

Minutes of the  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
June 21, 2007

**SWEARING-IN OF NEW STUDENT TRUSTEE**

I will call the formal meeting to order in a few minutes, Chair Vella said, but I would like to begin this morning on a positive note with the pleasure of introducing Shaun Crisler. Shaun will be sworn in this morning as our new student trustee elected to the Board for the 2007-2008 Academic Year although his term does not officially begin until July 1. Shaun obtained an undergraduate degree in Biology from NIU in 2004 and has begun a Master's in Adult Education here at NIU. His resume is full of student involvement ranging from serving as a community advisor, a resident assistant, a hall director, treasurer and president of the Student Association to his current service as a peer instructor and graduate hall director.

After obtaining his B.S. in Biology in 2004, Shaun also worked for over a year in sales and service for AT&T before returning to graduate school. He is married to a school teacher, and they have a beautiful daughter.

We are delighted to have Shaun join the Board this year. His service in student government and residence hall experience has provided him with a depth of knowledge that will be a tremendous asset to the Board. As you know, this Board takes the opinions and counsel of the Student Trustee very seriously, and we are looking forward to having him on our board this year. Shaun, please join me at the podium.

Chair Vella administered the following oath of office to Shaun Crisler:

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

Mr. Crisler's comments were as follows:

I am really happy to be here today. My family is here with me, and it is really a great occasion. I just wanted to say that NIU has played a vital role in who I have become and where I want to be. I have had a world class education here with the university professors, with the way the university is run, with the students and with my family. I want to thank individuals like current Student Trustee Andrew Nelms, who has worked along my side for a number of years as I served as student body president and student body treasurer, always willing to give his counsel, his support and his guidance. And I look forward to even more of that in this coming year. I also look forward to working with the Board and other university officials as I learn and grow to work towards a better NIU.

It would not be a good day if I did not take the time to thank my wife, who has been the cornerstone in my getting here today. She has blessed me with her patience, her understanding of my time and overall dedication. I could not have done it without you. Thank you very much.

The Chair called for a brief recess at approximately 9:15 a.m. before calling the formal meeting to order.

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Barbara Giorgi Vella at approximately 9:30 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, Manuel "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 review of the 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 55, Action Items 9.a.(4), (5), (6), (8), (9), (13), (14) and (22), and our receipt of Information Items 9.b.(2), (3), (4), (6), (7) and (9) and 9.c.(1) to the consent agenda. Trustee Strauss made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Trustee Moser seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

#### **CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Because of the length of the agenda today, Chair Vella said, I will keep my comments brief. First, I would like to congratulate my colleague Bob Boey, on his reappointment to the Board of Trustees. He has served on this Board since its inception in 1996, so he will not need to be sworn in again today. But we do offer our congratulations to you, Bob. It has been a wonderful experience to date, Trustee Boey said. This is always both an honor and a commitment. And please know that my vision for NIU will always include and be guided by the words "Quality, Affordability and Accessibility," the trinity of our mission statement. So my priority of the day will always be what is best for NIU. In the spirit of this occasion, allow me to personalize a phrase that we use in our remarks at commencement to our graduates: *"I am forever a part of Northern Illinois University and I am very, very proud of you."* Thank you.

Chair Vella made the following comments regarding the accomplishments of the Board of Trustees over the past two years:

Now, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words, Chair Vella said. First, I have been very honored to represent NIU and the Board of Trustees as your Chair. I thank the Board for nominating and electing me, and I appreciate their confidence in me. A big thank you to Dr. Peters and the entire administrative staff for their outstanding leadership and work. They are a proactive team of leaders who have worked diligently to see that NIU continues to meet and exceed the goals set by the Board. My term has seen many changes, and it has been a very exciting and challenging time. Although I personally take no credit for these projects, I recognize that our Board has worked on these matters for the last two years, and I will highlight them right now. They include the hiring of the Deans of the Colleges of Engineering and Engineering Technology, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Business; approving the project for the Family Health, Wellness and Literacy Center at the Monsanto Building on Sycamore Road; receipt of a grant of \$10.3 million in federal money for West Campus Road projects near the Convocation Center and the Family Violence and Sexual Assault Research Center; an agreement for the Oracle and PeopleSoft Student System Replacement Project; conveyance of the Barsema Alumni and Visitor's Center from the Foundation to the university; Housing for Students with Dependent Children on the West Campus, which is set to open this summer; planning has begun for the NIU Proton Therapy Treatment and Research Center; construction of the Kimberly and Jeffrey Yordon Athletic and Academic Performance Center; purchasing of motor coaches to transport students; signing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the City of Chicago to use Huskie Stadium and NIU Athletic facilities for the 2016 Olympic games; and the announcement of the NIU Foundation capital campaign for \$150 million.

Additionally, our Board has given increments to faculty and staff through very difficult budget times. It is my opinion, and I believe it is shared by all the Board, that we have continued to remain a unified Board. That was something that I stressed when I came on board, and I have

always tried to be open to all points of view. I hope the Trustees concur with me as well that all our questions have been answered by the staff and administration, and our concerns have been addressed. In addition, Kathy Buettner and I have worked to streamline our meetings so that we stay on task and try to be as efficient as possible.

Finally, during my term, I have tried to focus some of our time on the Underprepared Students. We have listened to presentations from various groups and committees on campus. They have all been informative, and many of them have been very moving. A university degree allows for all kinds of opportunities for our students, and I believe opportunity is what we are all about. Our mission is education. However, we are here to offer that extra help to those students who are not ready for the total academic experience. The programs and classes are rigorous, and some of our students are not prepared for this. The freedoms and responsibilities are great, but some of our students are not ready for this. The relationships and stresses are challenging, but some of our students are not prepared for this. The list goes on and on. I would only say today that I renew my request to the campus community, faculty and staff to reach out to the students and to offer them assistance or direct them to the appropriate help. The help is there. But the challenge is to get our students to make use of it. So I hope we continue to develop new programs and new strategies to support these students who are not ready for the total academic experience.

In closing, I congratulate Cheryl Murer on her election. And I know that she will be an effective leader and a wonderful representative for NIU. She has the interests of the university at heart, and she will work tirelessly to promote those interests. Thank you for this opportunity.

What you have articulated in terms of the activities of the last two years at this university certainly shows the growth under your chairmanship over the last two years, Trustee Boey said. But what is not obvious to the outside world is the deliberations that we all conduct during Executive Sessions and otherwise, in one-on-one conversations. What others on the outside do not see is this moderator, as chair, always used a firm guiding hand, but at the same time, had the ability to moderate the deliberations so that at the end of the day, we always had a consensus. Do not let her laid back demeanor sitting here in the chair's position fool you. Behind that face is an intense passion and desire to be sure that when the decision is made, it is the very best decision that is possible for NIU. Thank you so much for your leadership, Barbara. And thank you for your friendship as well. You have done a wonderful job as our leader the last two years.

**a. Election of Fiscal Year 2008 Board Officers**

The Chair recognized Trustee Sanchez to nominate the Board's elected officers for FY08. It is my privilege today to place into nomination the following slate of officers to be elected for Fiscal Year 2008, Trustee Sanchez said.

