

Minutes of the  
NIU Board of Trustees  
**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, STUDENT AFFAIRS  
AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**  
August 29, 2013

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Marshall at 8:35 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 Wheeler Coleman, Anthony Iosco, Cherilyn Murer, Marc Strauss, Student Trustee Elliott Echols, BOT Chair John Butler and Chair Marshall. Trustee Robert Boey joined the meeting in progress. Also present were Committee Liaison Ray Alden, President John Peters and Board General Counsel Jerry Blakemore. 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 General Counsel Jerry Blakemore.

**MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

Trustee Murer made a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Butler seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Trustee Butler to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2013 committee meeting. The motion was approved.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

On today's agenda under the University Report, Chair Marshall stated, we have three action items: Appointments with Rank and Tenure, an Honorary Doctor Recommendation and a Request for a New Degree Program in Health Sciences in the College of Health and Human Sciences. Three information items include recognition of faculty and staff who are recipients of Professional Excellence Awards, 2012-2013 Faculty Emeritus Recognition and an update on the Higher Learning Commission accreditation.

The chair recognized the representatives from the University Advisory Committee, Dan Gebo and Andy Small.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Chair asked General Counsel Blakemore 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. Blakemore noted that he had received no requests to address this meeting.

## **UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORTS**

### **Agenda Item 7.a. – Appointments with Rank and Tenure**

Last year we started a new practice of having administrative appointments at the Chair level or higher come forward at this meeting because they have been given an offer of tenure and rank conditional on Board approval, Provost Alden explained. Often, they were hired after the June meeting when most tenure and promotion decisions are made. These individuals are coming to us as a result of external searches from institutions at which they had both tenure and the rank for which we are asking Board approval. The two individuals are both chairs in the College of Education.

Dr. Suzanne Degges-White will be the Chair of the Department of Counseling, Adult and Higher Education in the College of Education. We are requesting the rank of professor and tenure. Dr. Degges-White earned a Ph.D. in Counseling and Counselor Education at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. She has a Master of Science in Counseling and a B.A. in Psychology from that same institution. Prior to coming to Northern, she was a tenured associate professor and program coordinator at the University of Mississippi. Collectively, she has 72 publications and presentations, including four books, and at least one of her books has been translated into several languages. Her research involves college mental health counseling in feminist theory and women's issues in counseling. She has a national leadership position as president of the Association for Adult Development and Aging, a national division of the American Counseling Association. She will provide day-to-day leadership on the various activities in that department.

Dr. Patrick Roberts will be chair of the Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations in the College of Education. We are requesting tenure and the rank of associate professor in that department. He earned his Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Illinois at Chicago and has an M.A. degree in English and a B.A. in Government and Politics from that same institution. Prior to coming to Northern, he was a tenured associate professor in the Department of Education Foundations and Inquiry and Director of the Curriculum and Social Inquiry doctoral program at National Louis University. His research interests are in curriculum theory around public pedagogy and racial tensions. He was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Sarajevo in Bosnia and Herzegovina and has examined curriculum responses to race and pedagogy. Chair Marshall asked for a motion to endorse the university's decision to grant the rank of professor and tenure to Dr. Suzanne Degges-White, and the rank of associate professor and tenure to Dr. Patrick Roberts. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 7.b. – Honorary Doctorate Recommendation**

The Honorary Degree Committee met on December 11, 2012 and unanimously voted to award Mr. John Sall an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. This nomination came from the Department of Economics, from which he received his master's degree, and from Chris McCord, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Provost said. Mr. Sall is a native of Rockford and received his B.A. in History from Beloit College and his Master of Science in Economics from Northern. While he was at Northern, he developed interests and skills in statistical analysis and computer science, and went on to develop a major software company, Statistical Analysis System (SAS), which is a world leader in both business and higher education statistics. Though retired from SAS, Mr. Sall came out of retirement and founded a new branch for data visualization called JMP, which originally stood for "John's MacIntosh Project." He has been working on that for a number of years, and it also has been extremely successful. He has been on the Board of the Nature Conservancy and serves on the Board of Trustees of North Carolina State University. Mr. Sall has been awarded other honorary degrees, including one from North Carolina State. Chair Marshall asked for a motion to endorse the recommendation to award an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters to Mr. John Sall. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Coleman. The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 7.c. – Request for New Degree Program**

Not only do new degree programs require approval from a very extensive campus review of curriculum, the Provost said, but the Board must approve it and then it goes to the Illinois Board of Higher Education for final approval. This program is a Ph.D. in Health Sciences. The university is looking at health sciences as a major burgeoning profession in our region and nationwide where one of the critical needs is for leadership in that area. Faculty, whether in community colleges, universities, or in the public and private healthcare sectors, are in high demand. The Provost asked Dean Derryl Block to give a brief presentation on this program. Chair Marshall asked for a motion to endorse the request for a new Ph.D. in Health Sciences. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 7.d. – Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff**

This year, there are 23 winners of various awards for excellence either in teaching, research, engagement and engaged learning, or service or combinations of those types of activities, Dr. Alden said. Dr. Dan Gebo was present and Dr. Alden asked that he stand and be recognized. The Board of Trustees Professorship is awarded to people who are national or international scholars and dedicated to engaging their students in their research. Professor Gebo is the first of a unique and probably fairly small cadre of people who not only have won the Board of Trustees Professorship Award at one time, the Provost said, but in what is a very competitive process, he has competed and successfully been awarded this honor for another five years. We extend our congratulations to Dr. Gebo on his accomplishment.

### **Agenda Item 7.e. – 2012-2013 Faculty Emeritus Recognition**

Faculty who retired in good standing, receive emeritus status. Those faculty who retired between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013, who have retired in good standing and have been awarded emeritus status include 31 individuals from 25 departments. Some of these people come back and continue to do some research and teaching and provide the corporate memory for some departments. We appreciate all of their efforts, not only for the service they have already provided, but for that which they continue to provide.

### **Agenda Item 7.f. – Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Update**

Dr. Alden asked Vice Provost Carolinda Douglass to present a brief report on the status of our self-study process in preparation for the Higher Learning Commission Reaccreditation Site Visit scheduled for next spring. Dr. Douglass reported that the penultimate draft of the self-study report has been completed and will be available for comment beginning September 1. University Relations has been extremely helpful in putting it on the website and getting publicity out about it, Dr. Douglass said, and we thank them. It will be available for comment on Sunday, and there will be a website that you can put your comments into directly.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Chair Marshall announced that the next meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee is scheduled for Thursday, November 7, 2013.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins  
Recording Secretary

*In compliance with Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/1, et seq, a verbatim record of all Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees meetings is maintained by the Board Recording Secretary and is available for review upon request. The minutes contained herein represent a true and accurate summary of the Board proceedings.*