

Minutes of the  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
September 20, 2007

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cherilyn Murer at approximately 9:05 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, Myron Siegel, Marc Strauss, Barbara Giorgi Vella, Student Trustee Shaun Crisler, and Chair Murer. Trustee Manny Sanchez joined the meeting during Executive Session. 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, we are going to propose a Consent Agenda that would immediately precede the beginning of the President's Report for today's meeting, and move President's Report Number 56, Action Items 9.a.(6), (7) and (8), and our receipt of Information Items 9.b.(2), (3), (8), (9), (11), (13) and (14) and 9.c.(1) to that consent agenda. I also propose the inclusion of revised Item 9.a.(3) in the President's Report for action during today's meeting. Agenda Item 9.a.(3) is not part of the proposed consent agenda. Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda as now proposed. Trustee Strauss made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Trustee Vella seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Chair Murer asked for a motion to close the public meeting to conduct an executive session to discuss the following subjects authorized by the Illinois Open Meetings Act: personnel matters as generally described under §2(c)(1) and (3) of the Open Meetings Act, Litigation and Risk Management Matters as generally described under §2(c)(11) and (12) of the Open Meetings Act, Property Matters as generally described under §2(c)(5) and (6) of the Open Meetings Act and Executive Session Minutes Matters as generally described under §2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Moser so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Executive Session was as follows:

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

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

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECONVENED**

Chair Murer reconvened the public meeting of the Board of Trustees at approximately 11:00 a.m.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

We are starting off wonderfully in 2007, Chair Murer said. Things are very positive for our university. We are welcoming students back. We have completed the Yordon Center, which is magnificent. It is

magnificent not just as a building, but for what it means to student athletes, and I say “student” athletes because it encourages academics. Academics is at the nucleus of the strategic plan that we have initiated.

We have begun True North, our first capital campaign. As you know, my husband, Michael, and I are gratified to be able to participate in True North, and what we are focused on is sharing the vision of President Peters, Provost Alden and the strategic planning committee to create a multi-disciplinary opportunity for research and learning for both faculty and students.

A comment that was made recently is that there are two sides to academia: research and teaching. Teaching is the human touch. Research brings us the scientific knowledge. NIU has always been formidable in the human touch. And in the next five years, we are going to try to excel in our research capabilities. In light of that, we have scheduled a Board workshop in November to discuss the implementation of the university’s strategic plan. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to identify what this university’s goals are. And it is an incredible feat to have a Board of Trustees so involved with the execution of the strategic plan. This is a Board, under the extraordinary leadership of Dr. Peters, that looks to excellence in teaching and excellence in creating an environment for students who will be the leaders of our nation.

But despite all of these things, we have had some travails. Certainly the rain was not kind to us this year. I cannot believe how not only NIU but DeKalb was deluged. Yet, that act of God put a challenge before us, and we were able to implement our strategies and become even stronger. It is also hard to believe that those rains came on Move In day. It has been a long time since my children first went to college, but I still remember putting things in the elevator and trying to get them settled. So, to have that kind of rain was a challenge for our parents. But through all of this, everyone came out stronger. And there was a camaraderie that came out of trying to get from under the rains and to help each other. Sometimes adversity works to our benefit. So, in all of these aspects, I want to thank Dr. Peters, Dr. Williams and Dr. Alden for their leadership, particularly during this crisis. The Board tries to express its thanks and appreciation to our administrators, our faculty and our staff at all times. But we rely on them more than ever in these times of difficulty to know exactly what to do and to give the right direction. Classes began on time on Monday, August 27, and we are so glad that we are all a part of this university and community.

I would like to welcome University Advisory Committee representatives who may be present this morning: Dr. Stoddard, Dr. Bryan, Dr. Steven, Ms. Cesarek, and Mr. Monteiro. Because he had to leave to teach a class, Dr. Stoddard asked Ms. Buettner to convey his comments to the Board. He asked me to convey his appreciation to the administration and to the Board regarding the increment proposal that the Board is going to consider today, she said. And he wanted to let you know, as a Board, that he has discussed this with Provost Alden, Dr. Peters and with Mr. Cunningham, and that these increments fall in line with where the Faculty Council was headed in their discussions as well. To add to what Mr. Stoddard’s comments, Mr. Montiero said, the increments that you are going to considered today also follow the guidelines that the Operating Staff Council discussed with Mr. Cunningham. Todd Latham, Vice President of the SPS Council, said that the SPS Council also agreed with the guidelines and wanted to thank the administration for the increment being considered.

