

Minutes of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
December 3, 2009

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marc Strauss at 9:06 a.m. in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Sharon Banks-Wilkins conducted a roll call of Trustees. Members present were Trustees Robert Boey, John Butler, Barbara Giorgi Vella, Student Trustee Matthew Venaas and Chair Strauss. Not present were Trustees Cherilyn Murer, Manuel Sanchez and Myron Siegel. 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 revised printed agenda before us, Chair Strauss 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 66, Action Items 9.a.(1), (4), (5) and (7); and Information Items 9.b.(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8); and 9.c.(1) to that Consent Agenda. Trustee Vella made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Trustee Boey seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Butler	Yes
Trustee Vella	Yes	Student Trustee Venaas	Yes
Chair Strauss	Yes		

Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Executive Session was unanimous.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECONVENED

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

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Student Trustee Venaas and seconded by Trustee Butler to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2009 Board Meeting. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting quarterly as a Board allows time for reflection between Board meetings, Chair Strauss said. It permits us the luxury of reviewing three months of activity at this great university. When we met in September, the school year was barely underway. Now, our faculty and students are preparing to begin final exams to close another semester. So much has happened in between that makes this university a great institution and its members a community. Today I want to highlight some of the great news that we often take for granted. We have had two open houses this fall for incoming freshmen and transfer students. Both open houses shattered previous attendance records and we look forward to seeing many of those students and their parents here in August for move-in day.

NIU faculty doing research in anthropology, geology and STEM education have had their research featured in publications and news media throughout the United States, Europe and the Far East -- world-class faculty doing world-class research, right here in DeKalb.

Our College of Visual and Performing Arts has become a pioneer in the use of Internet2 technology to take its artistry and talent to people in over 32 countries and 49 states. Their holiday concert scheduled for 3:00 p.m. this Sunday will be heard in a live webcast at McMurdo Science Station in Antarctica. Special thanks to Media Services for their investment in this technology and assistance to the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Our NIU Huskies just completed a winning football season with a 7-5 record and remain bowl eligible. I just love the Huskie motto: "We develop champions both on the field and in the classroom." I am pleased to report that the Huskie Athletes' Graduation Success Rate (GSR) for 2009 rose to 82 percent. This marks the fifth straight year that NIU's GSR has improved. The Huskies continue to rank above the national GSR average.

As we heard David Stone, Director of the Office of Sponsored Projects, report to the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee, our faculty members are competing for and winning new and continued research funding available through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Despite the fact that budgets are bleak for public higher education in Illinois and throughout the nation, great things are still happening to NIU faculty and students. Having just celebrated the Thanksgiving Holiday, I thought it appropriate that we focus this morning on the good news in research, artistry and athletics that this great university experiences on a daily basis. I am grateful to all of you for your continued perseverance and achievements on behalf of our students here at NIU. They truly have a world-class university experience at NIU. Congratulations to all!

The Chair welcomed University Advisory Committee representatives who might be present: Dr. Alan Rosenbaum, Dr. Ferald Bryan, Dr. Gregory Waas, Dr. Joseph "Buck" Stephen, Ms. Bobbie Cesarek and Mr. Jay Monteiro. Dr. Rosenbaum, Ms. Cesarek and Mr. Monteiro wished everyone happy holidays. Dr. Rosenbaum also commended the Board, as well as President Peters and Dr. Williams, for thus far steering the university through very treacherous financial waters.

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 John Butler reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee met on Thursday, November 12, 2009. At that meeting, the committee considered and endorsed the Recommendation for Appointments with Rank and Tenure for Barry Bode and James Collins. The committee also heard reports on the following information items: The Carnegie Foundation Classification on Engagement, the Office of Sponsored Projects and Technology Transfer Office Services. The Strategic Plan Update was postponed until early in 2010 as a special BOT Workshop.

Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee

Committee Vice Chair Robert Boey reported that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee met on November 12, 2009. At that meeting, the committee considered and approved recommendations for: College of Engineering ROCK program research and project development; Department of Geology WISSARD Project Support; Department of Geology Remotely Operated Instrumentation System for Subglacial Environments; Research and Graduate Studies Multiyear Software Licensing and Maintenance Fees; Data Security on State computers Act Policy; Energy Infrastructure Improvements – Phase X Performance Contract; Oracle Database Capacity Management and Performance Management Add-On Modules. The committee also received reports including: Semiannual Progress Report of Active Capital Projects with a Budget of Over \$100,000, Periodic Report on Investments, Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000, as well as Annual Summary Report of Obligations of Financial Resources. The recommended items addressed by the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee are included in today's President's Report for Board approval.

Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee

Committee Chair John Butler reported that the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee met on November 12, 2009 in DeKalb. Ken Zehnder provided a Veto Session and 96th General Assembly Update to the committee and brought news that our very own Manny Sanchez was officially reappointed to the Board of Trustees for another term. In addition, Ken reported that language for securing the spring MAP awards was finalized, however, funding had not been secured. He also reported that President Peters had requested the release of State funds already approved for Stevens, Cole Hall and the planning money for our Research and Technology Building. Lori Clark presented the Congressional Report and explained that Washington is very preoccupied with the healthcare reform bill and that not much else is moving on Capitol Hill. She assured the committee that she is following up on a number of NIU's federal earmarks and is actively involved in the process of choosing NIU's five congressional interns for the summer of 2010. David Stone updated the committee on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the various projects NIU has submitted grant requests for under this act. At this time, NIU submitted 48 research proposals with a value of \$16.7 million eligible for consideration. We are pleased to report that to date NIU has been awarded five ARRA awards totaling \$4 million.

Paul Bauer briefed the committee on some of the feedback NIU's School of Music has received on their use of Internet2 Technology. A recent concert was viewed via live HD webcast by people from 49 out of the 50 states and over 32 countries. Positive comments have been streaming in from alumni and former faculty worldwide. Finally, Jeff Compher presented the committee with an Athletics Report and touched on a number of important matters such as the status of NIU's NCAA recertification, an update on various NIU teams and their standings, and he informed us that all NIU athletes have just completed their eighth semester achieving a GPA of 3.0 or above. A report by Steve Cunningham on benefits provided employees and students in domestic partnerships and an introductory report by the Internal Auditor, Danielle Schultz, were moved to the February 4, 2010 committee meeting.

Illinois Board of Higher Education

The Illinois Board of Higher Education did not meet.

Universities Civil Service Merit Board

Board Liaison Barbara Giorgi Vella reported that she had participated in two meetings of the Universities Civil Service Merit Board (UCSMB) on August 19, 2009 and on November 18, 2009. Highlights of those meetings included the following. The discharge of an employee was granted to Illinois State University

effective August 19, 2009. The Executive Director's decision to affirm the discharge of an NIU police officer was approved by the Board of Directors and adopted as the final decision and order of the Merit Board. The board approved the recommended 2011 budget as presented. A 3.75 percent increase was requested, primarily for personal services, a salary increase and employment of an additional staff person. The Merit Board voted to circulate a rule regarding furloughs to the various universities and agencies for comments. There was much discussion on this, particularly at the second meeting. Some of the universities wanted this rule to be instituted immediately as an emergency rule. However, it was tabled to our next meeting, which was moved up from February to January because of concern, particularly by the University of Illinois, about having rules in place for furloughs. At each meeting, we hear reports from the Executive Director, the Human Resources Director's Advisory Committee, the State Universities Civil Service Advisory Committee, and a report from our legal counsel. We received a report on the year-to-date expenditures and obligations of the Merit Board. The board was advised that there is a pending administrative review case filed in the circuit court regarding the discharged NIU police officer versus the Civil Service Merit Board. Our meeting schedule for 2010 was also set.

NIU Foundation

Trustee Boey deferred to President of the Foundation, Mallory Simpson, for this report. During these tough times, the Foundation and the Development program have been marshalling all of our resources toward finding ways to help our students who are struggling and need and deserve our support. Our donors are responding continue to respond beautifully. As you recall, we exceeded our goal of \$150 million earlier in the fall, and our campaign total now stands at \$157 million. Since the beginning of the campaign, 13,700 scholarships totaling \$8.2 million have been awarded to students. We have learned through our marketing efforts over the years that the best voice for our donors to hear about what is great about NIU is directly from faculty and students. The students, especially, provide the inspiration and motivation for our donors to continue their support. So, a member of my staff, Angela Johannson, has produced a series of videos portraying students and sent them out via e-mail to our alumni and donors, and those have been very well received. She has been collaborating with a number of people on what are called "Rising Stars" videos, and we have had several. The first was Larry English, who was a start student and athlete, now a proud alumnus. The second one, psychology major Jenna Binversie, who discovered her passion for planning charity events after she led a team of fellow NIU students to organize an auction to benefit children with brain tumors. Our third video is Kevin Coffee, a former business student who explored other options and found his true passion was that he was meant to be a grade school teacher. This morning, I have a preview of our newest video, which will introduce you to Ali Whitecotton, and it will be in your e-mail boxes shortly. Ali is a community college transfer student who learned that a little confidence and courage to see some big opportunities would really propel her career and help her take advantage of all that NIU has to offer.

Following is the audio portion of the video:

Ali: *When I went to community college, I had no idea what I wanted to do. And now looking back, I'm very amazed at everything I've accomplished.*

Jane Mall, Director, Experiential Learning Center, NIU: *Fifty percent of our students here at the College of Business transfer from a community college. I think that's a huge number. So they have a lot to prove. They're taking out a lot of loans. A lot of them are working part-time, almost full-time and trying to complete a degree. And I think that says a lot for NIU students.*

Charles E. Downing, Wal-Mart Professor in Enterprise Technology Innovation: *You're going to get some students with a good attitude, who are humble, who are hard workers and who are just as capable and just as smart as students that go to these upper-tier schools, and Alicia Whitecotton is certainly one of those students.*

