

Minutes of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
March 27, 2014

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Butler at 9:02 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, Anthony Iosco, Robert Marshall, Cherilyn Murer, Marc Strauss, Student Trustee Elliot Echols and Chair Butler. Not present was Trustee Wheeler Coleman. Also present were Board General Counsel Jerry Blakemore 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 General Counsel Jerry Blakemore.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Strauss so moved with the exceptions that (1) the Review and Approval of the Minutes of the March 3, 2014 Special Meeting with the Higher Learning Commission be deleted and (2) the Closed Session be moved to Agenda Item 3.a. The motion was seconded by Trustee Boey.

Trustee Strauss then proposed the creation of a Consent Agenda to include President's Report No. 90, Action Items 8.a.(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (19), (20) and (21); information items 8.b.(1), (2), (3), (5), (6), (7) and (8); and Information Item 8.c.(2) that would immediately precede the beginning of the President's Report. The Chair asked for a second to approve the meeting and consent agendas as amended. Trustee Boey seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Butler asked for a motion to close the public meeting to conduct an closed session to discuss the following subjects authorized by the Illinois Open Meetings Act, as amended: litigation and risk management matters as generally described under §2(c)(11) and (12) of the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss.

A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Closed Session was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Iosco	Yes
Trustee Marshall	Yes	Trustee Murer	Yes
Trustee Strauss	Yes	Student Trustee Echols	Yes
Chair Butler	Yes		

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECONVENED

Chair Butler reconvened the public meeting of the Board of Trustees at approximately 9:49 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Butler called for a motion to approve the minutes of the following meetings:

December 5, 2013 Regular Meeting

It was moved by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Student Trustee Echols to approve the minutes of the December 5, 2013 regular Board meeting. The motion was approved.

February 27, 2014 Board of Trustees Special Meeting

It was moved by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Trustee Boey to approve the minutes of the February 27, 2014 Board of Trustees Special Meeting. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Butler recognized the members of the University Advisory Committee: Dr. Alan Rosenbaum, Ms. Deborah Haliczler, Mr. Andy Small, Dr. Greg Waas, Dr. Rosita Lopez and Dr. Dan Gebo. On behalf of the faculty, Dr. Rosenbaum commented, I would like to express our appreciation to the Board for continuing to support professional development of faculty with your approval of the sabbatical leaves agenda item. We really feel that this is very important to maintaining a high quality faculty at the university, and we are pleased that the Board of Trustees has always recognized and supported that.

Today we learn as a Board what many people on campus are well aware of, Chair Butler began, which is that the campus community has been engaged in a robust discussion about our future as a physical campus and what we can do to make the campus more attractive and exciting for students to increase our retention potential and the quality of life for our faculty and students. A major subject in that regard is a report from President Baker and Ron Walters, Special Assistant to the President, concerning campus master planning and the opportunity for this Board to learn about the planning activities on this campus that have been underway throughout the fall and have been the subject of significant discussion and dialogue.

I want to remind the Board also that throughout the campus this is a rather precarious time for the university. We are aware that there are hundreds of faculty and staff considering their retirement situation in relation to pension reform legislation that significantly alters the pensions that many university staff are to receive. For many, this means leaving employment before they are financially and emotionally prepared to do so, and to retire from service as State employees when they did not expect to. We know these decisions are difficult, as a Board, and we wish we had a solution to offer that could avoid the loss of many of our finest staff members in light of the extraordinary policy measures that have been adopted by the State. We continue to stay informed of these developments and learn of their implications from President Baker.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair asked Board General Counsel Jerry 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 stated that no requests had been received.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee did not meet.

Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee

Committee Chair Robert Marshall reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee met on Thursday, February 27, 2014. At that meeting, the committee considered and endorsed the following action items: Recommendations for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for the 2014-2015 Academic Year; a request for a new Emphasis in Applied Manufacturing Technology within the Bachelor of Science in Technology; a request for a new Emphasis in Instructional Technology, Training and Evaluation within the Bachelor of Science in Applied Management; a request for a new Minor in LGBT Studies; and a request for a new Specialization in Engineering Management within the Master of Science in Industrial and Systems Engineering; the Oral English Proficiency Annual Report for 2012-13; and a Request for Transfer of Tenure and Tenure-Track Faculty lines associated with the departmental name change from Literacy Education to Literacy and Literacy Education. The Committee postponed consideration of a Request to Delete a Concentration in Southeast Asian Studies until today's meeting. Regarding the Concentration in Southeast Asian Studies, Dr. Judy Ledgerwood reported that the Certificate of Graduate Studies in Southeast Asian Studies was approved by the Graduate Council Curriculum Committee and went through the Graduate Council late 2013, and it will be listed in the 2014-15 catalog. Chair Marshall also reported that the committee heard reports on a number of information items including a Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Update, Faculty Presentations on Sabbatical Leaves, the Fifth Annual Report on the Outcomes of Sabbatical Leaves and an Update Regarding the Chief Diversity Officer/Associate Vice President for Academic Diversity. With respect to the last item, Dr. Freeman provided the following information:

NIU is committed to hiring a Chief Diversity Officer/Associate Vice President for Academic Diversity. It is envisioned that this individual will be empowered to provide vision, leadership and counsel on matters of diversity and inclusion, and to collaborate with all campus units to create a welcoming and respectful academic environment that embraces diversity as a dimension of excellence. This position will report to the Executive Vice President and Provost and serve on both the President's Cabinet and the Council of Deans. Responsibilities may include but need not be limited to: Leading or facilitating standing and ad hoc committees that support and promote academic diversity, equity and inclusion; supervising unit directors of centers and initiatives focused on academic diversity and multiculturalism; working closely and collaboratively with the senior leadership team, the academic units, and other appropriate offices to recruit and retain faculty, staff and students from underrepresented groups; developing and maintaining active partnerships with the external community and alumni affinity groups in support of diversity, equity and inclusion at NIU.

This spring, President Baker and Provost Freeman will be asking a task force to lead a campus-wide discussion regarding expectations for the position and the search process. Their feedback will, in turn, inform the search process that will be launched in fall semester 2014. Thank you.

Compliance, Audit, Risk Management and Legal Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Bob Boey reported that the Compliance, Audit, Risk Management and Legal Affairs Committee met on February 27, 2014, and considered the Fiscal Year 2013 External Audit Report for the Year Ending June 30, 2013. The external audit was completed by McGladrey LLP, which has its main office in Schaumburg, Illinois. Based on their audit, the auditors expressed an unqualified opinion on the university's basic financial statements. However, the auditors identified a method involving the university's internal control over financial reporting that they considered to be a significant deficiency. Specifically, the university did not properly accrue interest on a capital lease, a finding that was first reported in 2011. The university has addressed this deficiency by recording an adjustment to increase interest expense and by acting to improve controls over financial reporting.

Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee

Committee Chair Marc Strauss reported that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee also met on February 27. We had a large number of contracts pass through the committee, he said, and they appear on today's agenda as part of the President's Report. There are two items on our agenda that I

want to mention. First was the committee's discussion of budget principles. We concluded what was a rather lengthy conversation about the existing budget principles and then moved on to consideration of a proposal that has been circulating throughout campus that will guide our budget discussions going forward in a way that will allow us to be able to align our financial resources and strategic priorities. This is an important effort and one that the committee was excited to hear about and they are looking forward to having implemented. Also, I want to make particular note of a request to have some focus brought to training for local businesses who have an interest in doing business with the university on the purchasing front, not in the nature of a special priority for those people, but in an educational effort designed to bring closer together the university and the community in this area.