Chair:	Cheryl Murer
Vice-Chair:	Marc Strauss
Secretary:	Myron Siegel
Fourth Member of the Executive Committee:	Barbara Giorgi Vella
Universities Civil Service Merit Board Representative:	Marc Strauss

Madam Chair and fellow Trustees, Trustee Sanchez said, I would like to add just a few words in support of this slate of officers. First and foremost, it is a distinct honor and privilege to nominate for our Board's next chair, our good friend, Cheryl Murer. I have had the pleasure of knowing her well before my service on the Board of Trustees, and I have known her for years through support of many causes in which we share a mutual interest. She is, as most of you know, the President and CEO of her own legal-based healthcare consulting firm and a former director of Rehabilitation Medicine at Northwestern Memorial Hospital as well as a published expert in the wide-ranging fields of healthcare financing and strategic planning, fields which many of us knew very little about until we had the pleasure of having Cheryl join us on this Board. Her professional expertise has been invaluable to this Board, particularly in NIU's pursuit of key initiatives, such as the Proton Therapy Institute. Not only has she helped us navigate this complex world of healthcare finance and regulation, but she has been a tireless advocate for programs that leverage NIU's faculty and staff expertise for the betterment of all citizens in our region.

Beyond that, Cherilyn and I share a very deep and personal connection to this university as proud alumni of NIU. In addition to her service on this Board, she also serves on the Board of Visitors of the NIU College of Law, and is a member, as you all know, of the NIU Foundation Board of Directors. I could go on in much greater length, but suffice it to say that her impeccable credentials and heartfelt commitment to this institution make her an excellent candidate to lead this Board and this university into the future.

With that, I conclude my remarks and reiterate my strongest possible support for my friend, my colleague, our fellow Trustee, Cherilyn Murer, as I nominate her to become the Chair of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University beginning July 1, 2007.

Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the slate of officers as nominated for Fiscal Year 2008. Trustee Moser made a motion to approve the slate as presented by Trustee Sanchez. Trustee Boey seconded the motion.

Several of us here today, Trustee Boey said, Myron Siegel, George Moser, Manny Sanchez and I, have served on this Board since its inception in 1996. Over the course of more than a decade, we have watched NIU grow, prosper and triumph over some of the most serious challenges in its entire history. As the veterans on this governing board, we feel a very strong sense of responsibility for the future of the Board and the institution we serve. In seconding this nomination of Cherilyn, Marc and the rest of this slate of officers, I believe I am expressing the confidence we all have in these newest Board members. They are thoughtful, committed and generous with their time, and the expertise they bring into our deliberations has been invaluable. In talking about our incoming chair, let me just say, Cherilyn, that in the period of time we have worked together, I know your leadership, I know your commitment, I am very comfortable and confident of your leadership in the next two years. We have some exciting and very challenging times ahead of us in the next two years for NIU. Congratulations again.

First, I would like to say something about our current chair, Barbara Vella, Trustee Siegel said. You have achieved many important goals that we have had here at NIU, Barb. And you have fostered a healthy discussion among the Trustees on a variety of issues. You have shepherded this Board quietly with your guiding hand, moving NIU forward, always forward. And I wanted to thank you before I say a word or two about Cherilyn.

I have always thought that the strength of this organization had to do with the changing of the Board officers in a systematic manner. I believe that to be true, because it allows for different perspectives. You can call it luck. You can call it divine intervention. But Cherilyn's ascendance to the chairmanship at this time is very apropos. Cherilyn, you are a great asset to NIU. You have vision, strength, and most importantly, passion for Northern. Your expertise comes at a time when NIU needs it the most. We have this proton therapy project and, quite frankly, if we went out into the general world and said, who would we hire to help us, you would be the one. I just want you to know you have all of our support. I am delighted, and NIU's constituencies should be excited about the next two years under your guidance. Congratulations.

After the above comments, the motion was unanimously approved.

Chair Vella extended her congratulations to Trustees Murer, Strauss and Siegel. As provided in the Board of Trustees *Bylaws*, their terms will commence July 1, 2007.

Chair-elect Murer's comments were as follows:

I feel overwhelmed by the generous comments made by, not only my colleagues, but my friends. Serving on this Board of Trustees, I knew coming in would be a tremendous challenge and opportunity. But I had no idea what joy it would give me personally to serve with such esteemed colleagues. Now that word is often used, but it is truly meant. The level and the caliber of the people who sit on this Board, and certainly the caliber of the administration and leadership of this university is unparalleled. I came to NIU as a student, but I was reacquainted with NIU at just about the same time our president, John Peters, came to this great university. We have grown together, with this university professionally and certainly in friendship. I think that is the

undertone of this university. There is deep admiration for one another, which is driven by respect. And I thank you so much Manny, Bob and Myron for your very generous comments.

I want to thank you, Barbara. I want to thank you for your guidance and your leadership over these past two years. You have led this Board with strength of conviction and with kindness, and we appreciate that. Your emphasis during your tenure relating to programming to meet the needs of the underprepared dovetails very nicely with the interests that I have and the direction that I hope to see the university move in the next two years. I hope to focus on promoting and creating academic excellence, including increasing NIU's position in key national rankings, to reflect the programming of faculty excellence we have at NIU, to enhance research and creative artistry, including increasing extramural funding across the seven colleges; to develop a better marketing strategy; to communicate more effectively to our region, the higher education community and our alumni as to the academic excellence of NIU. I said one day at an Academic Affairs Meeting that academia is our business. It is what we do, and the support of our faculty and our deans is what we do.

And so, with the leadership of our Provost, who, too, is new to NIU, we have an extraordinary team. Under Chair Vella's leadership, President Peters and Provost Alden worked diligently to lead the university community through a comprehensive strategic plan. This is extraordinary, this is exciting, to have a strategic plan that is a workable plan. It began under Chair Vella's leadership, and I consider it a privilege to serve as Chair of this Board during the implementation phase of the plan. The strategic plan promises proposals to create scholarship clusters around multidisciplinary areas of excellence already present at the university. It emphasizes the investments that will be required to enhance the teaching and learning environment; develop strategies necessary to strengthen and extend NIU's impact in the state, in the Midwest, in the nation; and it focuses on what is needed to strengthen NIU for its stakeholders – our students, our faculty, our staff, our alumni, our leadership, our partners. The strategic plan, which many of you have been involved with under Provost Alden's leadership, should serve as a template to achieve the goals that I have outlined. As a Board, as senior administration, we now have a plan. Now we have to execute the plan. Let's do it. The strategic plan brings the issue of academic infrastructure and strategic investment to the administration and to the Board. More than ever before, I look forward to working with this Board, this administration and our Foundation in developing creative ways to provide the necessary financial and human resources that will be necessary to execute the strategic plan.