Ali: *I never thought that I'd be able to impact Wal-Mart Corporation. I never thought that I'd be able to intern at McDonald's Corporation. It's given me a lot of opportunities to get somewhere and to achieve goals that I never thought I could before.*

Jane Mall, Director, Experiential Learning Center, NIU: *I've never seen another students so young and so energetic and have such a brought future. She's just phenomenal.*

Ali: *Go out, do things, explore, be part of things and ... learn.*

Chris Millington, Chief Technology Officer, McDonald's Corporation: *She's open, she's honest, she's committed, she's energetic, she's focused. She has ... she's willing to take a risk.*

Ali: *I want to be a part of the project, but I also want to be someone that everyone can come to.*

Charles E. Downing, Wal-Mart Professor in Enterprise Technology Innovation: *If I had my own company, I'd hire Ali in a second. In a second.*

Ali: *You don't hire me, I'll buy your company.*

Chris Millington, Chief Technology Officer, McDonald's Corporation: *She's not afraid. She just gets right in there, and it doesn't make any difference who it is or what it is. She's ready.*

Ali: *Since I've been at Northern, through all of my involvements, I've become more confident, I've learned to believe in myself, I've learned that I am able to do things that I didn't think I was able to do before. And Northern really helped me to accomplish all of those things.*

Those videos, telling the NIU story better than most anything I can think of, are being e-mailed to 60,000 alumni, Ms. Simpson said.

Northern Illinois Research Foundation

I want to say here at the beginning that I am honored to be your liaison to the Northern Illinois Research Foundation Board, BOT Liaison Barbara Giorgi Vella said. Briefly, the Northern Illinois Research Foundation supports the commercialization of technology developed at or in conjunction with NIU through technology transfer, university industry collaboration and the formation of new ventures. The Research Foundation, known as NIRF, is an independent 501(c)(3) corporation operating as a University-Related Organization. As part of its 2010 work plan, the Research Foundation has developed a survey to be distributed to the university's research faculty to assess their interests in various methods of commercialization of intellectual property developed from their research, such as the licensing or creation of start-up companies. Based on the results of this survey, NIRF will develop plans to support commercialization activities at NIU. Several entrepreneurs who have commercialized intellectual property based on university-developed as well as commercially-developed technology have agreed to address the university's researchers and other interested faculty members to describe their experiences in commercialization of their patented technology. At its last board of directors meeting, the Research Foundation, acting as the sole member of the Northern Illinois Proton Treatment and Research Center, reviewed and approved the center's new corporate bylaws and articles of incorporation. These bylaws and articles were necessary because of the center's reorganization as an Illinois not-for-profit corporation. Also at its last board of directors meeting, the Research Foundation welcomed its third external board member, Mr. George Messina, founder and managing director of North Star Growth Partners, a private technology commercialization firm.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the items placed on the consent agenda earlier in the meeting. They include President's Report Number 66, Action Items 9.a.(1), (4), (5) and (7); and Information Items 9.b.(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8); as well as 9.c.(1). Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 66

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation and to thank Chair Strauss for his earlier remarks when he celebrated our number of recent achievements at NIU. It is very important for us to remember

that our university remains full of life, discovery and accomplishment, even in the most challenging of times. That is the mark of a great institution, and we have always done that. As I am sure many of you are, I am looking forward to going to a bowl game. Though we do not know where that will be just yet, my bag is packed. Today also marks sort of a first. My remarks are being live video streamed on the Internet. I want to thank Media Services for trying this so I can reach as many people as possible and talk personally to everyone rather than writing an e-mail, because I have an important message today. I want to talk about our budget situation, the serious nature of it and what we will need to do, collectively, to get through it.

It should not be news to anyone that the State of Illinois is in dire financial straits. With the state budget deficit projected at between \$11 and \$12 billion, every state agency and anyone doing business with the state has suffered. And NIU is no exception. The immediate consequence is that we find ourselves in the midst of a cash flow crisis. Simply put, money is flowing in from the state too slowly to keep pace with our routine operating expenses. For years, state spending has outstripped revenues by about a billion dollars annually. It is a structural deficit digging a deep financial hole for the state. Making matters worse, high unemployment and rampant under-employment since 2007 have caused a dramatic drop in state revenues.

A consequence of this has been dwindling state support for higher education. There has been a disinvestment in public higher education across the states for a decade. The percentage of NIU's total operating budget provided by the state has declined from 43 percent ten years ago to under 25 percent this year. We are almost a half-billion dollar corporation, the President said. The state appropriation share has shrunk to about 25 percent of our annual operating budget. These other areas have been fairly stable with the exception of the income fund. Gifts, grants and contracts have grown. Local and auxiliary enterprises, those activities that raise cash like Holmes Student Center, selling meals and so forth have done well. And revenue bond operations where we use state bonds to fund certain long-term projects that have a revenue stream also have done well. We are paying off a bond for the Huskie Stadium expansion, and it is paid for by receipts from the gate. The university income fund is composed of tuition and fees. We have had no choice, as state appropriations have dwindled, but to pass some of those costs on to students and their parents, and that is unfortunate. This pattern is typical of state universities across the country, so we are no exception. But we have been trying to diversify our sources of revenue.