Legislation and External Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Cheryl Murer reported that the Legislation and External Affairs Committee met on February 27 and considered (a) the first annual report of the Division of Marketing and Communications, (b) the Illinois General Assembly Legislative Report, (c) a staff update on the state budget, and (d) the federal relations report. The annual report stated that a total of 55 student workers, including graduate assistants and interns, assisted the division in its many functions during the 2013 calendar year. During the state budget update, it was noted that the Illinois Board of Higher Education approved its Fiscal Year 2015 budget recommendations for higher education, operations, grants and capital on February 4, 2014. These recommendations included spending plans at four levels. In Step 1, which concerns general funds appropriated for operations, grants and retirement, the IBHE recommended that NIU be funded at FY14 levels. In Step 2, which concerns the FY15 IBHE capital priority list, it was recommended that NIU receive monies for four projects, including the Computer Science and Health Informatics Building. In Step 3, which concerns capital renewal allocations, it was recommended that NIU receive \$20.4 million for critical repair and maintenance projects. In Step 4, the IBHE FY15 budget summarized NIU funding being reduced by \$28,000 in Step 1; however, it was increased by 1.9 percent in Step 2 and by 3.9 percent in Step 3. Finally, the committee had the pleasure of meeting two of the principals of MJS Consulting, who have been working with us in Springfield: former State Senator Ed Maloney and Elaine Johnson, who was formerly Vice President for Academic Affairs with the Illinois Community College Board. They partner with Don Sevener, formerly Director of Legislative Affairs for the IBHE. MJS is based in Springfield and provides advice and consultation relative to State legislative matters.

Ad Hoc Committee on Sponsored Research Activity and Technology Transfer

Committee Chair Cheryl Murer reported that the Ad Hoc Committee on Sponsored Research Activity and Technology Transfer met on February 24 at NIU Naperville. The Ad Hoc Committee is growing in its formation and its substance, she said. The committee was informed about the divisional name change from Research and Graduate Studies to Research and Innovation Partnerships. There was enthusiasm for the new organization and emphasis. Interim Vice President and Provost Lisa Freeman presented information to the committee about various components of the research process, including faculty recruitment, startup packages, institutional support for proposed development and external funding opportunities. This is in keeping with the mission that we created for this particular committee, and that is to look at issues in-depth from a vertical perspective rather than looking at it from a horizontal perspective, where we address multiple issues, but really not at any great level of depth and understanding. We have made a commitment in this regard relative to this committee that we would continue our discussions on a particular subject matter meeting to meeting, and we would see a continuity of the information that is being derived. In this regard, Professor Julie Crouch provided a specific example of the evolution of a successful research center at NIU as she spoke about the past, present and future of NIU's internationally recognized Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault. This was a defined example of the seeking, securing and sustaining of grants for research in this critical area of social justice. Interim Vice President Lesley Rigg, Provost Lisa Freeman and I thought this was a very good example that could really bring to life research monies and the grant's project and processes because it crossed many lines of academic study as well as having not only national but international recognition, and it dealt with a very specific and very serious subject matter for which NIU has been recognized for its leadership.

We looked much more in-depth at the process for seeking research grants and the timelines thereof. What we then asked, in keeping with our commitment to continuation on an in-depth basis, was to then take the process and review the accountability measures. The Ad Hoc Committee will meet on Tuesday, May 27, at 9:00 a.m.* The presentation at that meeting, by Interim Vice President for Research Lesley Rigg, will focus on accountability, expectations and the metrics for sponsored research.

Illinois Board of Higher Education

The Illinois Board of Higher Education did not meet.

Universities Civil Service Merit Board

Board of Trustees Liaison to the Universities Civil Service Merit Board (UCSMB), Robert Marshall, reported that the UCSMB convened a special meeting on March 11, 2014 where they elected the two chief officers, James Montgomery as chair and Karen Hasara as vice chair. Teresa Rademacher was reappointed as secretary to the board. One of the action items dealt with the Freedom of Information Act which outlined some of the new policies tied to clarifying response time, disclosure, time extensions, denial of requests, appeals, the official request form itself, and even fee waivers. In another action item, the board sustained a decision made by the Executive Director on a plaintiff's appeal for hiring under the Veteran's Preference Plan in detail because this may come up again across the system. A veteran must have an honorable discharge and must have completed X amount of time to qualify, otherwise, that person cannot claim the preference. The board then went into executive session to discuss personnel matters that included staff evaluation tied to agency benchmarks and goals.

