

Minutes of the
NIU Board of Trustees
**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, STUDENT AFFAIRS
AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**
June 11, 2007

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cheryl Murer at 9:06 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, Manny Sanchez, Student Trustee Andrew Nelms and Chair Murer. Trustee Marc Strauss was present via teleconference. Also present were Committee Liaison Raymond W. Alden III and Board Parliamentarian Kenneth Davidson. With a quorum present, the meeting proceeded.

Chair Murer announced that Trustee Strauss was teleconferencing in from India, which, with a 13-hour difference, made it 11:30 p.m. there.

VERIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Confirmation of Open Meetings Act notification compliance was given by Board Parliamentarian Ken Davidson.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Trustee Boey made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Student Trustee Nelms. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Student Trustee Nelms and seconded by Trustee Boey to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2007 meeting. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Today, Chair Murer said, we have another full agenda. We have six items that will be presented for action and four informational items. The June meeting of this committee is of particular importance to the faculty because this is the time of year that the Board acts on recommendations for faculty tenure and promotion. As I have said in the past, it is always a joyous time for this committee when we have the opportunity to approve tenure for our faculty. Our action items include the recommendations for tenure and promotion; a request for appointment with rank and tenure of the new Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, as well as approval of a request for the appointment of the Dean of the College of Education; and a request for changes in tenure and tenure track locations within the College of Health and Human Sciences. There are two programmatic issues on the agenda for today: a request for a new emphasis within the B.S. in Technology, and a request for a new specialization in Nanoscience (Nanophysics). Provost Alden has requested that we move Information Item 7.j., Request for a New Specialization, to follow Information Item 7.e., the Request for a New Emphasis.

Other information items include Information Item 7.f., the Fiscal Year 2008 Off-Campus Course Delivery Fees for the MBA program, the Master of Science in Taxation and the Master of Accounting Science, and Information Item 7.g., the Off-Campus Course Delivery Fee for Instructional Technology Programs. We will also hear a Progress Report to the Higher Learning Commission and the 2006-2007 Program Review Summary.

Now I would like to recognize the representatives of the University Advisory Committee to this committee: Joseph "Buck" Stephen and Ferald Bryan.

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone for the opportunity to chair this committee over the past two years, Chair Murer said. As you know, at the Board of Trustees meeting in June, we will have election of officers and new committee members. It was certainly a joy for me to take the leadership role in Academic Affairs because it is such an important committee. It is what we do. This is the essence of what we do at a university. We look to the Finance Committee, which gives us the means to provide the services under Academic Affairs. And the Legislation Committee is the means by which we are able to secure the regulations and the support of our state in order to accomplish the desires and the activities of the faculty under Academic Affairs.

As Manny Sanchez has often said, Trustee Boey commented, when we first joined the Board and learned that the term was six years, we said, "My word, that's a lifetime!" Well, all of a sudden, six years is just the snap of a finger, and it is time for renewal again. This kind of assignment to work with the university is something marvelous. There is no other way to describe it.

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 the Board of Trustees Bylaws. Mr. Davidson stated that no timely requests for public comment had been received.

Madam Chair, I think this may be a new height, Trustee Sanchez said. I know we have had Trustees call in from Europe before, but I believe this is the first time anyone has called in from Asia, so you have set the new record, Marc. And for those in attendance, I want to make two comments. One, I think it shows the dedication among your NIU Trustees. And two, to our Chair who was saying how quickly two years have gone by – our hats are off to you. You have done a terrific job. I think the NIU Board of Trustees really has created a new paradigm in this state, because we rotate our Trustees through the chairmanships, we rotate them through various aspects of this Northern Illinois University higher education facility. Too many of our counterparts do not do that, and I think it is to their detriment. However, you see what kind of leadership has evolved here. Trustee Boey is always reminding me about when we started the Board of Trustees here 11 years ago. It is really amazing, and you see a reflection of that in our chairperson. I am sure my fellow committee members share that with me. You have done a terrific job and our compliments to you.

UNIVERSITY REPORT

Agenda Item 7.a. – Recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotions with Tenure for 2007-2008 Academic Year

Tenure and promotion are among the most important decisions that we make, Provost Alden said. And I would like to assure the Board members that we give a lot of attention to making sure it is a very high quality and rigorous process. There are actually three levels of recommendation, and at each of those levels, there are both a faculty committee component and an administrative component. So in some ways, we have six different levels of review and six different levels of approval before we pass these names on to you. Today we have promotion to full professor for 23 individuals; promotion to associate professor for 29 individuals; and recommendations for tenure for 31 individuals. I am very happy to bring these names forward. They are all excellent quality faculty that we all are proud of who are willing to invest significant resources over their times and their careers at NIU.