This year, receiving even a minimal level of support from the state has been a real struggle. Since the start of the fiscal year on July 1 through late November, the State did not disburse any of the funds allocated to us. It is almost as if the major bread winner of a family has not been paid for six months but is still working, and not even on unemployment. Therefore, we have had to use our other sources of family income to pay for our operating expenses.

The General Revenue state appropriation for NIU this year is \$107 million. They were about \$65 million behind in their funding to NIU, however, thankfully, we received our first \$8 million appropriation payment last week. We hope that will start a trend because, as welcome as this money is, \$8 million is not enough to meet a single two-week payroll cycle at NIU, which is about \$9 million. The campus community may be interested in the following information about our payroll:

- Our annual total payroll for all fund sources is \$251 million per year from a base of \$437 million.
- Each monthly payroll requires the university to expend almost \$18 million in cash-on-hand to keep paychecks flowing to our faculty, staff and student workers.
- Each operating day, NIU incurs just under a million dollars in payroll obligations.

So as we sit here today on a work day, I have to find a million dollars so we can meet payroll. Translated, the state is so far behind in payments of NIU's appropriated funds, that if we relied solely on state funding, the campus would probably be closed for business. No amount of NIU employee furlough days could cover the gap that currently exists from delayed state funding and still allow a functioning, operational university. If we all took a furlough today, we would raise a million dollars; however, if we did not work, we could not pay ourselves.

Needless to say, this is what has created NIU's and others' cash flow crisis. With only the promise of money from the state, our administrative staff has worked valiantly to stay ahead of the situation to make sure that paychecks could go out. Years of conservative fiscal practices provided us a small cushion to work with – we have built up some reserves, watched our cash flow, been very careful about making purchases. That has been our cushion, but we have stretched it as far as we can. Let me say here, for everyone, that we all owe a great debt of gratitude to a couple of individuals. One is Dr. Eddie Williams and his staff, for his outstanding management of our precious financial resources, and the other is Dr. Ray Alden and his expert stewardship along with our outstanding group of deans, in trying to make the very difficult kinds of decisions that keep us going, keep us safe, keep us warm or cool, keep classes being taught so that in two weeks, at commencement, we can give 1,600 individuals their degrees. That is what we are in business for. Both of these individuals, Eddie and Ray, are often in a position where they have to say what no one likes to hear: “No, we don't have the money to spend to begin a new venture.” But, universities are idea generating machines. We generate more good ideas and more strange ideas in one day than any other kind of institution I know, and most of them are worth investment. We cannot do that. But if Eddie and others had not said no and been tight-fisted, we would be facing a financial calamity today. So, I thank you.

Instead, we have shuttled funds between accounts. We are negotiating with vendors and utility companies to defer payments such as, hopefully without penalty, a \$10 million electric bill. Missing a payment usually means a huge penalty. So, we are working with people and exploiting every tool at our disposal, like performance contracts, to do badly-needed work around campus with little or no up-front costs.

Regrettably, we have also been forced to increase the burden on our students through higher tuition and fees, which I covered earlier. So the efforts we have undertaken so far have allowed us to avoid the fate of some of our counterparts. Southern Illinois University, for instance, has stated publicly, before the first state disbursement, that they would be unable to meet their payroll in December unless the state starts meeting its obligations. I am happy to say that we are not to that point yet, but we are gradually running out of options since salaries account for the large percentage of our costs. People always say, “Well, we can cut travel, and we can cut equipment,” and solve our budgetary crisis. We do that, but that does not solve the issue, because those expenditures are so small. Right now, we put six percent into scholarships, and it should be more. We put too little into permanent improvements like roofs and that sort of thing. We have to buy expendables and commodities, such as paper, paper towels and so forth, which make up about five percent of our budget.

So, as daunting as all of that is, we are being told that next fiscal year will be even more difficult. To quote the initial budget directives from the Governor's new budget director on the budget for FY11, he said, “Fiscal Year 2010 has already been our most challenging budget year to date, so fasten your seatbelts for Fiscal Year '11.” Director Vaught's recent memorandum to the state agency directors, intended to help prepare for next year's budgeting process, contains few specifics. However, it is a virtual certainty that NIU's funding will be further reduced from our \$107 million base, because \$4.5 million of that \$107 million is federal stimulus money.

