

Minutes of the
NIU Board of Trustees
Legislative Affairs, Research and Innovation Committee
November 12, 2015

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chair Murer in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Cathy Craddock conducted a roll call. Members present were Trustees Robert Boey, Wheeler Coleman, Robert Marshall, Tim Struthers, Marc Strauss and Chair Murer. Members absent were Trustees John Butler and Raquel Chavez. Also present were Committee Liaison Dr. Gerald C. Blazey, University President Dr. Douglas Baker, and Board Parliamentarian and General Counsel Jerry Blakemore.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

General Counsel Blakemore indicated the appropriate notification of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Mr. Blakemore also advised that a quorum was present.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Strauss moved and Trustee Boey seconded. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 27, 2015. Trustee Strauss moved and Trustee Coleman seconded. The motion passed.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Murer welcomed the University Advisory Committee representatives present, Deborah Haliczzer and Professor Dan Gebo and asked them for comment.

Ms. Haliczzer thanked the chair and continued to talk about a recent rally that the presidents of the three councils, with the assistance of Michael Mann and very effective work by NIU's Student Association, had about the state funding impasse, MAP grants, and for funding for universities, community agencies, social services, and the elderly. All the councils are doing letter writing campaigns about the budget impasse and the impact on universities. We applaud President Baker's comments that we've heard quoted on the news about all of the efforts that we're all making collectively to try and do something about the impasse and keep funding for universities, which are such a driver of local economies and the state economy, and research projects. Also, I would like to say I have submitted my resignation so December will be my last meeting with the Board as I will be retiring January 1st. Thank you for all of you work and your comradeship.

Chair Murer said on behalf of the committee to thank Deborah for her service. She continued with the recognition of Dr. Nancy Castle, who is also retiring in December, noting she had an illustrious career at Northern Illinois University and has provided service not only to the university but also to the students of NIU. Nancy is a three-time NIU alum – she received her bachelor's degree, her master's degree and her Ph.D. in psychology from NIU. Nancy has made numerous and lasting contributions to research and innovation. In 1990 Nancy collaborated on a \$3.5 million grant to fund a research and training center on the needs of people who were deaf and lower functioning. Continuing her work to improve the lives of

disabled individuals, in 1999 Nancy co-authored a grant for the Presidential Commission on Persons With Disabilities to help faculty and staff work effectively with disabled students. Nancy has truly devoted her career to dealing with the needs of those who are disabled. She has received many recognitions for her work in her field. She served as president of the National Association of Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers, and she was awarded the prestigious Jean Peterson Award. One extremely significant area is when she took upon herself the leadership of the Honors Program, which resulted in tremendous growth in the program. Nancy showed great initiative and dedication to the program. Most recently Nancy has played a leading role in the success of the Center for Non-Governmental Organization, Leadership and Development which is better known as NGOLD. She was instrumental in development of the program and has served as its director since March of 2013. Nancy has been a qualified success for our faculty and students. Even while leading NGOLD Nancy has continued her work in research and innovation. Most recently comparing the provision of disability services in the U.S. and the EU and role of NGOs in advocacy and service delivery. As part of this work, she has formed a partnership serving a disadvantaged neighborhood in Paris with a goal to encourage people to aspire to college and success. She will be working with this program, which received Genesco funding into her retirement. Nancy I'd like to invite you to the podium to make a few comments. I want you to know that our hearts will always be with you and I know that NIU will always remain in your heart.

Dr. Castle thanked Chair Murer, the board and those in attendance, then continued "I've never really thought of myself as innovative, but it turns out I really have been. The innovation to me really hasn't been about being about innovative, it's been about being practical and realistic and smart. Opportunities have presented themselves that I think only would have presented themselves at a place like NIU - working with people with disabilities through the grant that we got for the Research and Training Center. I was at the University of Arkansas when I got hired to come up and write the grant and it was such an interesting prospect that when they got the grant, I applied for a job so I could come up and work on it. The thing that was really cool about it is that the department that this funding center was in was in the department of speech language pathology. We had a deafness rehabilitation program in speech path and that's because in the '70s when this department split from speech communications, they said 'you know if we're going to have speech path and audiology, we shouldn't look at deaf people like just an ear or how can we help them learn to talk, we should do something that involves the whole deaf person'. So they had a deafness program already here, fairly innovative, classic NIU. The Center for NGO Leadership and Development, we have so many students that leave NIU and end up in the world of non-profits or international NGOs who knew nothing about how they worked that - this innovation again, classic NIU. I've been really lucky to be able to be a part of a university that actually sets the stage for a lot of innovations.