Being able to compensate our faculty appropriately is always foremost on the minds of our administration and to this Board of Trustees, Chair Murer said, and we speak with a unified voice that whatever resources we have reasonably available should be spent on our faculty.

<b>REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>
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It was moved by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Trustee Boey to approve the minutes of the June 21, 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.

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

### **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee did not meet.

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

Committee Chair Barbara Giorgi Vella reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee met on Thursday, September 6. At that meeting the Committee considered and endorsed a request for a new research center, the Northern Illinois Center for Accelerator and Detector Development. The Committee also heard reports on the following information items: Fiscal Year 2007 University Performance Report; Progress Report to the Higher Learning Commission; 2006-2007 Faculty Emeritus Recognition; Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff; Fiscal Year 2007 External Funding for Research, Public Service and Instructional Projects; and the Strategic Planning Process Update.

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

Committee Chair Robert Boey reported that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee met on Thursday, September 6. At that meeting, the committee considered and approved recommendations for the following: Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriated and Nonappropriated Capital Budgets; Fiscal Year 2008 Internal Budget; Renewal of the Academic Program Enhancement and Instructional Technology Surcharge; Request for Expenditure Authority for Grant Purchases in the Department of Biological Sciences, Department of Psychology and College of Engineering; Contract Approval for Legal Service on NIU Outreach; and Approval of an Open Order for College of Engineering Outreach. The committee also received reports which included: Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Reports on Capital Activities, Fiscal Year 2007 Report of Tuition and Fee Waivers, Fiscal Year 2008 Tuition Comparison for All Public Universities, Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000, Annual Summary Report Obligation of Financial Resources, and Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff.

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

Committee Chair Marc Strauss reported that the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee met in DeKalb on Thursday, September 6. Ken Zehnder provided a report on pending substantive legislation in Springfield and the status of the university's budget for FY08. Kathy Buettner provided a congressional report including the FY08 appropriations cycle. Key issues included the Higher Education Reauthorization on Budget Reconciliation in Congress and the status of federal initiatives. The committee also reviewed a compilation of Employment Conduct and Accountability Policies prepared at the committee's request by Human Resources and the General Counsel's office for distribution to faculty and staff. General Counsel Ken Davidson provided a detailed report to the committee regarding trademark registration issues for both the university and the Athletics trademark issues. Finally, the committee received a report regarding the university's decision to move to direct lending for student loan recipients. All of these reports are included in your BOT reports today.

Chair Strauss asked everyone to note that the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee plans to meet in DeKalb immediately following the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee and the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee meetings in the future.

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

President Peters reported that the last meeting of the IBHE was held on Tuesday, August 14, at the Palmer House in Chicago. Items of interest to NIU and the Board were as follows. A report was heard on the upcoming master planning effort, which will be led by board chair Carrie Hightman, that will propose a review of the role and status of postsecondary education in the state of Illinois. We will be monitoring and

providing input to that group as it moves forward. The next meeting of the board will be held in two weeks in Carbondale, Illinois.

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

Universities Civil Service Merit Board representative Marc Strauss reported that the board met on August 14 in Urbana. The meeting was held simultaneously by two-way video hookup to a location in Chicago. That was the first time that had been done by this board, and it is in keeping with recent changes to the Open Meetings Act. The agenda included the following. Three discharge cases, all from the University of Illinois, were considered. These cases presented interesting issues concerning which procedures must be followed in charging and notice, and whether these issues are jurisdictional prerequisites to Merit Board action, as well as what happens in the event an employee is not deemed fit to work and is in the process of appealing a disability determination at the time all accrued leave is exhausted. The board adopted FY09 budget recommendations. A minor bylaw change was adopted clarifying the treatment of e-mails for Open Meetings Act purposes. The board approved additions and revisions to the pay administration guidelines applicable to board employees. The board approved JCAR-suggested changes incident to rulemaking on demonstration projects. And there was a review to certain information related to the ongoing study of the treatment of employees under Section 36e of the State Universities Civil Service Act dealing with principal administrative employees. This topic has been of interest to representatives of both employee and employer groups throughout the state. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7, 2007. This concludes my report Madam Chair.

