us. This year has been a tough one from the start to the finish. But the way Coach Novak and the coaching staff have worked us, it is great to have this opportunity to play in San Diego on December 19. It will be a lot better playing there than playing anywhere else. I also want to thank you for the Academic and Athletic Performance Center building. Even though I will not have a chance to be in that building, it is great for the younger team members to have something to work for and to work in to keep them motivated. And it will take this football program to another level. Also, I would like to thank the Board for your support of us and the football program, especially from someone like myself who has been through so many ups and downs throughout my career here. I had some academic shortcomings my freshman and sophomore years, and the support that I have had from this university and from everyone involved with the university, athletic or not, has been unmatched. I really want to thank you all, because that support has never been any different from when I was just starting out as a ninth string tailback to now being the All American Running Back today. And if my mom was here, I know she would be very proud, and she would like to thank you also. It will be great to see all of you in San Diego.

I am sure I speak for my fellow Trustees, Trustee Boey said, but just want to take a moment to express the pride we feel in you all, from Jim and Joe to Garrett and Dustin and the whole Huskie football team. A number of years ago my wife and I moved here from New York City, and we privately made ourselves a promise, Garrett. As you were going through this season, we said that if the Heismann committee comes to their senses and they invite you to New York City, even though we know we cannot be inside, we will be outside that building rooting for you. We hope they do come to their senses, and we will hold ourselves to that promise, because you stand for the kind of progress we have made here at NIU. But, as Jim Phillips and I have often discussed, when you have a great football program to compliment all the successes in other areas of the university, it makes everything else that much easier. So we want to thank you, more than anything else, for all your efforts, Jim.

During that famous losing streak many years back, Trustee Boey said, there was a message from the Board to Coach Novak that I passed on. "We, too, want to win, but do it the right way. Don't take the shortcut. Do it the right way." And you did just that. Thank you.

I just want to thank you all very much, Jim, Joe, Garrett and Dustin, Chair Vella said. You have made us very proud. And it is just so wonderful to hear you say those kind words, Garrett, about the university and the support that they have given you. It makes all of us feel very good that we serve here.

I just wanted to say that as a student, it is an honor to know that we come from an institution with nationally ranked accounting programs, business programs, education programs, theatre programs and public administration programs, Student Trustee Nelms said. But it adds a great deal of pride to know that we also come from an institution that has such an amazing athletic and football program. So, on behalf of the students and myself, I want to say thank you for all that you have done over the years. We are very proud of the program. And I, too, am looking forward to seeing you on the field in San Diego.

As a big loudmouth cheer leader, and a proud one, Trustee Sanchez said, I too want to echo the sentiments of the Board. What an ambassador, Garrett, you have been for this university, not just in DeKalb, not just in Illinois, but in the nation. Every time I saw you, whether it was on Comcast, ESPN, or whatever, the national exposure that you gave this university and the way you conducted yourself – we are the beneficiaries of that. As you sit there with Dustin, we, as Trustees, are so proud of the excellency that you have brought to this university. NIU now is not just known for academics, it is also known for its

great sports program. And Jim and Joe, you guys have made us so proud. So when I do fulfill my title as a loudmouth in San Diego, know that I am not just screaming for me, but for this university, for the hundred thousand plus alumni that are so proud of what you have done and the program you have laid the foundation for so that the new AAPC building, when it does come into play, there will be students who succeed you and coaches and alumni who succeed us who will say, "Wow. The footing was created here in the first part of the 21st Century." Thank you. We are very proud of you. Go Huskies.

You can see how very proud of you we are, Chair Vella said. Thank you very much for coming today. Please extend our best wishes to the entire team as they prepare to go to San Diego. I know you have a lot of work to do, and we look forward to seeing you at the Poinsettia Bowl. We are proud of your efforts both on the field and in the classroom. And, as Trustee Sanchez said, we think of you as great ambassadors for the university. You have made us very proud in many ways, not just in sports. So, good luck and Godspeed.