The state's budget directives for larger agencies, of which NIU is one, remain incomplete. However, one hint of what lies ahead is that the small- and medium-sized state agencies have been told to plan for a cut in funding in excess of 14 percent. That figure speaks volumes about the critical nature of this situation. When I arrived as NIU President in the year 2000, the state's financial condition was stable but showing signs of deterioration. It has never really recovered because of this structural deficit I talked about earlier. It seems that throughout my tenure as President of NIU, I have been forced to repeatedly ask our hard-working and dedicated employees to take on additional duties and further increase their productivity. And they have done that. Many of you are working long hours, and you have been for years. You are not only sacrificing your time and energies, but you are sacrificing financially, as this university does not have the resources to reward such sacrifices. Even when we have managed to provide salary increases over the past few years, we have had to use other sources of revenue in large part to do it, not state general revenues. I wish things were different, but they are not. All I can say is that I am aware of this situation, I feel very badly about it, and if I could find the resources to address these issues myself, I would do it immediately. Unfortunately, we must wait for state leaders to coalesce around a common solution,

something that is very difficult for them to do. But I will support them when they come to that decision, and let us hope that they do so soon. Meanwhile, as your president, I must ask your continued patience with state leaders and that your energies continue toward enhancing the NIU academic and collegiate experience for our almost 25,000 students. I know you have always done that, and you always will. And I am going to continue to devote most of my energies to trying to make the case for NIU and for public higher education in Illinois – that it is a valuable investment on the part of the citizens and the state.

In the meantime, we cannot sit back and wait to learn what will be asked of us. We must begin by taking steps now to help us through the current cash flow crisis and to prepare for what lies ahead. So, effectively immediately, I am issuing the following directives: First, there is a hard hiring freeze in effect for all new and vacant appointments, except for critical lines and critical hires on the academic side of the university required to help us effectively carry out the primary mission of educating our students. Other hires deemed critical will require vice presidential and presidential approval, and will be approved on a case-by-case basis. Second, we are asking all departments on campus to reduce spending and find ways to delay processing purchases, contracts and appointments until the latest possible point in time so that we can conserve cash and help meet payroll. Finally, to the extent possible, limit travel and related expenditures.

I realize these steps sound familiar and, sadly, I have had to issue similar directives in the not-too-distant past. The difference is that now our situation is much more dire. To emphasize the seriousness of our current situation, allow me to put this in perspective. Unless the state fulfills its obligations to us, our ability to limit hiring and to defer payments will have a direct impact on our ability to continue to meet our ongoing obligations, including payroll. If the state funding is not coming, our ability to hold back our spending directly results in our ability to make payroll. Obviously, there is no issue more important than this. I realize that it is of critical concern to each and every member of the campus community, and I will do my best to keep everyone informed of this fluid and unpredictable situation through a series of updates as information becomes available.

As state appropriations are released, and I will work to ensure that they are, the university will continue to move forward in a timely way to address its obligations. We are working hard to avoid the situation the state finds itself in with state vendors, and that is not being able to pay its bills in a timely way.

We have been through difficult times before in our history. Because of that, it pains me once again to ask you to, in the words of Budget Director Vaught, “fasten your seatbelts.” Now, at the same time, having soldiered through trials that very few can imagine right alongside you, I am very confident, that we are going to get through whatever financial difficulties lie ahead. After all, we are Northern Illinois University.

Chair Strauss thanked President Peters for his comments. For those of you who are regular attendees at our committee meetings, some parts of what President Peters has had to say this morning should come as no surprise, the Chair said. But the service that has been performed this morning is that it has been presented in a manner that is accessible to everyone in the university community. That type of communication is important, and I am glad we had the opportunity to hear from the President this morning on this topic.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 9.a.(1) – College of Engineering ROCK Program – Research and Project Development
Consent Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 9.a.(2) – Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences WISSARD Project Support

Agenda Item 9.a.(3) – Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences Remotely Operated Instrumentation System for Subglacial Environments

President Peters presented two items related to the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences, Agenda Items 9.a.(2) and 9.a.(3), for Board consideration. Both items are in support of the Whillans Ice Stream Subglacial Access Research Drilling (WISSARD) Project support, the President said. The Geoscience Department has been involved for several years now in these drilling projects, and we

have received substantial funding over the years from various organizations. We recently received funds from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for this \$20 million project. Agenda Item 9.a.(2) is a \$1.3 million pass-through to use the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Space Sciences and Engineering Center Ice Drilling and Design Development (IDDO) group to help with the configuration of these drilling processes and mini-submarines. Agenda Item 9.a.(3) is a similar sort of pass-through, at \$1.8 million, working with the Deep Ocean Exploration and Research (DOER) Marine Division in Alameda, California to help configure that process.

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the Department of Geology and Environmental Sciences request for WISSARD Project Support with the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Trustee Butler so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the Department of Geology and Environmental Sciences request for the Remotely Operated Instrumentation System for Subglacial Environments associated with the DOER Marine Division. Trustee Vella so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Venaas. The motion as approved.

A presentation was made on both Geology and Environmental Geosciences projects. Dr. Colin Booth, Chair of the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences, introduced Dr. Reed Scherer. Dr. Scherer is one of our primary researchers, Dr. Booth said, and he is going to present a talk about the Antarctic research. Dr. Scherer obtained his Ph.D. from Ohio State University with a doctorate in Paleontology, and has worked on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts as well as Uppsala University in Sweden before arriving at NIU in 2000. He is an internationally recognized authority on diatom micropaleontology and on the environmental change record in sediments and glacial materials recorded in Antarctica and elsewhere. His publication and research grant records are very impressive. Most recently, he obtained a \$1.3 million research grant from the Moore Foundation. In addition to being a great researcher, he is an outstanding teacher who teaches oceanography from 100 level through upper-division courses to the Ph.D. level.