### **Northern Illinois University Foundation**

NIU Foundation representative Boey invited Mallory Simpson, President of the Foundation, to give this report. Chair Murer has already mentioned the recent dedication of the Yordon facility, Ms. Simpson said, and it is, indeed, a magnificent building. But the real story was in the faces of the student athletes and the coaches as they first started using their building, and in the faces of the donors who came to see what they had accomplished together. This was certainly a universitywide team effort. The Foundation was pleased to be a part of it. I want to give kudos to Jeff Dauer as the project manager who kept everything on schedule as the scope changed significantly. We are working on one additional commitment that is near closure, but at final count, donors will have contributed about \$10.3 million toward that building that once was estimated at \$5 million.

Red and Black is coming up on October 12. This year, the focus is on academic excellence consistent with the goals and priorities of the True North campaign. Particularly, we are going to be highlighting faculty achievement in different ways, and hope many of you can join us for that. We are at \$112 million in total funds committed for the campaign. So the needle has moved significantly since our kickoff on May 5. As you know, we are focusing on the endowment component of the campaign to support academic excellence, and our total now is \$15 million. So we have had good progress in the endowment area in the last few months. Coupled with that is some very good news about the Foundation's investment performance for last fiscal year. We are reporting a 16.9 percent total return for our endowment portfolio, which is outstanding thanks to a superb finance committee. Their expertise and commitment is extraordinary and they provide wonderful oversight. Our expendable portfolio, which is our short term investment, is 9.4 percent. As we seek additional donors to invest in our endowment portfolio, what a great message we can cite on how well we are taking care of their hard-earned funds.

And finally, I have a quick donor story. One of our recent endowment commitments is by a couple that you all probably know well, Ken and Ellen Chessick, who have created a new scholarship program called the Chessick Civil Justice Scholarship Program. As you may know, Ken is a surgeon whose legal practice is now focused on medical malpractice. And he is very passionate about pursuing justice for people who have suffered catastrophic harm. He decided that for each case he settles or wins, he will establish a new named scholarship in honor of one of the victims to perpetuate their legacy and to benefit a law student at Northern Illinois University. I shared this inspiring story recently at the Alumni Association Board meeting. After the meeting, one of the Alumni Association Board members stopped me and said: "I was so moved by what Ken and Ellen are doing and his excitement about doing it that I'm going to start a new scholarship program, my second. And I'm going to try to do one every other year."

Thank you Mallory, Chair Murer said, I think it is important that you share these stories with us because it humanizes the fundraising process. And the Foundation has done an incredible job in securing not only funds, but doing it in unique ways, and we commend you for that.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Murer 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.(6), (7) and (8), and our receipt of Information Items 9.b.(2), (3), (8), (9), (11), (13) and (14) and 9.c.(1) to the consent agenda. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The motion was approved.

Before the President speaks, Trustee Sanchez said, I would like to interject that in the eleven-plus years we have had this Board it has been wonderful to see the confluence of all of these parts of the university, the Foundation, the NIU Alumni and all of the members of this great NIU family working together rather than as individuals. And we are now looking at this great True North campaign along with other things that a decade or so ago would not have been possible or even imaginable. So I would like the record to show that the Board is very grateful for the unification and the partnership that has evolved among the various units here at the university.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 56**

I have just a few brief comments, President Peters said, and they begin with a few thank-yous. First of all, we have several thousand first-time students and freshmen who will always remember their first year at NIU, 2007, as the "Year of the Great Flood." Chair Murer, was so kind in recognizing Dr. Williams and me and others, but I want to mention and point out the real heroes and heroines in that incredible weekend. They were our 300 emergency employees who worked round the clock to get us ready for classes on Monday, the Building Services people who confiscated every shop vac in a 50 mile area, along with every fan. At 4:00 a.m., they were sandbagging so water would not come into Altgeld Hall. It was really truly amazing. Our Dining Services people were feeding several thousand wet students. And, our students, many of whom were new students who had no particular connection to the community until now, were sandbagging and protecting our friends and neighbors. That was tough, but we made it through in fine form. So, again, thanks to all of you who sacrificed time and energy to help us through that unexpected, disruptive experience.