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 Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. 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 11:28 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Student Trustee Nelms to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2006 Board Meeting. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

As I prepared for this meeting, Chair Vella said, I was struck by how full our December Board agenda is today. Normally, this is a shorter meeting with fewer agenda items that need our attention and approval. But our full agenda speaks to the exciting new projects underway at NIU, like the new program development in proton therapy; Northernview Community, the new housing for students with dependents on the west campus; new opportunities in athletics like the progress on the Jeffrey and Kimberly Yordon Academic and Athletic Performance Center; and the selection of the NIU Huskies to take on TCU in the Poinsettia Bowl in San Diego later this month. All of these issues are on our agenda today. It is an exciting time to be a member of the Board of Trustees at NIU. And sometimes we have to stop, take a breath and just note all the vast initiatives and programs that NIU is involved in, which cover the full spectrum of our mission, which includes academics, research, public service and economic development.

I am especially pleased to join with President Peters this morning in supporting a midyear salary enhancement program for NIU faculty and staff. As you know, the Board continually places salary competitiveness at the top of its priority list along with the President. President Peters will be presenting a midyear salary enhancement program during his report later this morning. And I want the faculty and the staff at NIU to know how much the Board appreciates his efforts over the last few years. The times have been difficult, and we have been asked to do more with less money from Springfield, but you have persevered wonderfully, President Peters, and NIU is flourishing. The agenda today is just one example of the creativity and entrepreneurship that this campus is known for. And so, my personal thanks to you

from all the Board members for your passion for NIU and for your desire to make it an even better place for NIU students to learn and to live.

Chair Vella then welcomed University Advisory Committee representatives Dr. Paul Stoddard, Dr. Xueshu Song, Dr. Ferald Bryan, Dr. Joseph "Buck" Stephen, Ms. Bobbie Cesarek and Ms. Rachel Turner. Recently, I have been sitting in for NIU at Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) meetings, which involves my meeting with people from other institutions across the state, Dr. Stoddard said. Among many things, I have been struck by the nature of the relationships many institutions have with their governing boards, relationships that seem, at times, to be almost adversarial. That makes me appreciate how much support we here at NIU get from our Board, and that is something everybody on campus should really be very thankful for.

I would like to thank the Board of Trustees, President Peters and the administration for their continued commitment to faculty and staff salaries here at Northern Illinois University despite the lack of outside resources to do so, Ms. Turner said. We very much appreciate your continued effort to make that your number one priority.

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 Thursday, November 16, 2006. The agenda for that meeting contained three action items. The first was a recommendation allowing the university to disseminate a Request for Proposal for equipment for the Northern Illinois Proton Therapy Treatment and Research Center. The second was an amendment to Board of Trustees *Regulations* regarding student residency status. And the third was an amendment to the Board of Trustees *Regulations* Benefits Section II.D. and Section III.C. regarding military and disaster relief leaves of absence. There was a clarification on the issue of issuing the leaves of absence, and we are compliant with federal direction on this matter. The agenda also contained three informational items: the Fiscal Year 2008 Programmatic Budget Requests, a Request for Proposal for a Guarantee Agency for the Federal Family Education Loan Programs, and proposed Board of Trustees Committee Meeting dates for 2007.

Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee

Committee Chair Robert Boey reported that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee also met on Thursday, November 16, 2006. At that meeting, the committee considered and approved recommendations for the following action items: Northern Illinois Proton Therapy Treatment and Research Center; the Fiscal Year 2007 Internal Budget; the Energy Infrastructure Performance Contract; three items involving the Housing for Students with Dependents – naming of the Housing for Students with Dependents to Northern View Community, a temporary access easement and a temporary construction easement; Illinois Department of Transportation easement and transfer; two capital project items – Financial Aid remodeling budget authorization and Parking Lot W project revision; and two procurement amendment items – Fiscal Year 2007 Biological Science Research Amendment and Fiscal Year 2007 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Amendment. The committee also received information reports on the following: Semiannual Progress Report of Active Capital Projects with a Budget over \$100,000, Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000, Annual

Summary Report of Obligations of Financial Resources, Periodic Report on Investments, Housing for Students with Dependents Project update and Proposed Board of Trustees Committee Meeting Dates for 2007.

Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee

Committee Vice Chair Myron Siegel reported that the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee met on Tuesday, November 14, 2006. The agenda included one action item on the Internal Audit Department Charter. The committee passed the charter with one additional request by Trustee Strauss. Reports were given by Dr. Steve Cunningham, Ken Zehnder, Lori Clark and Kathy Buettner.

Illinois Board of Higher Education

President Peters reported that the last meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education was held on Tuesday, December 5, at Harold Washington College in Chicago. Among the items of interest to this Board were the naming of the Nurse Educator Fellowship Program Recipients for this year. That item, which was sponsored by the Blagojevich administration and passed by the General Assembly, created a program to retain nurse educators in the state and was funded initially at about \$150,000. The first fellowships were announced based upon a nominating and selection process. Only ten fellowships were given in the state, and NIU received two of those: Judith Hertz, Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in Nursing, and Donna Plonczynski, Assistant Professor of Nursing, each received \$10,000 stipends. NIU is the only university in the state that received more than one.

Universities Civil Service Merit Board

Committee Liaison Marc Strauss reported that he participated in the November 15 meeting of the Civil Service Merit Board via teleconference. Highlights of the actions taken were the consideration of a discharge case, which did not involve a Northern employee; the adoption of amendments to regulations relating to discipline and discharge proceedings that were previously reported to this body. Those final regulations have an effective date of October 23, 2006 and were published in the *Illinois Register* on November 3. The board also considered and made amendments to their bylaws in order to accommodate changes in the state Open Meetings Act. Approved for circulation and publication in the *Illinois Register* was a proposed rule change that would define the Merit Board's authority to research new programs prior to system-wide implementation. The board also considered the budget for Fiscal Year 2008, participated in a demonstration of some technology upgrades to the University System's web site and some other planned initiatives in technology, and approved meeting dates for 2007 – February 14, May 23, August 22 and November 14.

Northern Illinois University Foundation

Trustees Boey and Murer deferred to Foundation President Mallory Simpson for the NIU Foundation report. The big news this fall was the tremendous excitement about the gift from Jeffrey and Kimberly Yordon for the Academic and Athletic Performance Center, Ms. Simpson reported. That puts us over our campaign goal of \$9 million for the facility, and it makes the Yordons the second largest donors in the institution's history. Also this fall, President Peters announced that we have surpassed \$100 million in our fundraising efforts in the last six years, a huge milestone for Northern Illinois University. We have set some more challenging and loftier goals in the years ahead, and plans are being developed for that. Some of you are looking at the keychains and mints we passed out earlier – 5•5•07 – put that date on your calendar. That will be a defining moment in NIU's history, and we will be making some public announcements about major university plans at that time.

Lastly, I wanted to mention a couple of new gifts from former university faculty and staff. The late John Niemi and his widow have made a gift of \$100,000 to fund an endowment for international experiences for students in adult education. And the late Bud Nangle, who was a legendary hall of fame sports information director and his widow have made some estate plans totaling \$1 million to help fund renovations in the press box area and the sky box, to fund some endowed scholarships and to fund a discretionary fund for the athletic director. So Northern's friends and former faculty and alumni continue to support great initiatives of the university.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 53

Thank you Madam Chair, President Peters said, and allow me to welcome you and the rest of our Trustees to beautiful, sunny DeKalb. Due to the weather, we had a rare occurrence last Friday. We shut down the university except for essential personnel. We had a severe storm, very dangerous and very difficult to clean up given the ice base. I want to thank all those people who showed up to make sure our students who were on campus were provided with meals and also to keep our physical plant going.