We have already heard a word or two about the new project called WISSARD, Dr. Scherer said, and I will give you a quick summary of what that means shortly. I am very glad to have this opportunity to point out to those here, and to the Board especially, the fact that this university has not just been involved in research and climate change in Antarctica for quite a long time, but really has been at the forefront. Antarctic research did not begin with Ross Powell and myself at NIU. Some of our most recent projects have been funded by the National Science Foundation, and much of this foundational instrumentation has come from support from the National Oceanographic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and a new award from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. Gordon Moore is the founder of Intel, and they do not solicit proposals, they seek out people to support.

We all know that this is the fiftieth anniversary of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Also, this week marks the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the International Antarctic Treaty, which set Antarctica aside as a base for scientific research in the absence of commercial development or military exploitation. It has been a remarkable, shining example coming from the depths of the Cold War to have all of these countries working together as we continue to do now. But, we here in DeKalb have been involved for nearly that long. To date, we have about ten NIU faculty members who have been involved in Antarctic research, and there may be more going back to the early sixties. Central to this have been our students. We have had graduate students and undergraduate students involved in all aspects of the research through the years. Quite a few students, undergraduate and graduate, have gone to Antarctica for field work and been involved in the research that came afterwards, as well as in presenting and publishing their results throughout the world. There is a theme that has carried through, and this tradition is what brought me to NIU. Quite a few of the samples I studied in my Ph.D. dissertation were recovered during a project that was coordinated out of the office I now occupy.

In a slide from 1978, Dr. Scherer indicated distinguished faculty who were involved in Antarctic research: Lyle McGinnis (the person who started this venture), Pat Ervin, Jonathan Berg, Ruth Kalamarides, Jim Ling and Peter Webb, who was my Ph.D. advisor. Dr. Webb was the chair of the department here in the seventies and has been going to Antarctica since the International Geophysical year. Fifty years later, he is still going to Antarctica nearly every year.

Some of the Antarctic drilling projects that were pioneered from NIU's Department of Geology and Geophysics include the Dry Valley Drilling Project in the early seventies, the Ross Ice Shelf Project, the CIROS (Cenozoic Investigations of the Ross Sea) project in the eighties, and the Cape Roberts Project. Ross Powell was involved in the Dry Valley Drilling Project as a graduate student and in the CIROS project, as have I. After these projects was the ANDRILL Project in the McMurdo Ice Shelf, a \$30 million international project that broke all records and exceeded all anticipation.

We most recently made the cover of *Geology Magazine*, and have had prominent papers come out in *Nature* and *Geophysical Research Letters Journal*, and a whole collection of papers is scheduled to be published in *Global and Planetary Change*. What we have found with the ANDRILL Project is that the Antarctic ice sheet has a stunning record of variability, much more variability than had been understood previously. My particular area of research is one that has kept me extraordinarily busy with ANDRILL. It is the study of these microscopic fossils that tell us about the ocean history and the ice sheet history. One core we examined contained marine sediment containing about 600 million fossils per gram. This tells us that there have been more intense and more frequent intervals of time during which the Antarctic ice sheet has been smaller than it is at present.

Each process is building not just on the science, but also on the technology because each one required significant advances in technology. The newest project, WISSARD, is the culmination of a dream that Ross Powell and I have had for some time of being able to see what is happening beneath the Ross Ice Shelf at the grounding line where the marine ice sheet goes afloat. We know from ANDRILL that there have been huge switches in climate between warm and cold, more dramatic than had been previously recognized. But we still do not really understand the nature of the process of ice sheet collapse. The WISSARD Project is the first opportunity to fill in some very important gaps. There are 13 PI's with 11 U.S. institutions involved, and NIU is a project leader. The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) report from 2007 made predictions of sea level over the coming century, but they completely excluded ice sheet variability because the data was too sparse. A number of projects will be combined in the next IPCC report that will give us a much better sense of the contribution of ice sheet variability to global sea level. A very important mission of this project is educating undergraduate and graduate students as well as the public at large, which gives us an integrated education and outreach component. I am chair of the Science Integration Subcommittee for the WISSARD Project, and we are doing quite a bit of outreach to museums and public schools around the country through a number of projects. WISSARD is split up into three different components: RAGES (Robotic Access to Grounding-zones for Exploration and Science), studying the marine cavity where the ice goes afloat; LISSARD (Lake and Ice Stream Subglacial Access Research Drilling), studying a subglacial lake beyond the grounding line where the ice sheet is attached to the bottom, led by College of Liberal Arts and Sciences distinguished alumnus Slawek Tulaczyk at University of California Santa Cruz; and GBase, studying the biological systems that exist beneath the ice sheet, led by Montana State University.

The Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) is about two feet wide and about 25 feet long. So we have to make a hole through the ice sheet about two feet wide and a half a mile long to get it beneath the ice, have it unfurl and do its analyses as well as deploying a number of other scientific instruments. Dr. Scherer concluded his presentation with a video describing this equipment.

Following is the audio portion of the video:

Most of us know that Antarctica is one of the coldest, driest and most remote places on earth. It's what we don't know that is leading scientists from Northern Illinois University in collaboration with seven other institutions to investigate one of the planet's last unexplored aquatic environments. The team will observe melting and other conditions at the interface between sea water and the base of glacial ice, and they'll do it by using a robotic submarine that will be lowered through more than a half mile of Antarctic ice into the ocean below, something that's never been done before. This submarine, a remotely operated underwater vehicle, or ROV, will be equipped with video cameras, a robotic arm and instruments that will perform specialized tests in an environment too formidable and dangerous for humans to venture. The ROV will provide scientists with images and physical and chemical and biological measurements of the ice, water and sediment conditions under the floating Ross Ice Shelf, which is roughly the size of Texas.

They will also study close by subglacial lakes under the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. This information will be critical to climate modelers trying to project potential future rises in global sea levels. Scientists know the ice is melting, but they don't know how quickly, and this research is going to help answer many questions about the affects of global warming and about Antarctica.

Agenda Item 9.a.(4) – Research and Graduate Studies Multiyear Software Licensing and Maintenance Fees

Agenda Item 9.a.(5) – Data Security on State Computers Act Policy

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.a.(6) – Energy Infrastructure Improvements – Phase X Performance Contract

The Energy Infrastructure Improvements-Phase X Performance Contract is the latest of several we have been involved in for a few years, Dr. Peters said, and there are distinct benefits to us. We make no initial capital outlay to finance these various improvement projects that have an energy impact, the savings of which are guaranteed to pay for the costs of the projects. We have had great success with these, and today we are asking authority for approximately \$11 million to cover a wide range of campus improvements over the next couple of years for such things as replacement of doors and windows in Wirtz Hall, doors and ADA sidewalks in the Nursing School, daylight harvesting in various buildings, and Faraday to replace duct boxes. This is one attempt by this university to be as efficient as we possibly can and also as green as we possibly can in this tough financial time. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the Energy Infrastructure Improvements-Phase X Performance Contract. Student Trustee Venaas so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion as approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(7) – Oracle Database Capacity Management and Performance Management Add-On Modules

Consent Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 9.a.(8) – Appointments with Rank and Tenure

We have been able to attract to the university two outstanding individuals who have distinguished academic careers, the President said, and who will head two of our units. After the traditional academic process of having their credentials analyzed and vetted by their academic departments, the university will need to grant them rank and tenure in their administrative positions.

Barrie Bode has been appointed to serve as the new Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. He has been recommended by the department with all the appropriate evaluations. Dr. Bode received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Florida and has a B.S. degree in Biology from St. Louis University, did postdoctoral research at the Health Science Division of Monsanto, and held his first faculty position at Massachusetts General Harvard Medical School. Beginning in 1999, he served as associate professor in the Biology Department at St. Louis University for a decade and was tenured there in 2004. In addition, Dr. Bode built and sustained a successful research program in molecular physiology and cancer biology by obtaining multiple grants and external funding that had both graduate and undergraduate training experiences for students.

Dr. James Collins has been appointed to serve as the Director of our very distinguished Center for Southeast Asian Studies, accompanying his appointment as full professor and tenure in the Department of Foreign Language and Literatures. Dr. Collins earned his Ph.D. and M.S. degrees in Linguistics from the University of Chicago and his B.S. in Philosophy and English from St. Mary of the Lake University. He has spent the last 14 years living and working in Malaysia, and before that, served as director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii, conducted research in such places as Borneo, East Indonesia and the Malay Peninsula. While working in Malaysia, Dr. Collins produced nearly one book a year including a recently published dictionary of local East Indonesian language known as Asilulu. President Peters introduced both Dr. Bode and Dr. Collins to the Board. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the appointments of Dr. Barrie Bode as Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences and Dr. James Collins as Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies with the rank of full professor and tenure in their respective departments. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. Since state statute requires that the Student Trustee not vote on issues of tenure, the Chair asked for a roll call vote, which was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Butler	Yes
Trustee Vella	Yes	Student Trustee Venaas	Present
Chair Strauss	Yes		

The roll call vote of the Trustees was four “Yes” with the Student Trustee voting “Present” to approve the motion.

Dr. Peters invited both gentlemen to make comments. Dr. Bode stated that he definitely has a vision for his unit, and has enjoyed his three months here thus far. Our Department of Biological Sciences currently has approximately 12 full professors, 13 associate professors and one assistant professor, Dr. Bode said. So, it has been a while since we have added new people to the department. We have had several retirements over the last few years, yet our department remains vibrant. We train many students every year. We receive between \$1 million and \$1.5 million in external funding annually, and it is my hope to at least double that over the next two to three years. I view it as a wonderful opportunity at this point to look forward, look at our curriculum, build programs within the department that will integrate both research and teaching of our graduates and to enhance the Ph.D. program. We had an external review last year and that provided a number of very helpful guidelines of issues that we will be addressing over the next several months. I am very much looking forward to the journey, and thank you for the opportunity.