I want to thank our enrollment management team led by Gip Seaver. We hit all of our enrollment targets this year balancing our resources with providing access to as many students as we can. That is a tough job. I want to thank all the employee groups, Mr. Steve Cunningham, Dr. Eddie Williams and Provost Ray Alden for their hard work on the best possible salary increment package recommendation that is coming before you today.

And, lastly, I want to thank our Board, which is so engaged. This is a Board that is long on work, and they are involved. And I have given the Board a brief preview of my State of the University Address, which I will be delivering next Thursday, that focuses on our Strategic Plan and the next five years. And I want to assure you, they are committed. The Board is committed to seeing this academic plan, which is really a university plan, and to helping me find ways to resource some of our best ideas.

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

##### **Agenda Item 9.a.(1) – Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriated Capital Budget Request**

The Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriated Capital Budget Request begins on page 21 in your reports, and is the same as the past several years. In every capital bill that is currently being considered in the legislature or by the Governor, Stevens is high on the list and was in the zone of funding, depending on a vote and a revenue source. So we have had a lot of support and done everything we can do, and I cannot wait for the day when I can sit up here and say Stevens Hall is going to be renovated. In reply to a question from Trustee Boey, Dr. Williams stated that the Stevens Building had probably been on the capital budget list for around 10 years. Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the FY09 Appropriated Capital Budget Request. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(2) – Fiscal Year 2009 Nonappropriated Capital Budget Request**

The Fiscal Year 2009 Nonappropriated Capital Budget Request contains budget requests that are funded from revenue bonds or reserves, Dr. Peters said. This budget is developed from requests submitted by department heads and physical plant and facility users. Requests are prioritized and presented for approval and include improvements to existing facilities and systems, building additions, infrastructure and site/roadway/utility improvements. Trustee Siegel moved to approve the FY09 Nonappropriated Capital Budget requests, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(3) – Fiscal Year 2008 Internal Budget**

The Fiscal Year 2008 Internal Budget, which requires Board approval, is broken down by fund source, the President said. We are approaching the half a billion dollar level in terms of total revenue and expenditures. Accompanying this is the 2008 Salary Increment Allocation Guidelines, which merit special attention. We received a small increase in our state budget of about 1.8 percent. But we will continue our commitment to salaries for our employees, faculty and staff, by combining that with some of our own resources to provide the best compensation package we can.

For regular faculty, we are proposing a four percent general increment that will be retroactive to August 16, the beginning date of the FY08 academic appointment and contract periods, to be allocated on the basis of merit. In addition to that, and not subject to the usual state budgetary problems, we are committing an additional half percent increment in January to be set aside and allocated for critical faculty retention and for consideration of any salary equity issues based upon an analysis to be conducted and authorized by the Provost.

For Supportive Professional Staff and for Exempt Civil Service, we are proposing a four percent general increment retroactive to July 1, with two percent allocated on an across-the-board basis and two percent allocated on the basis of merit. Those employees are also eligible for a supplemental half a percent increment in January allocated for critical retention with an emphasis on market considerations.

Our third group of employees is Hourly Civil Service. Again, that will be a four percent general increment retroactive to July 1, with two percent allocated across the board and two percent allocated on the basis of merit. The supplemental January half a percent will also be allocated to these employees for critical retention with an emphasis on market considerations.

This does not include promotional increases for tenured faculty and staff. That adds more to this package, so it would be higher than four point five percent. And we will give you a report on what the final tally is once these distributions are made. I am very proud to move this today. It is a stretch for us. I think it will be more competitive than what most universities are going to be doing in the state. And it is an expression of our appreciation for our employees and what they do.

Again, this is an opportunity I take every year, Trustee Boey said. To put everything in perspective, the state's contribution to NIU's internal budget in 1996 was over 50 percent. Today it is approaching 25 percent. In spite of all that, it puts in perspective how the Board feels about the salary guidelines and how important it is to us to be sure that the academic and administrative sides are well recognized and that everything in our power is done to maintain that.