It is an exciting time at NIU, and certainly it is a privilege to serve as its chair. After discussing some of these issues with President Peters and Provost Alden, I am requesting that the university commission an external review of key academic research areas within the strategic plan for review and study for future Ph.D. and terminal degree opportunities. We have a changing world. We have a changing economy. We have changing corporate needs. And we need to make sure that our graduate programs are reflective of this new environment. A prime example of this initiative would be the medical physics program NIU is beginning in preparation for the opening of the Proton Therapy Treatment and Research facility in 2011. The program should be multidisciplinary in its focus to respond to the unique niche involving proton therapy that NIU is developing. Other Ph.D. program opportunities abound, and I ask that President Peters and Provost Alden provide the campus and the Board with an Opportunity Analysis of current and future academic research strengths that could lead to a multidisciplinary Ph.D. program campuswide.

Finally, I want to share with you, as I have previously, my delight in serving as chair during the creation of the Northern Illinois Proton Therapy Treatment and Research Center at the DuPage National Technology Park in West Chicago. You have all heard of this, but it is only through the vision and the leadership of this Board of Trustees; the vision and the leadership of our President; the vision and the leadership of our faculty and deans; and, certainly, the vision and the leadership of Kathy Buettner, who has championed the identification of federal and state funding for this extraordinary program. This new weapon in the fight against cancer will be brought to Illinois by NIU. And we should be incredibly proud of that. This project is transformational for

NIU. From an academic sector, it puts us on the national map in that there are only five other such facilities in the United States.

My comments would be incomplete if I did not recognize my husband and my partner with whom I share my life, my work and my passion, including my devotion to NIU. Michael and I have grown up together. We have grown, we have changed, we have challenged, we have grown, we have changed. And Michael shares with me the pride of association with NIU as it continues to evolve in its stature and academic excellence. I cannot thank you more deeply from the bottom of my heart for this wonderful moment, and I look forward to the accomplishments that we will all have in these next two years and beyond.

Chair Vella recognized Michael Murer who made the following comments.

That is the great thing about Northern Illinois University, they make room for everyone, whether you attended here or not. So I will take advantage of that.

The words "love" and "pride" are often overused. But the love and pride I feel at being included in this presentation is overwhelming to me. Pride, to me, represents Cheryl – passion, resourcefulness, integrity, dedication and energy. This Board is very lucky in that the past is powerful in how the Board has evolved. The last couple of years under Barb have been dynamic. This train has left the station. And if you want to get on board, you had better get a running start, because I do not think this university has seen anything yet. So, congratulations to the Board and, especially, to my wife.

The Chair recognized University Advisory Committee representative Paul Stoddard. I have to leave to teach a class, he said, so I would just like to take this opportunity to thank you, Chair Vella, for your service to the university over the last two years, and we look forward to your continued service as a Board member. I would like to congratulate Trustees Murer, Strauss and Siegel on their elections and their opportunity to, if possible, increase their service to the university in these new positions. I know they are all very dedicated and already serve and support the university to a great extent. Finally, to the whole Board, on behalf of the faculty, I appreciate your service and support of the university. And to Andrew, it has been a real pleasure, and I wish you the best in everything that you do for the rest of your career.

**b. Resolution – Barbara Giorgi Vella**

It is a privilege for me to be able to present this resolution to our Chair, Vice Chair Murer said.

**DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES.**

**WHEREAS**, Barbara Giorgi Vella has faithfully served as a member of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees since 1999; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to her election as Chair of the Board of Trustees in 2005, Barbara Giorgi Vella served as the Board's vice chair for two years, Chair of the Executive Committee and as a member of the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee and the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee of the Board of Trustees; and

**WHEREAS**, Barbara Giorgi Vella has invested significant amounts of valuable time and energy in service to the Board of Trustees and the students, faculty, staff and administration at Northern Illinois University for over eight years; and

**WHEREAS**, we as her colleagues on the Board of Trustees want to express our appreciation for her years of service to the NIU community and especially her leadership of the Board since 2005; and

**WHEREAS**, as Chair, Barbara Giorgi Vella led the effort to develop an agenda that helped Northern Illinois University realize many of its larger goals, including continued support for and funding of programs to assist underprepared students succeed at NIU, despite historical funding reductions from the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees looks forward to Barbara Giorgi Vella's continued service to the Board, faculty, staff, students and administration through at least 2011;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University in formal meeting herein assembled, extends its grateful appreciation to Barbara Giorgi Vella for her distinguished service to Northern Illinois University as Chair of the Board of Trustees from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2007.

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

Adopted in a regular meeting assembled this **21st** day of **June, 2007**.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

*Cherilyn G. Murer  
Vice Chair*

*Marc J. Strauss  
Secretary*



Chair Vella was presented with a gavel and sounding block engraved with the following:

*Barbara Giorgi Vella  
Chair, NIU Board of Trustees  
2005-2007*

Trustee Murer made the motion to approve the resolution presented to Chair Vella for her distinguished service to the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University. Trustee Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Thank you very much for all the kind words this morning, Chair Vella said. I am really overwhelmed and a little embarrassed. But thank you very much. I have enjoyed my service. And I look forward to working with Cherilyn for the next two years and with all of the Board for the next four years of my term. So, thank you for the gavel and block.

**c. Resolution – Andrew E. Nelms**

I want to personally thank Andrew for his leadership and his outstanding service to this Board, Chair Vella said. He has been a valued member of the Board and an excellent representative for the students. Their viewpoints have been heard because of his insight and perspective. He did a wonderful, outstanding job. We wish you well as you finish your Masters in Public Administration and head out into the world. I have no doubt that you will be very successful in life. On behalf of my colleagues, I request a motion to approve the Resolution before us today honoring Andrew Nelms. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

The Chair then asked Student Trustee Nelms to join her at the podium and presented him with the following resolution.

**R E S O L U T I O N**  
**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**ANDREW E. NELMS, STUDENT TRUSTEE**

**WHEREAS**, Andrew E. Nelms has faithfully served two terms as a student member of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees from July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to his election as student trustee in 2005, Andrew Nelms served as Speaker of the Student Senate for two years, capping four years of service to the Student Association at Northern Illinois University; and

**WHEREAS**, Andrew Nelms invested much time and energy in his studies as a History major at Northern Illinois University as well as in service to students, contributing valuable insight and information to the Board of Trustees regarding the student perspective on the rising costs of textbooks, creating additional innovative housing opportunities for students at Northern View Community, and striving to maintain NIU's affordability despite major budget reductions from the state; and

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

**WHEREAS**, we are proud of his May, 2006 graduation from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Arts in History and his subsequent pursuit of a Master's in Public Administration (MPA); and

**WHEREAS**, Andrew has led by example and been involved in the political process, serving as a senior intern in the personal office of Speaker J. Dennis Hastert in Washington, D.C. and as a staff member for Citizens for Bob Pritchard in DeKalb;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University in formal meeting herein assembled, extends its grateful appreciation to Andrew E. Nelms for his leadership and service to Northern Illinois University students and the Board of Trustees.