The Center for Southeast Asian Studies is the oldest center for area studies at Northern Illinois University, Dr. Collins stated, founded almost 50 years ago in 1963. We are also among the oldest Centers for Southeast Asian Studies in the United States. We were founded around the same time as the centers at Cornell and Yale, and we have outlived Yale’s center. So we are among only seven centers in the United States that are funded by the Department of Education, which is the major source of our external funding. We receive approximately \$450,000 a year for that funding. This year we have been successful in getting two additional funds, one from the Department of Education and one from the Department of State. So this year, we have an additional \$600,000 to work on our Malay dictionary project and for training Southeast Asian teenagers. Right now we have 26 teenagers in the Holmes Student Center learning all about citizenship and community leadership. They are from Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Singapore, and the next group is coming in April. So, despite the weather, Northern Illinois University remains in the foreground for developing programs for the study of Southeast Asia and for teaching Southeast Asians about the United States. Our most important funding cycle is coming up in just a few months, and we are going to work our best to continue bringing money to the university. This semester alone, with this external funding, we have been able to hire seven new graduate assistants and two part-time and full-time additional lectureship positions.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES

- Agenda Item 9.b.(1) – Semiannual Progress Report of Active Capital Projects over \$100,000**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(2) – Periodic Report on Investments**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(3) – Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(4) – Technology Transfer Office Services**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(5) – Veto Session Update and 96th General Assembly Report**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(6) – Congressional Report**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(7) – NIU Activity Related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 Update**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(8) – NIU Athletics Certification Report**

Consent Agenda Items.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

Consent Agenda Item.

- Agenda Item 9.c.(2) – Naming of Facility**

NIU Board *Regulations* vest in the Board of Trustees the authority to name our buildings based upon a recommendation from the President after advise and consultation with appropriate members of the

university community. Dr. John E. La Tourette has been associated with Northern Illinois University since 1979 when he came to NIU as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, President Peters said. He served as Provost for five years and was named NIU's tenth university president in May 1986. He served as President for 14 years until his retirement on May 26, 2000, making him, at that point, the longest sitting public university president in Illinois. During Dr. La Tourette's tenure, he championed the doctoral mission of Northern Illinois University. He maintained the Ph.D. programs already in place and gained approval for four new Ph.D.'s, three in science and one in mathematics. He obtained funds for facilities to complement the expansion of science programs in Chemistry and Physics, culminating with the construction of Faraday West, which was built five years before the Ph.D. in Physics was finally approved. Through his efforts, the university's land holdings were doubled. Dr. La Tourette established the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, he nurtured the growth of a new College of Law, and he developed strong outreach efforts by establishing our three satellite campuses in Hoffman Estates, Naperville and Rockford. And, perhaps most importantly, he led the fight for us to have our own independent Board of Trustees. During his tenure, the campus enjoyed the restoration of Altgeld Hall and the construction of the Convocation Center and eight additional buildings. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I bring forward a recommendation, in honor of Dr. La Tourette's many accomplishments and contributions, for Board of Trustees ratification and formal approval to name the Faraday West building, John E. La Tourette Hall. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

I talked to John yesterday, Dr. Peters said, and he is humbled. We look forward to having a ceremony this spring, in April, when John and Lili will be here for a renaming ceremony.

CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 46

Agenda Item 10.a. – Executive Session Minutes Release

Chair Strauss stated that 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. Accordingly, Item 10.a. is proposed for compliance with the legal requirement by taking action upon the duly approved Executive Session Minutes of January 1996 through June 2009 of either the full Board of Trustees or standing committees of the Board which have not been previously released from confidentiality, he said. 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:

September 18 , 2008 – Executive Session of the NIU Board of Trustees

- 3.c. Litigation Report

March 26, 2009 – Executive Session of the NIU Board of Trustees

1. Review and Approval of Minutes of the Executive Session for December 4, 2008

June 25, 2009 – Executive Session of the NIU Board of Trustees

1. Review and Approval of Minutes of the Executive Session for March 26, 2009
3. Litigation Report
5. Personnel Matter

September 17, 2009 – Executive Session of the NIU Board of Trustees

1. Review and Approval of Minutes of the Executive Session for June 25, 2009
2. Litigation Report

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 Vella so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.b. – Proposed Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2010

The proposed Board meeting dates for 2010 are included in today's agenda, Chair Strauss said. Although approval of committee meeting dates is not required by the Board, the committee dates are attached to the action item for reference purposes. He then asked for a motion to approve the proposed meeting dates for 2010. Trustee Butler so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Venaas. The motion was approved.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, February 25, 2010 on the main campus in DeKalb.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Strauss wished everyone a great holiday season. There being no other matters, the Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Vella so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The meeting was adjourned at 1:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins
Recording Secretary