In case you did not take note when the President was articulating the various factors, Trustee Sanchez said, the state only gave us 1.8 percent additional revenue. So the simple thing for the President and this Board would have been to say, "Okay, that's all we got, let's just pass on 1.8 percent." You would be disgusted; we would be disappointed. That is not the way we operate. We have a management team here led by President Peters that somehow comes up with a program supported by this Board to try and compensate to the maximum we can. So, the Board is 100 percent supportive of the efforts of this wonderful leadership team we have here at NIU, and I think you deserve a lot of credit.

This is a remarkable feat for the university, Chair Murer said. I mentioned this before, but I have never seen an administration so concerned about making sure that any monies available are then turned over to the faculty and staff to support the academic activities, and we appreciate their support.

I would like the record to reflect my abstention on this issue, Trustee Strauss said, because I have a spouse who is an employee, and it has been my custom not to vote on that question. Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the FY08 Internal Budget, including the FY08 Salary Increment Allocation Guidelines as presented. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The motion was approved with 7 voting “yes” and Trustee Strauss abstaining.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(4) – Renewal of Academic Program Enhancement and Instructional Technology Surcharge**

The Board originally approved the university's request for an Academic Program Enhancement and Instructional Technology Surcharge in May 2003. Given the ever-emerging demands to provide cutting edge academic programs and services to NIU students, the surcharge was designed to be used to provide resources necessary to strengthen the university's academic mission. Given the continued lack of state support to address academic program needs, greater emphasis will be given to provide more substantial support for academic program enhancements in critical areas such as funding for library journals and books, support for courses in high demand and upper-division impacted departments, technology upgrades, as well as support for identified academic strategic planning initiatives designed to strengthen, direct and further improve academic programs, research and the academic experience of our students.

I have commented before that nobody likes to see fee or cost increases, Trustee Strauss said, but when you have a fee increase and there is a deliverable that comes with it, it is easier to accept. And in a time when our state support is decreasing, we have to be creative about ways to find revenue enhancement. This is probably not the last fee that we are going to see, but it is the sort of fee that I can support. I also wanted to say that it is important that students are able to see the smart classrooms and other progress being made from these fees, Student Trustee Crisler said.

This is all about deliverables to students, and it is deliverables that are connected to the Strategic Plan, Chair Murer said. Trustee Siegel moved to approve the renewal of the Academic Program Enhancement and instructional Technology Surcharge, seconded by Trustee Moser. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(5) – Department of Biological Sciences Research Project**

This item for the Department of Biological Sciences Research Project is an incredible research endeavor, President Peters said, and it is a pass-through item. It is a multiyear grant to study the long-term outcomes of childhood epilepsy. Research Professor is a new category here in the Department of Biological Sciences. Over the life of this grant, Research Professor Anne Berg will be the Principal Investigator. That cohort study has received over \$10.6 million from the National Institutes for Health. This is competitive research and development, an example of the kind of grants that we need to attract. The funds are for what is called the Connecticut Study. That is an ongoing cohort of over 600 students first diagnosed with epilepsy around 1993. Now they are being longitudinally tracked and studied by a team of 20 investigators from some of the best universities in the country including Yale, Columbia, UCLA, the Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, and globally, the Brain Research Institute in Melbourne, Australia. This is a renewal of the grant for \$2 million. Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the Department of biological Sciences Research Project. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(6) – Department of Psychology Consulting and Research Services**

**Agenda Item 9.a.(7) – NIU Outreach Legal Services**

**Agenda Item 9.a.(8) – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology Outreach**

Consent Agenda Items.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(9) – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology ROCK Program – Research and Project Development**

This also is a pass-through on our wee-known Rapid Optimization of Commercial Knowledge (ROCK) Program in Rockford involving grants from the Department of Defense, President Peters said. Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology ROCK

Program for Research and Project Development. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(10) – Request for a New Research Center**

This is part of the formal IBHE approval process for the Northern Illinois Center for Accelerator and Detector Development (NICADD), the President said. This collaboration with Fermi and Argonne Laboratories is one of our most vibrant research centers. We have 20 researchers whose scholarly productivity is overwhelming, and they are garnering external funding. That group will be an important part of our attempts at FermiLab to attract the International Linear Collider in the next two decades.