Chair Murer asked for a motion to endorse the university's 2007-2008 Academic Year Recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotions with Tenure. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. A roll call vote was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Sanchez	Yes
Trustee Strauss	Yes*	Student Trustee Nelms	Present
Chair Murer	Yes		

The motion was approved with three “Yes” votes and the Student Trustee voting “Present.”

*Board Parliamentarian Davidson explained that because of the new state law which became effective in January, and Board of Trustees *Bylaws*, it takes a video hook-up at a location in Illinois for a Trustee to participate and be counted in any votes. So, Trustee Strauss’s vote will be ceremonial.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Appointment of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

After a national search, Provost Alden said, Dr. Christopher K. McCord has been selected for appointment as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and is recommended for the rank of professor with tenure in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. He received his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and received his baccalaureate degrees in Mathematics and Physics from Bowling Green State University. He is currently associate dean for graduate affairs in the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Cincinnati and has been in that position since 2003. Previously he served as executive director for the Taft Memorial Fund, which is a faculty-run endowment fund of over \$1 million a year to support research and graduate education. And in that role, he has a lot of contact with the faculty as well as external board members on the Taft Memorial Fund Board. During that same time period, he served as interim head of the Department of Economics, which clearly was out of his field of discipline, but he was asked to serve that role to help the department through a transition and restructuring. He is also a recognized scholar. He is the author of more than 35 articles, has done 43 national and international lectures, and has grant funding from a number of organizations, including the National Science Foundation.

I just want to say that I am very excited to have Dr. McCord join us here at NIU, Student Trustee Nelms said, and I am very proud from a student’s perspective of the accomplishments all the individuals that we have promoted here today. But state law precludes me from voting on this and the previous matter.

Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Christopher McCord as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences along with the rank of professor with tenure in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. A roll call vote was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Sanchez	Yes
Trustee Strauss	Yes*	Student Trustee Nelms	Present
Chair Murer	Yes		

The motion was approved with three “Yes” votes and the Student Trustee voting “Present.”

I would like to thank the Provost for such an expeditious transition in identifying such a qualified dean, Chair Murer said. I imagine you and your team had to work feverishly to be able to do that in such a timely manner. We had an excellent suite of candidates that came in, Provost Alden said. I want to thank the search committee. We had a very representative search committee of about 15 people, and all were present during the airport interviews. At every session during the campus interviews, at least one of the members of the search committee was present, which was a major challenge. I also would like to thank Denise Schoenbachler for co-chairing the committee. She actually took the hand-off when the campus interviews came about so that I could maintain my own set of interviews and interactions with all the candidates as kind of an objective bystander during that process.

Agenda Item 7.c. – Appointment of the Dean of the College of Education

Dr. Lemuel Watson has been selected for appointment of the Dean of the College of Education, Provost Alden said. This has been a somewhat unusual process in that he was a department head in the college, but had accepted a position elsewhere when the dean’s position suddenly opened. And through a grassroots effort, a number of people asked him to consider staying. I had lengthy conversations with him over a short period of time. I brought his name forward to the College Council and to the College Senate and asked them both to go to their respective constituencies and find out whether that would be an acceptable alternative to going to a national search. Over a two-week period, there were extensive

interactions at the college level, and they came back with what I would consider as close to a mandate as you can ever receive in these kinds of interactions.

Dr. Watson currently holds the rank of professor with tenure in the Department of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education in the college. He served as acting associate dean in 2006-2007, and in 2003, was appointed to his current position as Chair of the Department of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education. He has also served as director of the college's Office of International Initiatives. He received his Doctor of Education degree in Higher Education Policy at Indiana University. He also has his master's in Student Development from Ball State and a baccalaureate degree in Business from the University of South Carolina. He has served at a number of universities, including Indiana University, Illinois State University and Clemson University. He has a series of national and international awards. He was a Fulbright Scholar, a Faculty Fellow in the National Education Policy Fellowes Program in Washington, D.C. and a Senior Research Fellow in the Charles Houston Center at Clemson. His research interests include examining how structures and practices and policies of higher education affect learning development and educational outcomes in students, particularly those from underrepresented groups. So, I am very happy to bring forward Dr. Watson's name.

Again, Chair Murer said, this is unprecedented to have two dean openings come up at the same time, though it is a tremendous opportunity for us as a university. But, again, Provost Alden, your search committees did a remarkable job. I cannot imagine doing a search for two deans at the same time and finding two such outstanding candidates. We really commend you for that. It reflects well on your leadership.