Chair Murer again thanked Deborah and Nancy and asked them to please stand for applause.

PUBLIC COMMENT

This is the point in our agenda where we recognize members of the public who have complied with state law and Board of Trustee by-laws by registering their written request to address the Board with our parliamentarian. Mr. Blakemore have you received any timely requests to address this meeting?

Parliamentarian Blakemore responded, Madame Chair we have received one request from Derek Van Buer.

Derek Van Buer: Good morning. A few months ago I talked about the legal bills that were being incurred by President Baker's OEIG investigation and there was some confusion about how much they were. So I want to go through them because I got additional information. Tim Struthers probably doesn't or the student trustee but they can get it probably from Mr. Blakemore, but there was a memorandum from John Butler about it and there was some fill in the blanks. One of the first fill-in-the-blank is how much the managing partner Raymond Cotton is charging and I believe it's \$685 an hour. I saw that through a

series of linear equations, i.e. invoices, but I was told it was a trade secret and public assets cost. The Attorney General's office is reviewing it now as we speak, but I provided him with all the rates. The letter goes on to say that the board's not going to pay more than 'blank'. I would assume the 'blank' is \$450/hour because that's the blended rate for Drinker Biddle, but I'm not sure but I've also requested that from the public access counselor. It goes on to say that President Baker needs to pay out of his personal funds any amount exceeding that rate. So at that rate he owes roughly \$20,000. I don't know if he's paid because I haven't got the documentation yet, and it could be less if the rate was higher. The other thing I want to point out is that the letter talks about the broad nature of the investigation. The Edgar County Watchdog published an article recently that said that there was a charge for printing out the documents on a disk from the OEIG. The cost was over \$5,500, which equates to 36,730 pages. So it is a very broad investigation. Invoices through June totaled approximately \$129,000 for the two law firms, because there's one law firm that is for the Board of Trustees, which is Drinker, and then there's one law firm that's being paid by the University for President Baker, which is Mintz. September and July and August Mintz charged another \$17,000; Drinker charged another \$8,700 in July. As you can see it's a fairly expensive investigation. When I talked last time we were talking about how much had been approved by the board on POs. Well the only POs that have been approved by the Board are for Mintz. That is not up to \$225,000. The P.O. Drinker sits now at \$91,000. So \$316,000 is being spent on this investigation that pretty much none of you know about. Edgar County Watchdogs has been publishing a request report I call the Blakemore report. I see a lot of hours being charged to it. The only people that can release it is the Board because of attorney/client privilege. I asked how do I get something on the agenda for the Board to act on it and I was told I couldn't. The only people that can put stuff on the agenda is the board chairman of each of the committees. So none of the regular Board of Trustees can actually suggest an agenda item unless it goes to the Board. I think for openness and transparency the report should be released. We should understand the risk that is involved with such investigation, how much it's going to cost, because as you know budget is very tight, money is very tight, you just had to spend another \$300,000 on the Stevens for winter maintenance. Also don't forget the last time I talked about the letter from Representative Dwight Kay about what is the legal impact of the indemnity contract agreement that was entered on by President Baker for former interim CFO Nancy Suttentfield. There's probably a whole bunch of legal bills associated with that too. Thank you.

Chair Murer said, Thank you for your concern and interest in our university.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS/REPORT

Information Item 7.a.

Chair Murer stated, the agenda includes reports on state relations and a budget update and asked Mike Mann to present.

Mr. Mann noted earlier this week the House and Senate were in session and there was some progress made on some peripheral issues, but the basic fact of the matter is that we are in day 135 of the fiscal year and the state is still without a comprehensive state budget. About 90 percent of the state budget is in progress and higher education remains one of the few remaining areas that has not received a spending plan from the state. I would like to let the committee know about some of the things that have taken place that President Baker and I have been involved in since the committee last met. On October 20th President Baker and other public university presidents went to Springfield to meet with the legislative leaders to talk about the need for MAP funding and for university operating and capital funding. President Baker and the group met with Senate President Cullerton, Senate Republican Leader Radogno, House Republican Leader Durkin, and House Majority Leader Curry. Then on October 22nd President Baker and another university president, along with four community college presidents sat down to discuss the needs of the universities with Governor Rauner and his chief operating officer Linda Lingle. The House adopted House Amendment 1 to House Bill 4156. This bill would provide NIU with \$85.2 million. It is the same appropriation level that was approved by the General Assembly last spring. It represents a 6.5% cut from our revised FY15 appropriation. That bill is now on third reading in the House. Unfortunately, the House