And while the weather is beyond cold, I believe there is much news to warm our hearts as we begin this final Board of Trustees meeting for 2006. Looking back over the past 12 months, there has been much to celebrate. First, and perhaps foremost, we received our first funding increase from the state in four years, thanks in no small part to the efforts of several of our Trustees. We are hoping for a similar effort this year and a better GR budget. Also, we welcomed the new Provost, Ray Alden, and under his leadership we have launched an academic strategic planning initiative. This important effort is well underway and will yield a road map that will help keep us focused on the ever-changing educational needs of our dynamic region and help insure the strength and vitality of our institution well into this century.

Another bright spot this year was our enrollment numbers. This fall we welcomed our largest freshman class in a decade, and applications were up in every category. The NIU experience remains in great demand, and I want to congratulate the faculty, staff and others who worked to accommodate all of these students. You have heard about the wonderful Jeffrey and Kimberly Yordon Academic Center and their \$2.5 million commitment, which puts our fundraising goal well within reach. I want to pause and commend Mallory Simpson and her staff, Mike Malone and Jim Phillips and his staff for a truly outstanding effort. I am always overwhelmed at the generosity of our alums and supporters, and we need them now more than ever.

Finally, we announced just recently one of our largest and most important undertakings in NIU's history, and that is the creation of the Proton Therapy Treatment and Research Center in DuPage County. You will notice that today's agenda includes a request for approval to begin soliciting bids for highly specialized equipment that will be the heart of that proton therapy project. This project will provide a lifesaving service to many cancer sufferers in our region. And it will allow us to build upon and expand our outstanding physics program, help our researchers and help us train medical technicians for the future. I want to thank Board members Cherilyn Murer and Marc Strauss who have devoted many hours to help us launch this program. Then I want to thank all the Trustees. Yesterday in University Council, one of the members of the University Council remarked what an outstanding group of Trustees we have because they get involved and they do things, and I think you should know that this is reciprocated.

Along with these things, also included on today's agenda is a request for approval of a salary increase for faculty and staff. As you know, keeping salaries competitive is crucial to maintaining the quality of a university, and always one of the issues we watch most closely. I will also report about an opportunity to acquire a piece of property adjacent to our campus. And finally, you will hear some of the details regarding the participation of our Huskie Football Team in the San Diego Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl. At the beginning of our meeting this morning, we heard from Coach Novak, Garrett Wolfe and Dustin Utschig and honored them.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 9.a.(1) – Northern Illinois Proton Therapy Treatment and Research Center

This is the RFP for equipment for the proton therapy center that was mentioned earlier, President Peters said. It is secured by \$3.3 million in federal appropriations which we have received.

I want to thank the ingenuity of the many people at the university who brought this opportunity to our attention, Trustee Strauss said. It requires foresight and entrepreneurial spirit to be able to locate these niche opportunities, and it is something that I hope we continue to promote as a matter of general policy. It is a pleasure to work in pursuit of good ideas whether they ultimately come to fruition or not. With regard to this particular proposal, I simply want to say that I can enthusiastically endorse spending the money that we have already received and want to assure everybody that we will continue to monitor each phase of this project in order to determine how we should proceed in the future. Trustee Siegel made a motion to approve the RFP for the Northern Illinois Proton Therapy Treatment and Research Center, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(2) – Energy Infrastructure Improvements – Phase VII Performance Contract

This request to enter into performance contract agreements for energy infrastructure improvements is for several buildings, Dr. Peters said, including Anderson Hall, Cole Hall, Dorland Building, DuSable Hall, Engineering Building, Gable Hall, Graham Hall and the Heating Plants. We are asking for a program not to exceed \$3.9 million. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the request to enter into the Phase VII Performance Contract for Energy Infrastructure Improvements. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(3) – Naming of Housing for Students with Dependents

After sorting through many submissions for naming the new housing for students with dependents, President Peters said, we would like to name that complex Northern View Community. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the name of Northern View Community for the new housing for students with dependents. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(4) – Housing for Students with Dependents – Temporary Access Easement