NIU Foundation

NIU Foundation President Mike Malone gave three brief updates on developments in and around the NIU Foundation. A redeployment of resources resulted in not refilling the position of Associate Vice President for Development and CEO of the NIU Foundation, Mr. Malone said, and filled two other positions. One is the new Board Secretary for the NIU Foundation, which is a new officer position on the board. Kathy Blair comes to us from Giving DuPage where she was the CEO. She has extensive experience with running and organizing 501(c)(3)'s in the State of Illinois. We just concluded a complete review and restructuring of our bylaws, which is going to make the Foundation a much more flexible and responsive organization. The second is April Arnold, our new Corporate and Foundation Giving Officer. This is a new position at NIU although it is a very standard part of almost every university's fundraising operation. The focus for April will be on corporate and Foundation gifts, securing those, working with our own Sponsored Project areas, and working with the deans to make sure that we have a very full and complete picture of our corporate relationships, especially our corporate relationships in this region. April comes to us from Elmhurst College where she was running the development operation at Elmhurst, but she also has years of experience as a corporate and foundation giving officer.

This year we have a new \$20,000 grant for performing arts in the Foundation, and the Foundation was very interested in challenging our faculty, students and the administrators in the College of Visual and Performing Arts to come up with programs that would expand and strengthen the NIU brand, especially our brand as being one of the top performing arts colleges in the country and nationally. That was the challenge put to them, to come up with a proposal that not only engages our faculty and students in artistic endeavors but strengthens our brand. The winner of the inaugural performing arts grant is the Northern Dance Company. Their proposal will bring an internationally renowned choreographer, Bill T. Jones, and his staff, to NIU for two weeks to work with our students on a brand new dance program that will be debuted at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts in Chicago. The board and the grants committee concluded that a large piece of this was additional public relations with a firm that specializes in performance and fine arts presentations in Chicago. We are looking forward to those performances which will be occurring in spring 2015. That is the inaugural one, and this is at least a three-year program and, thus far, we are very delighted with the response and with the proposal that was funded.

My third item is an update on the annual fund, which is an integral component of every fundraising operation. It is where the small annual gifts come in. At Northern they are generally directed to the department from which our alumni received their first degree. So, if you are a political science major from NIU, you will be solicited on behalf of the Political Science Department. It is an area in fundraising that is changing rapidly. As you can imagine, with the change in technology, for example, landlines, making calls to people at home is not what it was even ten years ago. It is hard to find those cell phone numbers unless we get them from the individuals before they graduate, which is a program we are working on right now. Other means of soliciting our alumni need to be looked at and social media is certainly one, e-mail solicitations are another, and direct mail, believe it or not, is making a comeback in the field of annual fundraising. Frankly, we have been watching declining returns on investment (ROI) from our annual fund program, we are finding the right mix this year. We were working at about a 20 percent increase probably at the end of the year in gross and net returns from our annual fund program. The average gift is up, which is a good indicator for us. The biggest move is in email solicitations, which probably is not really a surprise, but the trick with email solicitations is the frequency in the message because, frankly, they have to open our email. You can keep sending out emails, but if you have just angered your base by flooding their boxes with emails, you get no response at all. So, it is a tricky combination, but we are finally getting the mix right and the results this year are encouraging.

When I reengaged with NIU, Chair Butler remarked, it was through the Foundation. It is one of the portals that brings alumni back to the university. It also gave me an opportunity to truly understand with great depth the workings of the Foundation, which is such a strong partner to this university. I was very impressed with your comments and it struck me that this is so much in the same genre that President Baker is bringing to this university, which is continue to reexamine what we have always done. To see that you reexamined and took the time to determine what was the most judicious use of resources, because they are so finite, is highly commendable.

Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

NIU Alumni Association Executive Director Joe Matty reported that student career success was one of the topics of their board meeting in early March, on which Dr. Baker presented. We have been working with our association board members, our leaders across the Affinity Groups, Vice President Eric Weldy and other members of the academic community to support student career success. Two aspects that we are focused on are mentoring and internships. Over the next few weeks, we will be developing a presentation and recommendations for Dr. Baker and the Board for how to roll out a pilot program and how to institutionalize a mentoring program here at Northern Illinois University, and then, how to achieve a program for all students to have access to an internship. Both of these are large endeavors and we could not be doing them without the support of our alumni leadership and collaboration across disciplines on campus. At last night's meeting, Dr. Baker and Mr. Walters spoke to 35 alumni and 65 students from various graduating classes, and the energy was there. People are starting to embrace and want to take that next step.