is not scheduled to meet again until December 2nd and the Senate currently is not scheduled to meet this calendar year. So we really still are looking at 2016 calendar year as hope for a fiscal '16 budget positive development. The legislature and the governor did agree to progress on some other peripheral issues such as the state museum will remain open. There was some progress made on administrative rules as they relate to assistance for child care. Currently the governor is scheduled to meet with legislative leaders on November 18th for what appears to be a public discussion of the state budget issues. And then again on December 2nd the House is scheduled to be in session to hopefully take up House Bill 4156.

Mike Mann continued, saying the House convened the Committee of the Whole Tuesday. It was scheduled to begin at three o'clock but it ended starting around five-thirty or six o'clock. There were two very controversial votes on child care and service for elder care and disabled people with disabilities. Both votes failed by one vote. They required 71 votes and received only 70. There was a lot of tension on the floor to say the least. After that excitement of the day, the committee of the whole convened and the presidents from U of I, Chicago State, and Western were asked to address the House and talk about the predicament that we're in, the long term damage that's occurring, the anxiety that this is creating for students; and the presidents delivered their remarks to the House, they were then peppered with questions about Truth-In-Tuition, and why aren't we increasing enrollment.

Wheeler Coleman commented it's my understanding the University of Illinois intends to pass a resolution this morning in their board of trustee meeting requesting that the leadership in Springfield find a way to pass a budget and provide adequate funding for their university. In light of that, I'd like to put a directive out on the table for us to prepare a resolution to do something very similar to show our support and concerns about what's taking place in Springfield to a point where we could let everyone know that the impact that this impasse is having on our students, our institution, our faculty members, administrators, and the greater community. Mr. Mann acknowledged he would work with President Baker and Jerry Blakemore to put together an item for the December meeting for the Board to consider. Trustee Strauss continued, the issue of whether the state should fund higher education is not a partisan issue. We need to address impact on economic development through the region, the issues of fairness to students that are going to be asked soon to pay tuition for the second semester, as well as fairness and ability to plan for our faculty and staff who have other options for employment and have to view the tenuous nature of the state financing is a real challenge in their daily existence. Baker noted there are a lot of people being significantly damaged by this and essentially what the governor told the DeKalb County Economic Development Council when he was here two weeks ago was that there's going to have to be more pressure and it's going to come from some parts of the state closing down or having giant layoffs to create enough energy to change it. We had local service providers and many of them got up and spoke about the damage being done in our community with people being turned away from homeless shelters or shelters for abused women in the community month. I appreciate the faculty, staff, and particularly the students who organized the rally. Representative Pritchard was there and spoke as well.

Chair Murer continued, Chicago Tribune's front page yesterday talked about moving the center of think tanks to the Midwest/Chicago and to lessen the focus on both coasts. In particular because of the \$100 million gift to the University of Chicago's Harris School and the million dollar gift to Northwestern University by Buffet's sister. That doesn't include the other \$100 million that Northwestern got from the Pritzker's for their law school. If I were a politician, if I were a mayor, if I were a business person in this arena, I certainly would find this appalling to see on the front page of the Chicago Tribune – commendations for \$100 million gifts, which is wonderful – commendations for our private universities to take the national leadership – but there are a lot people here that need to be educated that cannot go to the University of Chicago and Northwestern University to benefit from those extraordinary philanthropic gifts. We need to be protected by our government, by our state government. To say that the anger and the sense of being vehement about this at some point, it needs to happen before we have total catastrophe. And if our leaders are waiting for total catastrophe, it may be around the corner. Thank you.

Agenda Item 7.b. Sponsored Programs Administration (written item only – no presentation)

Agenda Item 7.c. Research Collaborations with Laboratories

Chair Murer introduced the next information item by beginning, 'moving on to something positive in terms of what we are doing here at NIU and the heart of what we talk about in this committee is the research that we're doing and about the contributions that this university is making on a national and global basis with our relationships with Fermilab. I would like to turn this over to our committee liaison Jerry Blazey.