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

Adopted in a regular meeting assembled this **21st** day of **June, 2007**.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF**  
**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

*Cherilyn G. Murer*  
*Vice Chair*

*Marc J. Strauss*  
*Secretary*



Student Trustee Nelms comments were as follows:

My congratulations to the incoming slate of officers. Someone recently asked me exactly how long I have been involved in shared governance at NIU. And I answered by saying that in geological time, I just started; but in dog year's I go way back. For the past six years, I have been passionate about representing the students of this institution. In that time, I have witnessed increased enrollment, the ebb and flow of state funding, and the enthusiasm that comes with advancements in nearly every facet of this institution – academic, student life, athletics, etc. But a central constant throughout it all, due no small part to the dedication of this Board and President Peters, has been the paramount importance of providing, as Trustee Boey said, "a quality education at a reasonable cost." This July 1 will mark not only the beginning of Shaun Crisler's term as student trustee, but also the fiftieth anniversary of this institution bearing the moniker,



Northern Illinois University. It was on July 1, 1957 that, by an act of the Illinois Legislature, this institution ceased to be Northern Illinois State College, and became known by its fourth and current name, Northern Illinois University. But no matter the label, this university has continually produced some of the best graduates in the state. As we move forward pursuing decidedly 21<sup>st</sup> Century concepts such as proton therapy and P-20 education, NIU is blessed with the leadership of the members of this Board and our eleventh chief executive, Dr. Peters, who always has some words of wisdom and the virtue of patience when it comes to working with the state. That leadership coupled with the incredibly talented faculty and staff and the countless friends acquired by this university along the way, will ensure that NIU will not soon cease to play the critical role it has enjoyed in Illinois higher education for so long.

Although state support is dwindling, the state is the beneficiary of the talents of our alumni. And the Return on investment is evident in the large number of NIU graduates who settle in the region and serve as teachers, lawyers, nurses, engineers, community leaders and taxpayers. Congratulations are certainly in order for my successor, Shaun Crisler. I have known him for a number of years, and throughout his service in the Student Association. I have known him to be a respected leader and a tireless advocate for student issues. As I pass the torch on to him, I wish him the best of luck, and I know he'll be a positive addition to the Board.

I must express also my sincere thanks to my fellow Board members for their commitment to the betterment of NIU. Over the past two years, I have witnessed first-hand what I already believed to be true, that this Board is a dynamic, effective and committed group. Your contributions to the university community are innumerable and immeasurable. On behalf of the students of NIU, thank you for your service. Thank you too for always considering the office of the Student Trustee to be a full-fledged partner in this undertaking. Over the past two years, it has been my pleasure to represent the student body on this Board. I am proud of the work that we have accomplished in modernizing the manner in which the university stores and uses students' confidential information, the physical improvements made to the campus and the constant attention paid to the quality of education received by all students who are fortunate enough to call themselves Huskies.

So, thank you once again my fellow Board members, Dr. Peters and the faculty, staff and students of NIU. I have enjoyed this experience immensely. And I look forward to what NIU and this Board will accomplish in the future. Thank you very much, and God bless.

It has been a pleasure, Andrew, Trustee Boey said. Thank you for having been such an invaluable member of the Board as a great representative of the student body. I have no question in terms of success in the future in both your career and your life. Thank you so much for all your involvement and help.

I concur with everybody here today, Andrew, that you have really been a wonderful representative and a wonderful young man to work with, Chair Vella said. We really appreciate your service and your input. So, thanks again.

I would be remiss if I did not say a few words, Trustee Sanchez said. Having known several student trustees over the past almost dozen years, it has been really remarkable, and everybody in the audience should be proud. Andrew is a good example of the kind of talented, educated leaders that we generate here in DeKalb. It has been a pleasure, whether it is at a football game or at a formal committee meeting or at a trustee meeting, to work with him and know that he is a reflection of the 20-plus thousand students that annually are educated at NIU. So, Andrew, personally and professionally as a Trustee, it has really been a privilege. And it is rare that I have a chance to say that to somebody so "junior" if you will. But I mean that sincerely. You really have been of distinct service to this Board.

Trustee Boey pointed out that Andrew is also the only Student Trustee to date who has had the distinction of serving two consecutive terms as a Student Trustee.

## **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 2(c)(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, security matters as generally described under §2(c)(8) and (14), Executive Minutes matters as generally described under §2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. 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 12:32 p.m.

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Trustee Boey to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2007 Board Meeting. The motion was approved.

## **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.

## **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 55, Action Items 9.a.(4), (5), (6), (8), (9), (13), (14) and (22), and our receipt of Information Items 9.b.(2), (3), (4), (6), (7) and (9) and 9.c.(1) to the consent agenda. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

## **REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS**

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee did not meet.

### **Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee**

Committee Chair Cherilyn Murer reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee met on Monday, June 11. At that meeting the Committee considered and endorsed the following action items: Recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotions with Tenure for the 2007-2008 Academic Year; Appointment of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Appointment of the Dean of the College of Education; Transfer of Tenure and Tenure-Track Locations within the College of Health and Human Sciences; Request for New Emphasis within the B.S. in Technology; and Request for New Specialization in Nanoscience (Nanophysics).

The Committee heard reports on the following information items: Fiscal Year 2008 Off-Campus Delivery Fees for the Master of Business Administration, Master of Science in Taxation and the Master of Accounting Science; Off-Campus Delivery Fee for Instructional Technology Programs; Progress Report to the Higher Learning Commission; and the 2006-2007 Program Review Summary.

### **Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee**

Committee Chair Robert Boey reported that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee met on Monday, June 11. At that meeting, the committee considered and approved recommendations for tuition

rates for Fiscal Year 2008. This tuition increase is needed to address the continued lack of state support necessary for the operation of the university, including possible salary increments for NIU's outstanding faculty and staff. The committee thoroughly reviewed the tuition recommendations with affordability at the forefront of consideration. These recommendations remain some of the most conservative rates offered in the state. While these recommendations are the same as those approved by the FFO Committee, several technical adjustments were made to part-time rates in the accompanying tuition table to phase in elimination of the previous tiered rate schedule.

Additional items considered by the committee were: Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Guidelines; Fiscal Year 2008 Internal Operating Budget Interim Approval; Contracts and Purchase Authorizations for the NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract, *Northern Star* Contract, Radiation Oncology Physician Services Contract, Materials Management Commodities Purchases, Gasoline 10 Percent Ethanol Blend Purchase, and Charter Air Travel for Football Purchase; Lease Renewal for Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic; Capital Project and Remodeling Projects Budget Authorizations for the East Campus Chilled Water Production and Distribution Plant, Consulting Services for Living and Learning Project Initiatives, Public Safety Relocation, Demolition of GKC Theatre Building, and Design and Estimating for NCAA Track; Off-Campus Delivery Fees in the College of Business and the College of Education; and Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Metropolitan Alliance of Police, Chapter 414. The committee received the following reports: Update to Undergraduate Tuition Policy, Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000, Periodic Report on Investments, and the Semiannual Progress Report of Active Capital Projects in Excess of \$100,000. Many of the items addressed by the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee are included in the President's Report that President Peters will present for Board approval at today's meeting.