The Alumni Association annual awards program is being held on Friday, April 25. This year's Distinguished Alumnus is a long-time advocate, philanthropist and leader for NIU, Mr. Dave Nelson. Dave, as president of the Foundation, started to reinvigorate the alumni base. I should mention that Trustee Murer was the Association's Distinguished Alumnus just a few years ago

Our current Association President, Ms. Francine Pepitone, has served admirably in this position for three years. She is well-respected across the campus and amongst our alumni base. In June, Mr. John Patronski, who is a senior vice president for GES Global, will assume the office of Alumni Association President. This is a position that works very closely with the Foundation leadership, many members of the Board of Trustees and Dr. Baker.

I would be remiss to not say something about the Alumni Association because it does work so closely with the Foundation, Trustee Murer commented. The Alumni Association is a tremendous door to engage

alumni and then see those alumni serve on the Foundation or perhaps, one day on this Board of Trustee, so thank you for your efforts as well.

Chair Butler stated that he attended the Executive Leadership Forum where some of our distinguished alumni as well as some very prestigious corporate leaders talked about leadership and the challenges they faced. It was held on the same day that President Baker talked to the City Club. It was great day in general, he said, but the programs of the Alumni Association and the work you do is outstanding.

We try to make sure we have different access points for all of our alumni, students who just recently graduated and people who graduated 30, 40, 50 years ago, Mr. Matty said. We have a great board of directors, I have a great staff, and it is refreshing when I know how closely we collaborate with the Board of Trustees and the Foundation. Many other universities do not have this luxury, and I am excited just to be a part of it.

Your mention of Dave Nelson caused me to recall when Dave and I first met, Trustee Boey said. The football program was struggling at that time, but Dave never let go of the vision of where we could be with it. The Nelson Suite at the Convocation Center was named for him. I cannot say enough about him, and I am pleased that he is being given this award.

I also am very proud of Francine Pepitone, Chair Butler added, as are the other Board members. We all worked with her, and let me state publicly that we very much appreciate her service. It has been enjoyable to work with her in that leadership capacity, and we ask that you personally extend that sentiment to her on our behalf

Northern Illinois Research Foundation

The Northern Illinois Research Foundation has not met since the last Board of Trustees meeting, Dr. Freeman reported. However, I would like to comment that the members have been active on and off campus in their collaborative support of the foundation's Mentor Grants Program and that we have forwarded to the members of the Research Foundation Board the presentation that was given at the Ad Hoc Committee on Sponsored Research Activity and Technology Transfer on February 24 because they were interested in learning about the activities of that committee and seeing the in-depth drilldown in consideration of research and sponsored programs at NIU.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda to include President's Report No. 90, Action Items 8.a.(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15), (16), (17), (19), (20) and (21); information items 8.b.(1), (2), (3), (5), (6), (7) and (8); and Information Item 8.c.(2). Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 90

My remarks will focus on budget today, President Baker said. Last Thursday, I had the opportunity to go to Springfield and testify before the House and Senate Appropriations Committees. I was accompanied by a number of our staff, Nancy Sutfenfield, Bill Nicklas, Mike Mann, Cristine Black and, Anne Birberick. Honor Student Lauren Boddy was with us, as well as our consultants, MJS. For all of the schools and agencies in attendance, the House Committee asked us to tell them how we would respond to a 12.5 percent budget reduction, and the Senate asked us how we would respond to a 20.0 percent budget reduction. We heard testimony from each of those about what they would do. Obviously, it would be devastating for all of the agencies in the state, and they were difficult conversations to listen to. There would be a great deal of pain in a reduction of that kind of magnitude and would inflict great harm on agencies across the state. That may have affected Governor Pat Quinn's presentation of his budget yesterday. His spending plan for the next year maintains the current temporary income tax increase scheduled to end this year, and he would establish property tax relief in the form of a \$500 million tax