Dr. Blazey thanked the Chair and the Board and continued, 'As part of our continuing look into the research enterprise at NIU, I wanted to pivot away from physics in particular towards our research partnerships with local institutions and the importance to our research enterprise. NIU has enjoyed a long tradition of close collaboration with the two nearby national laboratories. Internationally, we're starting to be a stronger collaborator with the particle physics laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland, CERN, and we've also started to expand our institutional partnerships in a meaningful way with one of the local educational institutions, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. One of the ways you can get a feel for the strength of our collaboration and the importance to our research enterprise is by looking at the financial numbers, which describe how much research we do with both Argonne and Fermilab. With Argonne we have a strong participation from three departments in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology and from three departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The total for three fiscal years from both colleges is around \$10 million. I remind you that over that time our sponsored research is something around \$90 million, so that's a very significant fraction. If you do the same quick analysis for Fermilab, you can see that there's two departments involved. Traditionally it's been physics, but recently we started a very nice interdisciplinary program with mechanical engineering. The total over those three years is about \$7.3 million. There's a little more detail in there but I think the main take-away is that two colleges are involved and it's \$17 million over three years which is about 20% of our total research portfolio. One of the points to make is that these lead to a great number of opportunities for our students. I want to give the board a sense of the depth of these collaborations and what it means to our faculty and our students. Recently we became involved in the Argonne Collaborative Center for Energy Storage Sciences. One of our faculty members, Professor Schroeder, is actually the deputy director of that in a joint appointment, and that is very good for both our reputation and our access to their energy storage programs. Many of our faculty use the advance photons source for their research. We utilize the electron microscopy center and we have collaborations with the material science, energy systems, and the high energy physics division. Argonne is trying to be a source of this expertise for people who want to deal with energy storage problems. At Fermilab, we're currently involved through the Northern Illinois Center for Accelerator and Detector Design, which is in the College of Arts and Science, and through high energy physics experiments and accelerator science. In terms of experiments, we're involved in the Mu2e collaboration, a \$230 million project. We built an accelerator Research Concentration of Excellence, or what I'm calling an RCE. This is a joint venture with Fermilab to build regional strength in accelerator science. We have entered into a \$6 million cooperative research and development agreement called a CRADA. It's a very well-developed instrument that DOE uses to enter into development collaborations. Both institutions are putting around \$3 million into this. It will eventually lead to six NIU accelerator scientists, which arguably is the largest university group in the country. It's led by Dr. Swapan Chattopadhyay, formerly the leading director of the Cockcroft Institute in the UK and we recently hired Dr. Michael Syphers, who is a leading accelerator physicist from MSU. We've had a very successful collaborative seed grant with Rosalind Franklin. It's been extremely successful because the expertise and capabilities are complementary. Five of nine proposals were selected by me and my counterpart, the vice president of research from Rosalind Franklin, for a total funding of \$227K; NIU put in \$150K, and Rosalind Franklin \$77K. When we can't compensate people in the traditional ways, we have to be more imaginative and appeal to their interest in doing research, collaborating, teaching, and

outreach. It's relatively inexpensive and it has had great impact. Finally, the collaborations with regional institutions have been and remain strong. They're very diverse and cover a lot of disciplines.

Agenda Item 7.d. Research Concentrations

Dr. Blazey continued with the next presentation on the agenda. 'The next thing I wanted to talk about was enhancing NIU's capabilities with Research Concentrations of Excellence. The main idea is to significantly grow NIU as a leading research institution, but it's building on two things; existing areas of research and leveraging our proximity to Chicago's world leadership in innovation and research. Second, engage students in research and artistry in a faculty driven and student initiated way. So I take that as the requirements of any cluster we're going to go forward on; strength, leveraging the area, and make sure it's faculty and student driven research. Next thing you have to do is leverage investments with partner institutions and then smoothly transition the center to a college or a more natural unit within the university. This research concentration of excellence is one possible framework to complement and respond to program prioritization.

Chair Murer thanked Dr. Blazey for the presentation and continued, 'I also want to thank you for your pragmatism in your presentation in that you do talk about return on investment and understand the reality and it looks like we have a pretty good return when we're getting more than what we're spending and it's turning over pretty quickly. We talk about Fermilab, we talk about Argonne, and then we talk about our own regional, local institutions of higher education that we collaborate with. I think that was very good and I hope we continue to see that.

OTHER MATTERS

No other matters were discussed.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Legislative Affairs, Research and Innovation Committee will be Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Murer asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Marc Strauss so moved and Trustee Wheeler Coleman seconded. The motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy J. Craddock
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.