#### **Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee**

Committee Chair George Moser reported that the committee met in Hoffman Estates on June 5. Lori Clark, Agency Relations for External Affairs, provided a report on pending substantive legislation in Springfield. Kathy Buettner provided a report on key issues including Higher Education Reauthorization in Congress and a summary of the status of federal initiatives. The committee heard an update on the status of the proton therapy project presented by John Lewis. The committee also discussed the Fiscal Year 2006 Compliance Audit Report that contained four findings, two of which were repeat findings. These reports are included in today's meeting report. The committee requested Comptroller Jackson to notify administration and the committee chair if it appears that a finding will be repeated in subsequent audits prior to the conclusion of the audit. The committee plans to review a comprehensive Employer Conduct and Accountability policy at its Fall 2007 meeting. The committee also asked Ken Davidson, General Counsel for the university, to report at its fall meeting in regard to trademark registration issues affecting the university and its affiliates.

#### **Illinois Board of Higher Education**

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

#### **Universities Civil Service Merit Board**

Liaison Marc Strauss reported that the Universities Civil Service Merit Board met in Urbana on Friday, April 13. The board held an election of officers for the coming year. Joanne Maitland from Illinois State University was elected Vice Chair, and Trustee Strauss was elected Chair for the coming fiscal year. Items discussed at the meeting included two discharge cases, one at University of Illinois at Champaign and the other at University of Illinois at Chicago. Mr. Morelock gave a report on the FY08 appropriation of a 1.5 percent increase, which was approved by the IBHE and the Governor. The Board also approved a 1.5 percent salary increase for the executive director and a salary increase for other staff members in accordance with applicable Merit Board policies and Pay Administration Guidelines, all of which were included in a resolution adopted by the board.

A member informed the committee that when a section of the Illinois code on Separations and Demotions was revised last year, JCAR had issued a Certificate of No Objection along with a recommendation that this office seek legislation to modify a section of the State Universities Civil Service Act to clarify that statutory discharge/demotion hearings may be conducted by a Hearing Officer or a Hearing Board.

Consistent with JCAR's recommendation, two bills were introduced, one each in the House and the Senate. The House bill passed and was referred to the Higher Education Committee of the Senate. The Senate bill passed and was sent to the Rules Committee of the House. Mr. Morelock updated the committee on the current status of a proposed rule revision on the section regarding Delegation of Authority and Responsibility. This rule revision is intended to specifically clarify the Merit Board's authority to establish demonstration projects and pilot/study programs to investigate, research and gather information on new human resource operation procedures. This was the First Notice period for this rulemaking, which ended April 23, 2007. The Merit Board authorized the University System Office to seek input and proposals from employers and various constituency groups to initiate a process of review and develop procedures for exemption under Section 36e(3). Also, the constituency survey previously discussed was reviewed. It was decided that there was not enough information obtained from the survey and it would be sent out again in the near future. The next Merit Board meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, August 22, 2007 at the System Office.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 54**

As previously noted, President Peters said, we have a number of important issues to discuss this morning. I would like to begin by following up on remarks several of you have made about the kick-off of our first-ever capital campaign. I certainly share your excitement about the energy generated by the May 5 campaign launch event. I spoke with dozens of friends and donors that evening who clearly were moved by the stories of students, faculty and alumni whose lives were changed by their NIU experience or who are changing lives in the work they do here. But beyond the buzz of a single event lies years of planning and relationship-building that will make this campaign a success. We know we can raise dollars, but we also need to raise awareness of and appreciation for the tremendous resource that is Northern Illinois University. When people invest personal time and personal resources in support of any institution or cause, it is most often because they have been personally touched in some way. Sometimes, they track career success to a particular program or professor who inspired and encouraged them in their studies. Sometimes they recall a more general university experience that gave direction and confidence when both were in short supply. And sometimes, their connection to NIU exists apart from having taught or attended here, but rather in seeing the university's impact on the community and the region. Whatever the reason, whatever the connection, NIU is blessed with a growing number of friends who take seriously the notion of "leadership" in philanthropy.

I would like to share a few examples: Michael and Louise McSweeney became engaged while standing on the university seal in Altgeld Hall more than a few years ago. Now they have named NIU the beneficiary of a \$1 million trust to provide scholarships, program support and an endowed professorship in marketing in our College of Business. Gaylen and Joanne Larson both graduated from Northern and recently chose to show their gratitude to the university through another \$1 million pledge, also for scholarships and other initiatives in the College of Business, and for a named professorship in Accountancy. John and Nancy Castle recently created a \$1 million charitable remainder trust to support scholarships, faculty and academic program support they hope will enrich opportunities for students and for the faculty who support student success. All three of these gifts provide examples of what we mean by "leadership" in philanthropy. Their gifts create examples and actual programs for others to follow and support.

Leadership comes in many forms, and today I am proud to announce that yet another of our own Trustees has chosen to expand that definition to include a personal investment in NIU. Cherilyn and Michael Murer have made a pledge of \$100,000 to help develop a new program in healthcare policy and management. Michael and Cherilyn envision a collaborative program involving business, health, engineering and possibly several other colleges and departments in which students can prepare for challenging new jobs and faculty to produce important new research in new and emerging healthcare fields.

And so, to the McSweeneys, the Larsons, the Castles and the Murers, I offer sincere thanks on behalf of NIU and congratulations as well. You have made the best investment possible for the highest level of guaranteed return.

We have many other items of business to discuss today. We are bringing to the Board this morning a number of items and reports related to the budget, including our tuition proposal. As we have discussed in the past and most recently at the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee meeting earlier this month, NIU remains committed to the principles of access and affordability. That commitment is evident, once again, in a tuition proposal that keeps us competitive in the higher education marketplace without sacrificing a quality educational experience. Truth-in-Tuition requires us to “package” our plan in four-year chunks. If we were not required to do so, you would be voting on an annual increase of less than three percent.

In a few minutes you will hear a report on the latest news regarding budget negotiations in Springfield ... Suffice it to say, sitting as we are at the end of our fiscal year with no new budget in sight, we are watching closely, hoping for the best and making contingency plans in case no agreement is reached by the end of this month. Following this meeting, I will be sending an all-campus email to update our faculty and staff about the budget dilemma. I want to assure them, and you, that we are prepared for the possibility of an ongoing stalemate and committed to making competitive salary increments retroactive to July 1 as soon as a state budget is approved.

#### **UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES**

##### **Agenda Item 9.a.(1) – Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Guidelines**

Each year the university prepares and submits to the state a budget request that establishes salary, price and program needs for the upcoming fiscal year. To ensure the timely preparation and submission of the university's FY09 budget request to the IBHE, salary, price and programmatic levels need to be approved by the Board in early summer. In establishing the FY09 requests, the university recommends the following guidelines for its budget development: 5 percent Faculty and Staff Salary Increase, 15 percent Utilities, 3 percent General Price Increase, 15 percent Library/Technology Increase, \$250,000 Medicare Increase, \$3,150,000 in Non-Academic Program Improvements and \$5,215,500 in Program Priorities Requests. The President requested Board of Trustees approval of the above guidelines for its FY09 budget development. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

##### **Agenda Item 9.a.(2) – Fiscal Year 2008 Internal Operating Budget Interim Approval**

An oral presentation was given summarizing the Fiscal Year 2008 appropriation process and the status of the General Assembly and Governor's action on the appropriated budget. The university requested Board of Trustees approval of the preliminary operating budget as presented. The university further requested, in the event state appropriations are finalized prior to the September 2007 Board of Trustees meeting, that the Board authorize its executive committee to review and approve proposed FY08 salary increment guidelines for faculty and staff that are recommended. The university will present its final FY08 internal operating budget for approval at the September 20 Board of Trustees meeting. Trustee Boey moved to approve, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