Agenda Item 9.a.(5) – Housing for Students with Dependents – Temporary Construction Easement

Agenda Item 9.a.(6) – Illinois Department of Transportation Property Easement and Transfer

Agenda Item 9.a.(7) – Office of Financial Aid Remodeling budget Authorization

Agenda Item 9.a.(8) – Construction of Parking Lot W Capital Project Revision

Agenda Item 9.a.(9) – Fiscal Year 2007 Biological Sciences Research Project Amendment

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.a.(10) – Fiscal Year 2007 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Amendment

We have had a thousand additional students enroll in our student accident and sickness insurance program this year, Dr. Peters said, so this is an amendment to our original recommendation. The rate is very favorable, and it indicates that there are a lot of parents out there who do not have the coverage they once did. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the FY07 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Amendment. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(11) – Internal Audit Department Charter

Our internal auditor, Sharon Downen, brought in a team of neutrally competent auditors to audit the Internal Audit Department to insure that our standards are in line with the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing's Code of Ethics and the Fiscal Control and Auditing Act of the State of Illinois, the President said. This Internal Audit Department Charter was endorsed at the meeting of the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee and includes the change recommended at that time. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Internal Audit Department Charter. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 9.b.(1) – Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000

Agenda Item 9.b.(2) – Periodic Report on Investments

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.b.(3) – Housing for Students with Dependents Project Update

President Peters asked Vice President Brian Hemphill to present a project update on the housing for students with dependents. I want to extend a special thank you to the esteemed members of the Board of Trustees as well as to President Peters for inviting us this morning to talk a little about the Northern View Community, Dr. Hemphill said. We are certainly excited about this building project. He introduced Mr. Tim McGrath, Director of Architecture at BLDD Architects and Mr. Lynn Krebs, Vice President of Collegiate Development Services of Dallas, and asked them to join him at the podium to give a brief presentation on this exciting initiative.

Mr. Krebs stated that others who were involved in the development of Northern View Community included the development team, Collegiate Development and BLDD Architects; the construction company, SM Wilson & Co.; and the underwriters, RBC Capital Markets. He asked Mr. McGrath to give a description of the project and present some of the floor plans and the community layout.

Mr. McGrath stated that the construction area is located just northwest of the Convocation Center. The project consists of five new three-story residential wood-frame apartment buildings containing 120 apartments consisting of 108 two-bedroom units, six three-bedroom units and six one-bedroom units along with a single-story clubhouse. These six buildings surround a common green space approximately 350 feet long by 150 feet wide to serve as sort of a formal front yard for the development. In the center are two pergolas that serve as picnic areas, amenities for the project. The site is bounded by about 260 parking spaces. All of this has been designed to allow complete access around the property for the Huskie Bus system as well as fire trucks and other emergency vehicles. And just outside the community center is what is known as a zero depth fountain with water jets for the kids to play in during the summer.

There are three floors with eight units per floor and ingress and egress with two stairs on either side. The exterior will be two stories of brick with painted wood siding on the outside. The more formal side has stone banding and aluminum windows.

Mr. Krebs presented the details of the community center. The community center in this project is one of the things that is truly unique in this area and will make a wonderful gathering place. Some of the features of this community center include double doors leading into the vestibule, three offices and a reception area with storage and mechanical space in the back. There is an indoor playroom that opens to an outdoor playground, which is surrounded by brick walls. To the left as you enter in the community center, there is a computer study room, two rooms for group study, public restrooms, a game room and a multipurpose room. The multipurpose room has an expandable wall so that it can be used for receptions. There is a large covered patio in back with double glass doors leading to it. In addition, there is a large storage room primarily to hold tables and chairs when an open space is needed for gatherings and such. A key feature for the residents is having access to some of these things 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The entry doors will be on electronic card key access to allow the residents to access certain areas, like the public restrooms, the group study areas and the computer lab. The final portion of the presentation included a 360° animated tour around the planned facility.