Chair Murer asked for a motion to endorse the request to appoint Dr. Lemuel W. Watson as dean of the College of Education. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. A roll call vote was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Sanchez	Yes
Trustee Strauss	Yes*	Student Trustee Nelms	Yes
Chair Murer	Yes		

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.d. – Transfer of Tenure and Tenure-Track Locations

During this past year to 18 months, Provost Alden said, we have done an internal self-study for the purpose of seeking the most appropriate organizational structure within the College of Health and Human Sciences to improve both the resource efficiency and the synergy between the different healthcare disciplines and some other disciplines. So the entire college structure was reviewed, and the faculty approved the change reflected in today's item. The existing three schools and two departments will be converted to three schools and one department through the combination of different departments. The School of Nursing will be the School of Nursing and Health Studies; the School of Allied Health Professions will be the School of Allied Health and Communication Disorders; and the School of Family, Consumer and Nutrition Sciences and the Department of Military Sciences will both go unchanged. This reflects the actual relocation of some of the tenure homes of the faculty, which requires Board approval. Chair Alden asked Dean Shirley Richmond to comment on whether or not the status of any of the listed faculty had changed. Dean Richmond stated that Dr. Kelly Hall had resigned and Judith Rabak-Wagener had indicated that she would retire at the end of August.

Dean Richmond, in responding to a question from one of the Trustees, said this process is actually twofold or maybe even multiple-fold in the fact that we wanted to look at increasing synergies and research opportunities within our college. The self-study was excellent in that it was two task forces made up entirely of faculty and staff. Actually, I chaired the group and then the associate dean and I moved back from the entire process. Those two task forces were chaired by the chairs of the departments. So it gave us an opportunity to look at moving more toward a team educational process for healthcare by moving these connections formally within the college. Also, we had a department chair retire, which allowed us to reallocate funds from that salary and fuse it into either hiring additional faculty or raising salaries where we could to retain some of our current faculty. We have begun to see

interactions with faculty on various grants. Nursing and Health Education and Public Health have joined the School of Nursing. We are moving to the Doctorate in Physical Therapy. So the Doctorate in Audiology and the Doctorate in Physical Therapy programs will be located in the same school.

Chair Murer asked for a motion to endorse the university's request to transfer the tenure and the tenure-track locations of the listed faculty in the College of Health and Human Sciences. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.e. – Request for New Emphasis

Provost Alden explained that subdivisions of undergraduate programs are called emphases, and subdivisions of graduate programs are called specializations. Agenda Item 7.e. is a request for a new Emphasis in Aviation Management Technology within the B.S. in Technology. This is an off-campus degree completion program for students coming from community colleges who have an applied associate in science degree in aviation management, he said, and who have earned an F.A.A. airframe and power plant certificate. This degree emphasis is in response to community needs, particularly in the Rockford area.

Dean Promod Vohra stated that the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology has always been looking at the needs and the demands of the region. So when we found how quickly the aviation industry is moving in Rockford and that Rock Valley College has a program at the associate level in aviation management, he said, it made sense for us to create a four-year program. It would be a 2+2 program so students graduating from that program can come to NIU and complete their four-year degree in industrial technology. This program is not only supported by Rock Valley College, but it also has the support of the industry in Rockford. It is an endeavor that will allow students who have completed their associate in applied science to complete their baccalaureate degree. This program being offered by NIU is unique in the state. In reply to a query from a Trustee, Dean Vohra stated that employers looking at a transcript noting this emphasis would know that the student had gone through a certification in the basic courses at the community college to which NIU had added the management and supervision skills that would allow that person to manage a whole project by themselves, including the technical skills required to perform that job. I would like to add that because Embry-Riddle also is looking at Rockford as a potential region for their program, it is fortunate that we were already in the midst of discussions to offer this program.

In keeping with the discussions we have had this morning about the new emphases and our new deans, Chair Murer said, what strikes me is that NIU is on the move and looking forward in an aggressive manner with sensitivity to the market. We are being very relevant but also sensitive to academe and the need to educate people, not only in a technical way but also intellectually. It is taking the technical skills of a two-year program and enhancing it with a managerial and educational perspective so that we have well-rounded individuals when they go into the job market. And I commend all of you for that.

Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the Request for a New Emphasis in Aviation Management Technology within the B.S. in Technology. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.j. – Request for New Specialization

Agenda Item 7.j., Provost Alden said, is a request for a new Specialization in Nanoscience (Nanophysics) within the Ph.D. in Physics. The Department of Physics within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in collaboration with the Institute of Nanoscience, Engineering and Technology within the Division of Research and Graduate Studies proposes this new specialization. It will combine course work in physics with a specific series of courses in areas that help understand the basic aspects of nanoscience and nanophysics in particular. I would like to recognize both Dr. Rathindra Bose, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, and Dr. Clyde Kimball, with the Institute of Nanoscience, who have been instrumental in bringing forward this multidisciplinary program. In future meetings, a similar program will be brought to you from the Chemistry Department that will concentrate on the chemistry perspective as well.