##### **Agenda Item 9.a.(3) – Fiscal Year 2008 Tuition Recommendations**

Each year the university is asked to carefully review and evaluate tuition charges in order to recommend tuition rates that will generate adequate resources necessary to support the quality of academic programs and services provided and yet remain consistent with the university commitment to affordability and access. Tuition recommendations have been complicated by the Truth-in-Tuition (TnT) Act which took effect in Fall 2004 and the present economic uncertainties of the state's budget. In order to maintain quality academic programs and services and to address unavoidable cost increases, the university recommends a tuition increase for undergraduates of 10.8 percent for new degree-seeking freshmen/transfers and nondegree-seeking and a 1.8 increase for pre-Truth-in-Tuition (registered prior to Fall 2004). A tuition increase of 10.8 percent is also recommended for graduate students and the law school. Trustee Boey moved to approve, seconded by Trustee Moser. The motion was approved.

##### **Agenda Item 9.a.(4) – Fiscal Year 2008 NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract**

##### **Agenda Item 9.a.(5) – Fiscal Year 2008 Materials Management Commodities Purchase**

##### **Agenda Item 9.a.(6) – Fiscal Year 2008 *Northern Star* Contract**

Consent Agenda Items.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(7) – Fiscal Year 2008 Radiation Oncology Physician Services Contract Renewal**

NIU Outreach seeks permission to renew their contract for on-site radiation oncology physician services with Nuclear Oncology for the NIU Institute for Neutron Therapy at Fermilab (NIU-INT). Nuclear Oncology has been providing physician services for NIU-INT since December 2005. This is the second year of a five-year renewal option based on a proposal that was opened on October 7, 2005. The university requested Board of Trustees approval of expenditure authority for FY08 with Nuclear-Oncology, S.C. in Berwyn, Illinois. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Nelms. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(8) – Fiscal Year 2008 Gasoline 10 Percent Ethanol Blend**

**Agenda Item 9.a.(9) – Charter Air Travel for Football**

Consent Agenda Items.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(10) – Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic Lease Renewal**

The Zeke Giorgi Legal Clinic, located in downtown Rockford, provides legal services primarily to individuals who may not otherwise be able to secure legal advice. Third-year law students from the College of Law assist with legal representation under the supervision of adjunct clinical faculty who are licensed attorneys. The Giorgi Clinic is within walking distance of the courthouses, on public transportation routes and has adjacent parking available. The university requested approval to enter into a lease agreement with TRT Management of Rockford for a lease renewal from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2010. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(11) – East Campus Chilled Water Production and Distribution Plant**

The university's long-range goal of an East Campus Central Chilled Water Production and Distribution Plant is intended to reduce both energy and maintenance costs. The East Chiller Plant will (1) reduce the number of existing chillers utilizing CFCs that are harmful to our environment (2) will provide long-term energy savings resulting from consolidation and flexibility of the chilled water production and distribution. The university requested Board of Trustees authorization to establish a total project budget of \$16 million to contribute to the completion of the East Campus Chilled Water Production and Distribution Plant, of which NIU will provide approximately a quarter of the total. The Capital Development Board initiated the Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) process and selected Henneman Engineering to prepare plans and specifications for bidding and to provide construction observation. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(12) – Consultant Services for Living and Learning Project Initiatives**

In an effort to continuously revitalize and improve facilities that directly serve Northern Illinois University students, four major campus projects have been identified as areas that need significant improvement and are capable of enhancing the Living and Learning community. The four projects include residence hall renovation, a road work and parking study, intramural outdoor playing fields and the Holmes Student Center renovation.

The university requested Board of Trustees approval to enter into any necessary agreements for planning, estimating and design of the abovementioned projects, with the resulting recommended individual projects being brought back to the Board of Trustees for approval. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Nelms. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(13) – Public Safety Relocation**

**Agenda Item 9.a.(14) – Demolition of GKC Theatre Building**

Consent Agenda Items.

In order to accommodate Dr. McCord, who had to leave for the airport, Agenda Item 9.a.(20) was heard next.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(20) – Appointment of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences**

After a national search, Dr. Christopher K. McCord was selected for appointment as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. He is recommended for appointment at the rank of professor with tenure in the Department of Mathematical Sciences. Dr. McCord received a Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and bachelor’s degrees in mathematics and physics from Bowling Green State University. Dr. McCord has spent his career at the University of Cincinnati beginning as an assistant professor of mathematics in 1986 and rising to the position of associate dean for graduate affairs in the McMicken College of Arts and Sciences in 2003.

Chair Vella invited Dr. McCord to make a few remarks, which were as follows:

As an administrator, I have had a variety of positions. I was director of a multidisciplinary humanities center. I was interim head in a department outside of my own discipline. I was associate dean under a really brilliant dean, who has taught me a great deal about the craft of “deaning.” I have been very involved in universitywide activities. And so, I come here with the appreciation, first of all, of the complexity of academic leadership and a real excitement for all of the many facets of leadership in the university. I come here with appreciation of the centrality of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to the mission of the university. I do not think it is too strong a statement to say that the university cannot be strong if the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is not strong. So, I am very proud to have the responsibility and that opportunity to work, not just be an advocate for my own college, but to really be a true university citizen, to work for the success of everyone across the university. The only other comment I would like to make is that I bring a wealth of experience in state budget woes. So, the environment you are struggling with here is all too familiar to me from that in Ohio. And, if nothing else, misery loves company. So, I will be quite comfortable working in this environment and understand the obligation we have to our students, to their families and to the state, to provide the very best quality we can and really make the very best of our resources. And that is a mission I am very proud to be part of. Thank you.

Dr. McCord stated that the May 5 Capital Campaign event was his first as NIU and was an exciting event. It is a very exciting moment to be coming to the university. With the launching of the capital campaign, the initiation of the strategic plan, Dr. McCord said, and, of course, I must mention the great personal excitement of the very generous gift of Ray Smerge in creating the endowed chair that I am very proud to hold. That certainly is an exciting way to begin things here. And I hope it will be only the first sign of a great deal of development success for the college.

State law precludes the Student Trustee from voting on matters of tenure, so I will be voting “Present.” Student Trustee Nelms said.