In reply to a question from one of the Trustees regarding ADA compliance, Mr. McGrath stated that every unit on the ground floor of every building is fully accessible per Illinois ADA requirements. In regard to key card access to the community center, Mr. McGrath stated that Northern Illinois University security and safety personnel would ultimately make the decision on which areas could be accessed, and that the more sensitive areas would include security cameras.

Dr. Hemphill stated that advertising of the new housing has commenced. Staff in Housing and Dining have met with some of the colleges, they are meeting with different people throughout the community, and applications are coming in. To date, he said, we have 22 applications, and we are just laying foundation, so we feel good about where we are in terms of being able to fill the housing. Right now use of the community center is being planned for residents of Northern View Community only. In response to a question from Student Trustee Nelms, Dr. Hemphill said that the units will be filled through contracts very similar to those the university currently now uses for the residence halls.

Agenda Item 9.b.(4) – Fiscal Year 2008 Programmatic Budget Requests

Agenda Item 9.b.(5) – Guarantee Agency for the Federal Family Education Loan Programs

Agenda Item 9.b.(6) – New Illinois Public Acts Taking Effect in Fiscal Year 2007

Agenda Item 9.b.(7) – 2006 General Assembly Approved Resolutions

Agenda Item 9.b.(8) – NIU: Research, Innovation and Economic Development

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

Consent Agenda Items.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 9.c.(1) – Fiscal Year 2007 Midyear Salary Enhancement

President Peters presented a request for approval of the Fiscal Year 2007 Midyear Salary Enhancement package for regular faculty, supportive professional staff and (FLSA) exempt civil service, and nonexempt hourly civil service. On behalf of the students, Student Trustee Nelms said, I want to thank all the faculty and staff for all the hard work they do in accomplishing the mission of the university. This is certainly well deserved and I support it wholeheartedly. Having a spouse as an employee of NIU, Trustee Strauss abstained from the vote. Trustee Siegel made a motion to approve the FY07 Midyear Salary Enhancement request, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved with seven approving and Trustee Strauss abstaining.

Agenda Item 9.c.(2) – Property Acquisition

The university has been offered the opportunity to acquire two parcels of real property located on West Locust Street commonly known as the Wesley Foundation, President Peters said. The Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church has approached us with the opportunity to purchase the land and structures for \$350,000 plus our share of closing costs. We request authorization, after review by our General Counsel, for appropriate officers of the Board to execute all documents and other instruments necessary to carry out this acquisition subject to our negotiated price. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the request as stated by President Peters. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.c.(3) – Approval of Limited Senior Administrative Reorganization

It is with great pleasure that I bring this item, President Peters said. Kenneth L. Davidson presently serves as Associate Vice President and General Counsel. He previously served as the Board's Corporation Counsel from 2000 until his selection as the organization's chief legal counsel in November 2002. The scope of Mr. Davidson's position involves oversight of all organizational legal affairs; supervision of the University Legal Services Division; and provision of legal representation, counsel advocacy, research policy development, document drafting, integrity compliance, incident examination, risk management coordination and related services; and law suits. Under Mr. Davidson's direction, University Legal Services has been consolidated and reorganized to serve differing legal specializations. Mr. Davidson also has served as Parliamentarian, Legal Counsel and advisor to the Board and to me since the Board's inception in 1996. Mr. Davidson is a member of the President's Cabinet and participates broadly in administrative processes throughout the university organization. I rely upon his loyalty, confidentiality and sage advice as does the board. Therefore, in recognition of Mr. Davidson's exceptionally meritorious performance in the capacity of Associate Vice President and General Counsel, the university recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Mr. Davidson as Vice

President and General Counsel. The entire Board of Trustees unanimously made the motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Kenneth Davidson as Vice President and General Counsel. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.c.(4) – Bowl Game Participation Expenses

President Peters asked Dr. Eddie Williams to present the item on Bowl Game Participation Expenses. I just want to say that we are all proud of the fact that we are going to the bowl, Dr. Williams commented. There are certain financial obligations related to participation such as transporting our team, the cheerleaders, the band and so forth to San Diego. So we are asking Board approval for the authority to enter into those related contracts and specific things that must be done in order to participate in the Bowl. The details of those transactions will be reported back to the Board. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Bowl Game Participation Expenses. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.c.(5) – Summary of Grant and Contract Awards

Consent Agenda Item.

CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 36

Agenda Item 10.a. – Amendment to Board of Trustees *Regulations* Section IV.D. – Students – Residency Status

This amendment to the Board of Trustees *Regulations*, Section IV.D., Students, Residency Status was forwarded from the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee, Chair Vella said. These changes will consolidate the internal administrative appeal functions regarding Student and Academic Affairs matters under the authority of the Provost with appropriate support from University Legal Services as needed. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the amendment to Board of Trustees *Regulations* Section IV.D., Students, Residency Status. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.b. – Amendment to Board of Trustees *Regulations* – Benefits – Section II.D. and Section III.C. – Military and Disaster Relief Leaves of Absence

This amendment to the Board of Trustees *Regulations*, Benefits, Section II.D. and III.C., Military and Disaster Relief Leaves of Absence was also forwarded from the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee, Chair Vella said. Specialized employee leaves of absence are periodically required in response to statutes or executive orders enacted or issued in relation to specific events such as the Iraq conflict and disaster relief. Board *Regulations* provide generally for employee leaves of absence in relation to military obligations. This amendment pertains to certain emergency situations where specific leave of absence provisions are enacted by the State of Illinois. The Chair asked for a motion to approve Board of Trustees *Regulations*, Benefits, Section II.D. and III.C., Military and Disaster Relief Leaves of Absence. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.c. – Executive Session Minutes Review and 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, Chair Vella said. Accordingly, Item 10.c. is proposed for compliance with the legal requirement by taking action upon the duly approved Executive Session Minutes of January 1996 through June 2006 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 Executive Session Minutes for release from confidentiality as described in Board Agenda Item 10.c. Those sections which are still subject to confidentiality, together with sections from subsequent meetings, will be considered again in six months. The Chair asked for a motion to approve

the Executive Session Minutes Review and Release as listed. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Nelms. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.d. – Proposed Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2007

Also, Chair Vella said, the proposed Board meeting dates for 2007 are included in today's report. The committee dates are attached to the action item for reference purposes and do not require approval. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the Proposed Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2007. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee Chair Cheryl Murer noted that after a discussion with her committee members, the AASAP Committee meeting scheduled for June 7 was moved to June 11. Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee Chair Boey said that since these two committees usually met on the same day, he would consult with the members of his FFO committee to see if his meeting could also be moved to June 11.

Agenda Item 10.e. – Amendment to the *Bylaws* of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University - First Reading

This is the First Reading of an amendment to the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University, Trustee Vella said. Senate Bill 585 passed the General Assembly this spring and required changes to the Board's Bylaws in order to remain in compliance with new statutory language pertaining to the Open Meetings Act that takes effect on January 1, 2007. We will be voting on this amendment to the Bylaws at our Second Reading in March 2007. The Chair asked Ken Davidson, Board Parliamentarian, give a review of the new Public Act, as well as what it means to the NIU Board.