refund for homeowners. The governor told lawmakers that if the tax increases were allowed to expire, education and other critical public services would face extreme and radical cuts. We were asked to return to the capitol next week where we will again appear in front of the House Appropriations Committee in further discussions about various budget scenarios. The Governor was also required to submit a budget assuming the law is the law. So, he presented his proposed budget and then he presented the one that is required under the law, assuming that temporary tax money goes away. That would ultimately result in a 12.45 percent budget reduction, which for us would be a very significant reduction of about \$11.6 million. In the overall budget, if his budget goes through with the temporary tax in place, we would essentially have a flat budget and ultimately end up about \$28,000 lower because of a performance funding adjustment. We are in favor of a flat budget as opposed to a 12.5 percent budget reduction, which would do significant harm to the institution.

A positive development in the budget proposal is the addition of \$50 million in new funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP). Over 5,700 of our students received over \$20 million in MAP funding last year and continued support for this program is critical for our students. That would be if the Governor's budget, with the tax increase being permanent, is in place.

On the capital side, the Governor's budget contains no new funding for capital improvement projects or deferred maintenance in Fiscal Year 2015. The focus of the administration is to continue to release funds appropriated in the \$31 billion Illinois Jobs Now plan that began in Fiscal Year 2010, and the Governor intends to establish a work group to look at a three- to five-year capital plan. The Appropriations Committee, legislative working groups and the legislative leaders will spend the rest of the session hammering out these details of the Fiscal Year 2015 spending plan and income tax issues. As I previously mentioned, we have another hearing next week to react, and the General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn May 31. That is a short timeline for them to be ready for July 1 fiscal year start and an August start for the academic year.

I listened to both hearings through the live stream, Chair Butler said, and I was surprised that when it appeared the meeting had been concluded, Lauren was asked some questions. She was absolutely extraordinary in the manner in which she answered the questions and represented us very well. I was surprised at how intrigued they were with her and wanting to know more about her life, what she was studying and what she planned to do with it, and what she thought of NIU.

Lauren is a very impressive young woman, Dr. Baker commented, and it was interesting. It was in the Senate hearing that she got the most questions, in a very contentious meeting across party lines. At the end of the day, here was this brilliant and articulate student who reminded them what we are about. We will be taking two other students down with us next week. It is a great opportunity for the students to appear in front of the committees and have an experience they would not have otherwise which will hopefully prepare them for lives and careers.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 8.a.(18) – Request to Delete a Concentration

The university proposes to delete the Concentration in Southeast Asian Studies, Dr. Baker said. This concentration will be replaced with a certificate, the certificate being a more marketable documentation for students to have on their transcripts when they leave the university. Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve the request to delete the Concentration in Southeast Asian Studies. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

- Agenda Item 8.a.(1) – Fiscal Year 2015 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Contract Renewal**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(2) – Fiscal Year 2015 International Programs Division Expenditures**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(3) – Fiscal Year 2015 NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(4) – Fiscal Year 2015 University Outreach Education Centers Catering Services Contract Renewal**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(5) – Fiscal Year 2015 Document Services Copier and Controller System Contract Renewal**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(6) – Fiscal Year 2015 ITS Document Services and Materials Management Printing Paper Open Orders**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(7) – Fiscal Year 2015 Materials Management Central Stores Commodities Contract Renewal**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(8) – Fiscal Year 2015 Mass Transit Contract Renewal**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(9) – Fiscal Year 2015 Transportation Services, Physical Plant & Facilities Planning and Operations Motor Fuels**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(10) – Fiscal Year 2015 ITS Voice/Data Cellular Service Open Order**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(11) – Fiscal Year 2015 ITS Network and Communication Services Telephone Hardware Maintenance**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(12) – Office of General Counsel – Open Order for Legal Services for State and Federal Investigations**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(13) – Office of Education System Innovation Grant Subcontract - Services**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(14) – Parking Lot P and Lot PS Reconstruction – Capital Project Approval**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(15) – Parking Structure Reconstruct Four Exit Stairs – Capital Project Approval**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(16) – Electrical Infrastructure Replacement – Phase III – Capital Project Approval**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(17) – Recommendations for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for the 2014-2015 Academic Year**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(19) – Request for a New Minor, New Emphases and a New Specialization**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(20) – Oral English Proficiency Report 2012-2013**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(21) – Transfer of Tenure and Tenure-Track Locations**