In answer to a question from one of the Trustees, Dr. Bose stated that the reason nanoscience is not in the headlines as much as it was in recent years is that the subject has had such exponential growth that we do not have to publicize it in a formal way. Almost all the funding agencies now have programs in nanoscience. The world has witnessed an explosion from manufacturing to fundamental academic fields in nanotechnology, Dr. Bose said. We started this program three years ago with the help of Dr. Kimball. And with the enormous facilities that we have at Argonne National Lab, we felt that we needed to offer this program in a manner that will produce outstanding scientists and engineers. The facilities at Argonne Laboratories are accessible to all of our graduate students, and the training these students receive from this program will be unparalleled to any other institution. I would like to thank Dr. Kimball for his leadership in working with the Argonne National Lab, and Ms. Buettner, who helped us start this program several years ago with the help of funding from Washington. I would also like to thank two colleagues who helped me navigate through this process, Dr. Joe Grush and Dean Promod Vohra.

If we had not continued to emphasize physics at NIU, Chair Murer said, we would not be exploring a proton therapy facility today. And, again, without Kathy Buettner securing funds from Washington, these opportunities would not manifest themselves that easily. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the Specialization in Nanoscience (Nanophysics) within the Ph.D. in Physics. Student Trustee Nelms so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.f. – Fiscal Year 2008 Off-Campus MBA, MST and MAS Delivery Fees

This item is being presented here as an information item, Provost Alden said, and will be presented in the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee for action. Because it involves academic programs, we wanted to present it to the members of this committee as well. The university charges delivery fees for off-campus courses that are particularly expensive to offer. These Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Science in Taxation (MST) programs are offered only off campus. The Master of Accounting Science (MAS) program will be offered off campus in the future. They are all very high-demand and highly ranked programs, but they are also very expensive to operate because we are providing a very specialized and customized program largely to working executives. So we are requesting a delivery fee increase of \$50 per credit hour. This is the first time in ten years that these delivery fees have been increased, despite the fact that the costs of program delivery have increased significantly over the last decade. We also request that the MAS program have the same fee structure so that all of the off-campus business advanced courses offered in an executive mode are in a similar business model.

The College of Business offers off-campus MBA, MAS and MST programs, Dean Schoenbachler said, at the Hoffman Estates and Naperville campuses. And, as Provost Alden indicated, they are typically very high-demand programs that are expensive to operate. In the MBA program, in particular, we expect to add some specializations in entrepreneurship, global business and project management over the next few years. So, with the increase in the costs of operating our current programs and with the growth of new programs, we require additional fees to support them. Even with the additional costs, she said, our programs are still some of the least expensive in the Chicago marketplace for executives and working professionals.

In the DuPage County area, from the standpoint of individuals I have spoken with, Trustee Sanchez commented, the Naperville facility is viewed as the premiere educational facility where they can get their MBA at a reasonable cost compared to our competition. So I wholeheartedly support this.

In response to a question from Trustee Strauss, Dean Schoenbachler explained that the intent in the MBA and the graduate programs is to add some new specializations. Also, she said, we are under pressure from our accrediting body to have a certain percentage of credit hour production to be provided by academically qualified individuals. We are limited on the number of adjuncts we can use in our MBA and graduate programs. So, as we move forward, we need to use this funding to support new faculty in the MBA program, and the majority of individuals supported from this fee income will be allocated to that program. These funds are also used to pay rental for the use of those facilities where these programs are offered. The MBA programs have also supported refurbishing classrooms at those centers with technology as needed over time to support our needs.

Agenda Item 7.g. – Off-Campus Delivery Fee for Instructional Technology Programs

This proposal to increase the off-campus delivery fees for instructional technology programs will also be presented for action at the next FFO Committee meeting. It will also be a \$50 per credit hour fee increase, but in this case, its primary purpose will be devoted to the actual instructional technology offered in these off-campus programs.

Agenda Item 7.h. – Progress Report to the Higher Learning Commission

Agenda Item 7.i. – 2006-2007 Program Review Summary

On the Program Review Summary, Trustee Boey said, they are all very worthwhile programs, but the one that caught my eye is Tri County. It says here that over 16,000 patients have been through that facility over the last five years. As a community member living in the Sycamore-DeKalb area, I have been in touch with a number of those patients who come to me and say, thank you for NIU being involved in the Tri County Center, because those are people that have severe problems and no insurance or help whatsoever. This is the last stop that some people have for a chance to get help for their health problems because there is absolutely no help for them otherwise. I wanted to pass that on to Dean Richmond and say that this is something, from my own viewpoint, that I think is important for NIU to continue to take an active part in it.

I would like to acknowledge Dr. Virginia Cassidy's role in these program reviews, Provost Alden said. It is a yearlong, very involved process that takes a lot of review by the Academic Program Planning Committee under the leadership of Dr. Cassidy.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chair Murer announced that the next meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee was scheduled for Thursday, September 6, 2007.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no Other Matters, Chair Murer asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The meeting was adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins
Recording Secretary