Trustee made a motion to approve the Request for a New Research Center, seconded by Trustee Siegel. The motion was approved.

**UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES**

The President briefed the Board on those University reports not placed on the Consent Agenda.

**Agenda Item 9.b.(1) – Fiscal Year 2007 Report on Capital Activities**

The Fiscal Year 2007 Report on Capital Activities summarizes all capital projects approved in FY07 by various university personnel and includes Capital Development Board appropriations from the State.

**Agenda Item 9.b.(4) – Fiscal Year 2007 University Performance Report**

The Fiscal Year 2007 University Performance Report was prepared by Dr. Virginia Cassidy and it has been submitted to the IBHE.

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

The Progress Report to the Higher Learning Commission, is our decennial accreditation body. After the site team visit, the response from the Commission stated that NIU was “commended on its excellent report and, even more importantly, on its success in designing and implementing a pervasive assessment system that provides meaningful data for the improvement of student learning.” And Staff Analysis of the progress report indicated “No further reports are required. The institution’s next comprehensive evaluation is scheduled for 2013-2014.”

**Agenda Item 9.b.(2) – Fiscal Year 2008 Entering Student Tuition Comparison – Public Universities**

**Agenda Item 9.b.(3) – Annual Summary Report Obligation of Financial Resources**

Consent Agenda Items.

**Agenda Item 9.b.(6) – 2006/2007 Faculty Emeritus Recognition**

I want to thank these individuals listed in our Report on Faculty Emeritus Recognition, who have contributed so much of their life and time to building this great institution, Dr. Peters said. I am always concerned about replenishing the professoriate. How do you replace these kinds of people? Hopefully, our Strategic Plan will help.

**Agenda Item 9.b.(7) – Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff**

Finally, the President said, we have Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff. Awards programs of this nature are intended to feature individuals who demonstrate excellence in the performance of their responsibilities and who have made outstanding contributions to the university. Congratulations to all.

**Agenda Item 9.b.(8) – Fiscal Year 2007 External funding for Research, Public Service and Instructional Projects**

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

Consent Agenda Items.



**Agenda Item 9.b.(10) – Fiscal Year 2008 Illinois Higher Education Budget**

Ms. Buettner gave the Board an update on what is in the capital bill that passed the Senate earlier this week. It was funded from a gaming revenue stream that would consist of three new boats being brought to different areas throughout the state. That is obviously a controversial funding source in and of itself. However, the companion bill to the capital bill provides over \$19.5 million for the renovation of the Stevens Building and another \$1.7 million for regular capital renewal projects for the university. The bill then will go to the House, which is scheduled to return the Monday before veto session, which begins the first week in October. This will be a topic of much discussion between Leader Cross and Speaker Madigan and then with the Governor over the next few weeks.

**Agenda Item 9.b.(11) – Congressional Report**

**Agenda Item 9.b.(12) – Employment Conduct and Accountability Policies**

**Agenda Item 9.b.(13) – Trademark Registration**

**Agenda Item 9.b.(14) – William D. Ford Federal Direct Lending Program**

Consent Agenda Items.

**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. – Amendment to *Bylaws* of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University – Second Reading**

This is the second reading of amendment to our Board of Trustees *Bylaws*, Chair Murer said. The first reading was at the June 21 Board meeting. On January 1, 2007, a new state statute took effect that makes it much more difficult to achieve a quorum, especially at our committee meetings. In the past, we could telephone in, our presence would be counted as part of the quorum and our vote would be accepted. This statute requires us to be physically present here in DeKalb or on a video link from some location within the state of Illinois.

Therefore, after much discussion among the Board, we believe that this *Bylaws* change will provide additional flexibility by making it possible for the Chair to serve as a voting member of any Board committee. It is not mandatory, but if the Chair decides that it is important to join a committee, not only to establish a quorum, which was previously allowed through our *Bylaws*, but also to have the ability to vote and participate as an active member. Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the Amendment to *Bylaws* of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The Chair called for a roll call vote, which was as follows:

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

The motion was approved with six voting “Yes” and two voting “Present.”

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Chair Murer announced that the next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, on the main campus in DeKalb.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no Other Matters, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins  
Recording Secretary