Consent Agenda Items.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES

- Agenda Item 8.b.(1) – Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000**
- Agenda Item 8.b.(2) – Periodic Report on Investments**
- Agenda Item 8.b.(3) – Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Update**

Consent Agenda Items.

- Agenda Item 8.b.(4) – Update Regarding Chief Diversity Officer/Associate Vice President for Academic Diversity**

We have identified Co-Chairs Sean Frazier and Laura Vasquez to head the search committee. Sean is NIU's Athletic Director and Laura is a Professor in the Communications Department. They are in the process of finalizing that committee. They will work through spring and summer looking at best practices around the higher education field for both the structure and hiring process in the fall.

- Agenda Item 8.b.(5) – Fifth Annual Report on the Outcomes of Sabbatical Leaves**
- Agenda Item 8.b.(6) – Illinois General Assembly Legislative Report**
- Agenda Item 8.b.(7) – State Budget Update**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(8) – Federal Relations Report**

Consent Agenda Items.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 8.c.(1) – Illinois High School Association Wrap-Up

President Baker asked Dr. Bill Nicklas to give the Board an update on the Illinois High School Association Football Championship Wrap-Up.

The background in your packet gives you some of the details of a very successful weekend in the City of DeKalb and on our campus on the weekend immediately following Thanksgiving last fall, Dr. Nicklas said. The effort was tied to a bid the university submitted about two years ago. This was the first activity of its kind on the NIU campus in DeKalb. Part of our bid was a financial proposition to return all of the ticket money to IHSA and then, through local fundraising and on the basis of the revenue, we could retain the concession and parking revenue. I want to congratulate and applaud the efforts of the host committee and the many volunteers who made this a success. The host committee was in tandem with the DeKalb County Convention and Visitors Bureau. The head of the host committee was Tom Matya, an executive director of fundraising for Zea Mays Holdings, a private firm in Sycamore and is presently chair of the KishHealth System Board. Tom has been involved in fundraising and a lot of community services for a long time and did a remarkable job. Jerry Smith was head of the donor relations portion, and through his efforts and a small core of people who were working with him, we were able to raise almost a quarter of a million dollars in private donations from local businesses and individuals. That money was absolutely essential in getting to and through this particular event in a very successful way. According to IHSA records, this was the most successful event in terms of tickets sold in the history of the IHSA Football Championships. We have a balance going into the next time we host this event, which will be in about a year and a half. A big part of the success was through the customer service these volunteers were able to show both in our behalf and in behalf of the DeKalb community and DeKalb County. From the time the buses arrived, they were met by a volunteer who was assigned to that team or cheerleader bus or to one or another group. On the whole, their appreciation was pretty uniform and they registered that in the background.

This is exciting, Trustee Murer said, because it is integrating the things we are focused upon, which are students, recruitment and community, and you did this all in two days. In order for it to be a positive message with community and with students, it takes a meticulous attention to detail which, under your leadership, I know was there. It is the greeting of people and setting the tone of this university which will then go forward in any recruitment efforts. The way you divided the money was brilliant, it bought resources back to the university, but used the more recognizable revenues, the gate, in giving that back to the High School Association.

I know the kind of effort you had to put in for the success of this program, Trustee Boey said. I am particularly excited to see potential great high school football players coming to NIU and seeing the facilities we have, especially the indoor practice facilities that we have now, what an advantage we have. But, above all, thank you for your efforts.

Thank you, but the advantage, as you point out, was well noted by all of the teams that arrived, Dr. Nicklas said, and most of them had a chance to practice in our new practice facility and were very impressed. Wow! was the first word that came out of their mouths as they were walking in that direction. All of our facilities, thanks to the Board and the many donors who have made that possible, really set up that opportunity.