It is with great pleasure, President Peters said, that I ask BOT approval of the request to grant Dr. Christopher McCord tenure and the rank of professor in conjunction with this appointment as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Chair Vella asked for such a motion. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. A roll call vote was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Moser	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Trustee Sanchez	--
Trustee Siegel	Yes	Trustee Strauss	Yes
Student Trustee Nelms	Present	Chair Vella	Yes

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

I just want to make a statement that would be applicable to not only 9.a.(20) but 9.a.(21), Trustee Siegel said, and that is that I have the assurances of our Provost that he is going to review the compensation structure of our deans in general and to address any deficiencies that may exist. Provost Alden assured him that this was correct, assuming we get a budget.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(15) – Design and Estimating for NCAA Track**

The design and estimating for an NCAA outdoor track for our women’s track team is the final bid of compliance with Title IX, President Peters said. We are asking Board approval to initiate a selection process according to our rules for an architectural and engineering firm. Any recommendations coming from that will be brought back to the Board of Trustees for project approval. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the design and estimating for an NCAA track. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Moser. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(16) – Off-Campus Delivery Fee for Instructional Technology Programs**

We are requesting a regional delivery fee increase of \$50 per credit hour in the Off-Campus Delivery Fee for Instructional Technology Programs effective with the Fall 2007 semester, President Peters said. This is needed for the cohorts, and there is a great demand for these information specialists. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the off-campus delivery fee increase for Instructional Technology Programs. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(17) – Fiscal Year 2008 Off-Campus Delivery Fees for MBA, MST and MAS**

This off-campus delivery fee increase request is for the Master of Business Administration (MBA), the Master of Science in Taxation (MST) and the Master of Accounting Science (MAS), Dr. Peters said, to be effective in the Fall 2007 semester. We have not adjusted these off-campus rates in several years, so we are requesting approval for a delivery fee increase of \$50 from \$265 to \$315 per credit hour. The MAS is a new degree with no current fee, and we would like that delivery fee to be set at \$315 as well. This still puts us below market for these very highly sought after and valuable programs. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the FY08 Off-Campus Delivery Fees for the MBA, MST and MAS degrees. Student Trustee Nelms so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(18) – Collective Bargaining Agreement**

This is for approval of a collective bargaining agreement with the Metropolitan Alliance of Police, President Peters said. It is a full agreement and will run through 2010. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the agreement with the Metropolitan Alliance of Police. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(19) – Recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotions with Tenure for the 2007-2008 Academic Year**

The June meeting is the time when recommendations for promotions, tenure, and promotions with tenure are considered, the President said. This is the result of a long and careful process. Tenure at an academic institution is one of the most precious things that the institution has to give. It only comes after careful years of evaluation. Therefore, I am very pleased, on behalf of the Provost, to move this slate of candidates for approval for tenure, promotion, or promotion with tenure. Chair Vella asked for such a motion. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. A roll call vote of the Trustees was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Moser	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Trustee Sanchez	--
Trustee Siegel	Yes	Trustee Strauss	Yes
Student Trustee Nelms	Present	Chair Vella	Yes

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

**Agenda Item 9.a.(21) – Appointment of the Dean of the College of Education**

President Peters called on Provost Alden to introduce the appointment of the Dean of the College of Education. First of all, the Provost said, we are very sorry to lose Chris Sorenson as our dean. As you know, she is going to the University of Hawaii to serve a very active and large program there as dean.

I was in the process of starting the national search process when a remarkable thing happened. We had a grassroots draft effort to ask Dr. Lemuel Watson to stay. He was set to go to another institution for a research chair position in recognition of his scholarship. After a considerable two- or three-week process,



I made sure this was not just a local few that were asking him to stay, but a mandate from the college. And, indeed, I found that to be true. Dr. Watson is truly a scholar, but he is also an administrative asset. And right now, I would like to ask him to come up and say a few words about his background.

Dr. Watson's comments were as follows:

It is a pleasure to be here this afternoon and speak to you. Some people have asked if I have any second thoughts or regrets about not leaving, and my answer is "Absolutely not." I am very proud to continue my tenure here at Northern Illinois University. And I bring a wealth of experiences to you. As I look back over my entire career, I feel that everything points towards this surprising appointment as Dean for the College of Education. I started my career in the vice president of business and finance office at the University of South Carolina. I used to approve the eight budgets for our campus and went on to become a systems engineer. And from there I became really involved with public education and thought, you know, there is something else to this. And I acquired my doctorate at Indiana University in educational leadership higher education policy issues. Also, I have recently been very involved with K-12 initiatives. I have taught reading teachers in higher education at Illinois State, so I know the system very well. I was a dean at the community college here and am very familiar with the politics of the state. I really feel that this is my home. I am from South Carolina, but I am happy to put down deep roots for NIU and in Illinois. So, I am just overjoyed, full with optimistic notions about the future for NIU's College of Education. And I would like to acknowledge that I have a wonderful foundation to start with because of Christine Sorenson's leadership. Thank you.

I would like to compliment the Provost for going through two such searches at the same time, Trustee Murer said. That is a yeoman's task. And I am glad to know that we always look for the best candidate available in the United States, but it also is very nice to find that candidate right here at home. So, we are delighted to have both Dr. Watson and Dr. McCord bring us the leadership that will be supportive of what has come before.

President Peters requested Board approval of the appointment of Dr. Lemuel W. Watson, who already has rank and tenure, as Dean of the College of Education. Chair Vella asked for such a motion. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 9.a.(22) – Transfer of Tenure and Tenure-Track Locations**

Consent Agenda Items.

#### **Agenda Item 9.a.(23) – Request for New Emphasis**

This Request for a New Emphasis in Aviation Management Technology is within the Bachelor of Science in Technology in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, the President said. It is a degree completion program in Rockford to help that area. There are no substantial new resources needed. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve an Emphasis in Aviation Management Technology within the B.S. degree in Technology. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Moser. The motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 9.a.(24) – Request for New Specialization**

This Request for a New Specialization is very important, President Peters said. It is a Specialization in Nanoscience and Nanophysics within the Ph.D. in Physics. It is a step toward a multidisciplinary Ph.D. program that would involve Engineering, and it buttresses our work with Argonne National Laboratory. Trustee Siegel moved to approve the request for a Specialization in Nanoscience (Nanophysics) within the Ph.D. in Physics, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

### **UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES**

#### **Agenda Item 9.b.(1) – Update to Undergraduate Tuition Policy**

I would just like to note the change in our Update on Undergraduate Tuition Policy, President Peters said. If someone completes their Truth-in-Tuition nine-semester cycle and still have not completed their

degree, they drop back to the rate of the second class that followed them. Inquiries have come from the Governor's Office and the legislature on this, so we are reflecting that change.

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

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

**Agenda Item 9.b.(4) – Semi-Annual Progress Report of Active Capital Projects with a Budget Over \$100,000**

Consent Agenda Items.

**Agenda Item 9.b.(5) – Progress Report to the Higher Learning Commission**

The Progress Report on Higher Learning Commission is our reaccreditation, the President said. We filed our report on outcome measures and assessment.

**Agenda Item 9.b.(6) – 2006-2007 Program Review Summary**

**Agenda Item 9.b.(7) – 95<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Report**

**Agenda Item 9.b.(8) – FY08 Illinois Higher Education Budget**

**Agenda Item 9.b.(9) – Congressional Report**

Consent Agenda Items.

**Agenda Item 9.b.(10) – Fiscal Year 2006 Compliance Audit Report**

President Peters stated that NIU's 2006 Compliance Audit Report was thoroughly reviewed at LAEA Committee meeting.

**ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT**

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

Consent Agenda Item.

**CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 39**

**Agenda Item 10.a. – Underprepared Students Report**

Chair Vella asked Vice President Brian Hemphill to introduce the student speaker making this report. We have learned a great deal from these presentations over the last two years on support services for underprepared students, Chair Vella said. There is no doubt that NIU has some wonderful resources and programs to assist all of our students. And I hope the focus on these services over the last two years has helped students, faculty, staff and the Board to become more aware of all these available opportunities.

It is my pleasure to introduce one of our star students, Dr. Hemphill said. Ms. Alejandra Carreno is a senior business organizational management major from Woodstock, Illinois. She will be graduating in December 2007. Alejandra has been actively involved in the Latino Cultural Awareness Committee, the Latino Resource Center, University 101, as well as Alpha Sigma Omega Latina Sorority. She has also been actively involved in the Leadership Academy and serves as a learning assistant for the Academic Advising Center. Alejandra is truly an extraordinary example of the committed and progressive student leaders cultivated here at Northern on an annual basis.

Ms. Carreno's comments were as follows:

Good afternoon. First, I would like to say thank you for allowing me to be present today. I am honored to be here and be able to share some of my experiences as an NIU student. I am Alejandra Carreno, a senior organizational management major, originally from Woodstock, Illinois. NIU has been a part of my life since before I chose to attend here. You see, I come from a family of seven. My parents are hard working. And even though they are not college graduates, they held that dream for my brothers, my sisters and myself. They encouraged us to work hard at our studies, and they always reinforced the importance of education. As it came time for me to attend college, finances were getting increasingly tight. My parents had already

been working extra hard to help my three older sisters graduate from college. One of those sisters actually graduated from NIU. Although I was not sure that I would be able to find a job on campus and have enough support to pay for school, the one thing I was certain of was that I was going to attend NIU. Marilou, the sister who graduated from NIU, had great things to say about her experiences here. I remember her bringing me to events like Little Sibs Weekend where we had such a great time. The campus was so committed to family, hosting events where my sister could include us, which made her transition to college life much easier. Our entire family participated in the annual family potluck hosted by the Latino Resource Center each year. And it was because of the commitments of family, commitment to students, the close proximity to home, being familiar with the campus and having a great business program that I chose to come to NIU.

Of course, sooner than later, the celebrations of acceptance into college get buried beneath the balancing of academics and life. I have been fortunate that NIU is very well connected to its students, and as a result I was able to get a work study job at the Latino Resource Center. However, my sophomore year grew tougher. My father became very ill. He was no longer able to work, and his medical bills were increasing. My parents were no longer able to provide assistance to me for my education. As difficult a period as this was, I was able to continue my studies because of opportunities such as institutional tuition waivers, scholarships and jobs like being a learning assistant, which provides student employees with free room and board. I continued to involve myself in student life, joining more student organizations and working with different departments on campus like Latino Resource Center, Student Involvement Leadership Development Office, Career Services and the Academic Advising Center. I became extremely aware of time. I learned to balance my academics, work, involvements and still manage to volunteer a minimum of six hours a month during the school year at various community service events.

Overall, I am amazed and grateful with experiences I have had both at and because of NIU. Some of my most memorable experiences here are winning the title of Miss Latina NIU, 2006; winning a leadership award each year, freshman through sophomore year, for the Student Involvement Leadership Development Office; being a peer mentor and helping other Latina women at Northern with adjusting to NIU academics and what NIU has to offer; being a part of the Latina Assistance Program and being able to fundraise to obtain grants to attend the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute; also, working side-by-side with Student Affairs staff on program development. I have a younger brother for whom I try to be a role model. I am following the same road as my sister and encouraging him by making him familiar with the campus. Most recently, he attended the Annual Latino Leadership Conference, hosted by the Voice of Latino Student Alliance.

Lastly, I would like to give a special thank you to you, the Board. Your dedication to service and your commitment to all of us as students is admirable, and it makes a difference. Because of NIU's and your support of family commitment to students, inclusiveness and all the reasons that I came to NIU, I am proud to be here today as a representative of the students' success. Thank you.

Chair Vella thanked her for coming and commented that it seemed being active with the Latino organizations had a lot to do with her successes at NIU. Ms. Carreno agreed that they were very instrumental in her successes here. The Chair also thanked Dr. Hemphill for bringing these reports to the Board for the last couple of years. I appreciate it, she said, and I know your office does a lot of good work with the students. Keep up the good work and keep developing new strategies.

#### **Agenda Item 10.b. – Executive Session Minutes Release**

The Illinois Open Meetings Act requires public bodies to review the minutes of their executive sessions on a semiannual basis and determine what parts of the minutes they should make available to the public because they no longer require confidential treatment, Chair Vella said. Accordingly, Item 10.b. 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 General Counsel and Parliamentarian, the following sections of executive session minutes for the relevant period are proffered for release from confidentiality:

The Executive Session Minutes of the NIU Board of Trustees from the following dates: March 18, 2004, Item 1.b., Property Matter; June 17, 2004, Item 3c. Property Matter; September 23, 2004, Item 3.c., Property Matter; June 16, 2005, Item 2.b., Property Matter; March 23, 2006, Items 2.b.(ii) Property Matter and 4.b. and 4.c. Personnel Matters; June 15, 2006, Item 2.c. Property Matter; September 21, 2006 Item 1, Review and Approval of Minutes of Executive Session from June 15, 2006, Items (3)(a) and (b) Personnel Matters, Item (4) Property Matter and Item (5) Collective Bargaining Agreements; December 7, 2006 Item 1, Review and Approval of Minutes of Executive Sessions, Item 3.(a). Property Matter, and Item 4(a) and (b) Personnel Matters; as well as the September 7, 2006 Executive Session Minutes from the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committees of the Board of Trustees, Items 1.(a) and (b) regarding Personnel Matters.

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 this review and determination as stated. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Nelms. The motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 10.c. –Board of Trustees *Bylaws* Amendment – First Reading**

On January 1, 2007, Chair Vella stated, a new state statute took effect that makes it more difficult for Board members to establish a quorum to do business if they are not physically present at the Board meeting. Prior to January 1, 2007, any one of us, if not able to be present in DeKalb, could call in from anywhere, and our presence and votes still counted. That is no longer true. Now, all of us must be physically present here in DeKalb or on a video link at one of our other campuses or from another public facility within the state of Illinois.

After discussion amongst the Board and incoming-Chair Murer, we believe this *Bylaws* change will provide additional flexibility to the Board Chair by making it possible for the Chair to serve as a voting member of any of the Board committees if he or she so chooses. It is not mandatory, but it does provide the Chair with the ability to not only join a committee to establish a quorum, but gives him/her the ability to vote and participate in Board committees as he or she deems best.

Incoming-Chair Murer believes this will provide the most flexibility to her as Chair and future chairs in making committee assignments given the sometimes exceedingly busy professional lives we all maintain. I think this is very important, Trustee Murer said, because the majority of the work of the Board does take place in the committee structure. And it was my desire, not only for the quantitative element of having people here, but also the opportunity to be a voting member of the committees. So, I do concur with this *Bylaws* change.

I would like to remind everyone on the Board that the *Bylaws* change requires two readings, Chair Vella said. We will be voting to approve this change at the September Board meeting, which will be the Second Reading.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 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 Student Trustee Nelms. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins  
Recording Secretary