Mr. Davidson provided a copy of Senate Bill 585 and a copy of the pending proposal on the revision of the Bylaws to the Trustees. The Bylaws proposal would encompass the needs for the Board not only to comply with Senate Bill 585, Mr. Davidson said, but also some predecessor legislation that related to the posting of minutes on the Board's web site. So Kathy Buettner has indicated that she and the Board Chair have concluded that we would use the December meeting as our recurring customary time when we look at housekeeping matters in the Regulations and the Bylaws to bring them up to date. The new language relates to not only the web site maintenance and the records of the minutes being posted, it also relates to new quorum requirements, which is the general subject of the newest legislation. Physical presence of Board members is a new requirement that will come into effect the first of January. So, I have modified the language of the Bylaws to reflect compliance with the statute. We are also reciting that we are an agency with statewide jurisdiction so that the Board would be enabled to have meetings that are video conferenced at separate locations simultaneously, which will be a new area of exploration for us. That means it is conceivable the Board could have members in Chicago at a public location or at one of our other campuses so that there could be a simultaneous video meeting to achieve the required quorum. Audio participation is permissible, but it will not count as physical presence. This requirement will make it a little more difficult for us and more stringent upon our Trustees to create their personal business time agendas to match the new state law requirements.

Wally Czerniak, Associate Vice President for Information Technology Services stated that we do not presently have video conferencing in the Board Room, but it is available on campus and can be brought to the Board Room.

In the past, there was sort of a standing order that every Board meeting should have the teleconferencing capability set up in advance, Trustee Siegel said. If we pass this amendment in March, I would suggest that order be changed to have videoconferencing capabilities between either Hoffman Estates or Naperville and here. If the weather is inclement or we have some other issue, those of us closer to those locations could still participate.

Ms. Buettner stated that she would work with Dr. Kaplan and Wally Czerniak to put together a proposal for the Board on the costs to run the actual connections into the Board Room and making sure that the connections at all of our facilities including, perhaps, our new Chicago location might be accessible. We

all have questions for Ken regarding this statute, Chair Vella said, but in the interest of time, if anyone has any other questions or concerns, please talk to Ken individually, in accordance with our Bylaws.

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

Our final agenda item today represents our continued focus as a Board on programs to assist our students in succeeding academically at NIU, the Chair said. She then asked Vice Provost Gip Seaver to introduce Scott Peska, Program Coordinator for the REACH Program.

As the Chair has indicated, this report is part of our continuing presentations about services and programming here at Northern to help our students be successful, Dr. Seaver said, and Scott Peska, Assistant Director of the Office of First Year Experience and Orientation, is going to speak to you about what we call one of our early intervention programs, Program REACH.

Thank you for this opportunity to share some information about our REACH Program, Mr. Peska said. REACH is a retention effort specifically designed to increase the likelihood of students persisting into the second year. It is designed to help incoming students by having peer student callers help them integrate academically and socially to some of the communities here at Northern. REACH was first piloted in 2003, and in that pilot program we contacted 400 students. Our student callers are upper-class students who have been actively involved either as UNIV101 or UNIV102 instructors, students that were involved in residential life as a CA or involved in Residence Hall Association. These student callers contact new students that have been identified by the early alert task force as having potential persistent risk factors. When our callers make contact with the students, they ask them a series of about seven questions to identify any academic or social concerns that they may have, and then the callers provide immediate referral and recommendations. We have a referral list of about 60 office phone numbers, and e-mail addresses and web site addresses that we share with these new students. In addition to being an intervention program, REACH also gives us some information on what new issues and concerns are facing these students. Our student callers find that 13 percent of the students said they had no concerns at all. It is reassuring to hear that some of these new students have been making connections with either students on their floor or through intramurals and feel they are doing fine academically.

In the information we gave you on 2005 data, we contacted just over 1,000 students, and 24 percent of them were identified as deserving and benefiting from a follow-up call. Some of the concerns that were identified in 2005 actually mirrored our pilot program, and the majority of these were academic advising issues such as how and when to contact their academic advisor. Other concerns were difficulties students were having with their courses and difficulties getting involved. Recommendations were made for tutoring centers, contacting residential life staff as well as contacting and how to approach faculty of those courses. This is a wonderful retention program that is very efficient and cost-effective. Overall, the cost for the 2005 program came to about \$3.50 per student that was contacted.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, March 22, 2007, on the main campus in DeKalb.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no Other Matters, Chair Vella asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins
Recording Secretary