In reply to a question from Trustee Strauss regarding what integration was able to be done with student recruitment at this event, Vice President Weldy stated that Admissions and some of the academic areas held a number of activities doing tours and some other things, so we were quite busy from the standpoint of taking advantage of the young high school students who were on campus. To add to what Dr. Weldy said, not only did we have tours, but we actually had a tent within a tent, Brad Hoey, Acting Vice President for Marketing and Communications stated. We had our hospitality tent with the Huskie Athletic Support Fund (HASF) that we have for NIU home football games which was available to all of the

patrons. Much of the day that tent was completely filled not only with patrons coming to the game but families and prospective students from the participating teams. Within that tent was another NIU branded tent that had representatives from our NIU Admissions Office, many of whom were students, who were some of our best advocates for the institution. We had many people coming to that tent and talking to some of our students, talking to our Admissions representatives and advisors and also gathering materials about the institution. My great thanks to Dr. Weldy and his team for mobilizing those individuals who gave up their Thanksgiving weekend and several days ahead of that, as did Bill and many of us on the committee, to set up and make this event very successful.

In reply to a question from Trustee Strauss on whether it was the contemplation when this was bid upon that every two years we would have to go through a public fundraising campaign in order to balance the books because the balance does not equal the donations, Dr. Nicklas replied in the affirmative.

I hesitate to draw attention to any particular person, Dr. Nicklas said, but I would be remiss if I did not do a shout out to Brad Hoey. Two years ago, we made a very serious bid, but did not have serious organization behind that bid, and it was pretty much carried on the shoulders of Brad Hoey. Much of the publicity and marketing in the university and our effort was carried by Mr. Hoey, and we thank him for that.

Agenda Item 9.c.(2) – Grant and Contract Awards

Consent Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 9.c.(3) – Briefing on Campus Planning

Mr. Walters offered a thesis on Bold Initiatives for improving the Northern Illinois University campus. Those included extending the campus spine, Lucinda Avenue, through to the Convocation Center. With the addition of smaller, 12-seat electric buses, this would help facilitate the idea of a 10-minute campus. Areas of the campus such as the lagoons, Watson Creek, MLK Commons and Holmes Student Center, which would once again be made the hub of the campus, would be enhanced with creative landscaping and other improvements. Also discussed was the possibility of reinvigorating the area east of the East Lagoon in order to connect it to the downtown DeKalb area. The Hillcrest Greek Row area was also mentioned as one that could be revitalized through making it a themed learning community. The Trustees asked questions and offered various comments regarding the thesis.

Agenda Item 8.c.(4) – Lucinda Avenue Extension – Bold Initiatives

As one of the Bold Initiatives, Dr. Bill Nicklas briefed the Board on all of the particulars of the demolition of Douglas Hall in order to extend Lucinda Avenue through to the Convocation Center. Information was given on residence hall occupancy, which would allow the demolition of Douglas with no impact on student residency in the coming years. Chair Butler asked for a motion to accept the recommendation to establish a project budget in the amount of \$4.5 million for the removal of Douglas Hall and the extension of Lucinda Avenue to Stadium Drive West. The university also requested permission to select appropriate engineering consultants, advertise and receive bids for construction, execute all appropriate contracts, and to issue any and all work orders as necessary to complete the Lucinda Avenue Extension. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. With an objection from Trustee Strauss, the motion was approved with a vote of six to one.

OTHER MATTERS

Before I ask if there are any other matters to come before the Board, I want to do as I have done in the past, and thank all those who have been responsible for putting this meeting on. It takes a lot of work to make meetings like this happen and I appreciate that work. That includes the work of our Recording Secretary, Sharon Banks-Wilkins. Thank you as always for the work that you have done today and will do subsequently to see that what we have done here is properly recorded. Thank you to everyone else

who has spoken today, particularly, Ron Walters. Thank you for your time and your effort to present the Master Planning Thesis to the Board.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The Chair announced that the next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Butler entertained a motion to adjourn. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon 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.

*Subsequently changed to Thursday, May 29, at 1:00 p.m. in DeKalb.