



Regular Meeting
of the
Board of Trustees

March 5, 2020

**Regular Meeting of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
9:00 a.m. – Thursday – March 5, 2020
Board of Trustees Room
315 Altgeld Hall**

AGENDA

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum and Appropriate Notification of Public Meeting
3. Meeting Agenda Approval..... *Action*..... i
4. *Review and Approval of Minutes of February 13, 2020* *Action*.....1
5. Chair's Comments/Announcements
6. Public Comment*
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 - a. Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee (AASAP)
 - b. Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee (FACFO)
 - c. Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee (RILLA)
 - d. Illinois Board of Higher Education
 - e. Universities Civil Service Merit Board
 - f. Northern Illinois University Alumni Association
 - g. Northern Illinois Research Foundation
 - h. Northern Illinois University Foundation
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11. Closed Session

12. Adjournment

*Individuals wishing to make an appearance before the Board should consult the [Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University, Article II, Section 4 – Appearances before the Board](#). Appearance request forms can be completed [online](#) in advance of the meeting or will be available in the Board Room the day of the meeting. For more information contact Liz Wright, ewright1@niu.edu, Altgeld Hall 300, DeKalb, IL 60115, 815-753-1273.

Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in the NIU Board of Trustees meetings should contact Liz Wright, ewright1@niu.edu or (815) 753-1273, as soon as possible

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Special Meeting
February 13, 2020

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by Board Chair Dennis Barsema in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Liz Wright conducted a roll call. Members present were Rita Athas, John Butler, Montel Gayles, Madalynn Mershon, Bob Pritchard, Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz, and Board Chair Dennis Barsema. Trustee Veronica Herrero was absent.

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; General Counsel Bryan Perry; Board Liaison Matt Streb; Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram; Vice President for Administration and Finance Sarah McGill; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Vice President of Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Kendall Thu, Jeffry Royce, and Jason Hanna.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

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

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Dennis Barsema asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Gayles so moved and Trustee Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 5, 2019

Chair Dennis Barsema asked for a motion to approve the minutes of December 5, 2019. Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Athas seconded. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Dennis Barsema welcomed members of the University Advisory Council and invited them to make remarks.

UAC Representative Thu noted that he and Professor Scherer were the original founders of the Environmental Studies program to provide Professor Scherer with additional kudos, following his presentation at the Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee.

Chair Barsema thanked Professor Thu for his contributions to that program as well. He continued to thank the vice chairs and chairs of committee for their work during committee day.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Dennis Barsema asked General Counsel Perry if any timely requests to address the meeting were received. General Counsel Bryan Perry responded that there were no requests for public comment.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO 139

Agenda Item 7.a. Honorary Doctorate Recommendation

Chair Dennis Barsema asked President Freeman to present agenda item 7.a.

President Lisa Freeman stated that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee reviewed this item in the morning and have forwarded to the full Board for approval. The recommendation is to award Dr. Sherret S. Chase, a notable plant geneticist, an Honorary Doctorate of Science.

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the recommendation. Trustee Pritchard so moved and Trustee Wasowicz seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.b. Research and Innovation Partnerships Intellectual Property Counsel

President Freeman presented agenda item 7.b. which is a request for permission for the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships to enter into agreements with intellectual property legal firms. President Freeman summarized that this is to protect the intellectual property developed by NIU faculty by knowledgeable and appropriate legal counsel. The university recommended Board of Trustees approval with the understanding that services will not exceed \$250,000 per year, or \$2,250,000 in the aggregate, from March 1, 2020-June 30, 2028.

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the recommendation. Trustee Athas so moved and Trustee Wasowicz seconded. The motion was approved.

OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held March 5, 2020.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Barsema stated that no closed session would be needed.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dennis Barsema asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Butler so moved and Trustee Gayles seconded. The motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Liz Wright
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.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS

a. Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee (AASAP)

The Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee met on February 13, 2020. The Committee discussed and approved twenty agenda items including requests for: a New Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Health and Safety; Deletion of the Certificates in the following areas: Graduate Study in Applied Mechanics; CAD/CAM/CAE; Simulation, Modeling and Data Analysis; Thermal, Fluid and Energy Systems; Vibration, Robots and Control Systems; Deletion of the Master of Science in Integrated Systems Engineering; Deletion of the Certificate of Graduate Study in Integrated Systems Engineering; a Specialization in Behavior Analysis with the Ph.D. in Educational Psychology; Specializations within the M.S.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction: Teacher Leader with Endorsement; Curriculum and Culture Pedagogies in Social Justice; and Academic Literacies, Language and Culture; Specializations within the M.S.Ed. in: Reading; and English as a Second Language/Bilingual Education; a New Certificate of Graduate Study in Instructional Coaching; New Minor in Esport Industry Professionals; Deletion of Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Culturally Relevant Teaching; Deletion of Certificate of Graduate Study in Children's and Young Adult Literature/Media; a New Minor in Rehabilitation Counseling; a New Certificate of Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Illinois Family Specialist Credential Certificate-Level 5, a New Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Black Studies; Emphasis 6: Sustainable Food Systems with the B.A./B.S. in Environmental Studies; Deletion of Emphasis 2: Geomatics B.S. within the B.A./B.S. in Geography; a New Minor in Music; Change to Full-Time Tenure Requirement; as well as the Recommendation for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for the 2020-2021 Academic Year; and an Honorary Doctorate recommendation. Additionally, the committee received two information items; the Annual Report on the Outcome of Sabbatical Leaves and an Overview of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

b. Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities, and Operations Committee (FACFO)

The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee met on February 13, 2020. The committee was presented with two Financial Update items: Series 2010-2011 Bond Reissuance Update and Quarterly Financial Summary – FY20 Second Quarter. The committee approved four FY21 action items: Master Agreement Facility Contract Renewals; Open Order Agreements for Consumable Commodities; Student Health Insurance; and, Division of Information Technology Microsoft Enrollment Contract Renewal. Four additional action items were approved including Research and Innovation Partnerships Intellectual Property Counsel, College of Business Creativity and Empathy Lab, Stevenson Towers A, B, C and D-Roof Replacement (Capital Project Approval-Revised), and Chicago Based Office Leases for the Education Systems Center and College of Business MBA Programs. The committee also received four information items. These included Quarterly Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000, Periodic Report on Investments, Facilities Update, and Clery Report Update.

c. Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee (RILLA)

The Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee met on February 13, 2020. The Committee received four information items and one faculty presentation. Dr. Gerald Blazey, Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships, discussed adoption of exceptions to the full-time employment requirement for tenured appointments, which were previously approved by the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee.

Jenna Mitchell, State Legislative Liaison provided an update on the state legislative year and upcoming engagement opportunities. Dr. Anna Quider, Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations, reported on FY20 Federal appropriations and discussed the upcoming federal legislative agenda. Dr. Blazey summarized sponsored program activities for the first two quarters of FY20. Dr. Reed Scherer, Professor of Geology and Environmental Geosciences, reported on his recent sabbatical.

d. Illinois Board of Higher Education

The IBHE met on September 10, 2019. They approved NIU to grant Doctorates of Philosophy in the following: Electrical Engineering, Industrial and Systems Engineering, and Mechanical Engineering, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application. Further, they discussed the preliminary context and planning for Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Development.

e. Universities Civil Service Merit Board

Since the last Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, the State Universities Civil Service Merit Board has met twice, once on December 17, 2019, and again on January 17, 2020. At those meetings, the Merit Board's focus was primarily the review of personnel matters not related to NIU. One matter that does relate to NIU has been the progress of proposed rule changes to Section 250.110 of the Code (80 Ill. Adm. Code §250.110), or what are generally known as the discharge rules – the rules that govern under what circumstances a university-level decision can be brought before the Merit Board and what the Board is expected to do in response to such petitions. At the December meeting the Merit Board approved the publishing of the proposed amendments in the Illinois Register for the First Notice Period. As I understand the process, these have been largely written by the System office in consultation with university human resource representatives. The edits have been shared with the Merit Board throughout the process and discussed publicly. The proposed changes include a number of amendments that are part of a general effort to clarify and restructure the rules. Some of these changes may relate to criticism of the Merit Board's management of some discharge cases. The human resource directors authored a letter a couple years back, which were shared with the Trustees, registering concerns over some instances of the Merit Board proposing alternative judgements when discharges have come before the Board. The university presidents addressed this issue as well in a joint letter they wrote to the Merit Board on another matter. Members of the System's Human Resource Directors Advisory Committee have been invited to a meeting being held today (March 5, 2020) at Governors State University, where they will meet with the Merit Board Chair, Julie Annette Jones, and the Executive Director Jeff Brownfield, to discuss the discharge rules and processes. NIU has also appointed a new Designated Employer Representative for NIU to the System; Greg Brady will now serve in this role which was previously held by Celeste Latham. Mr. Brady and I have discussed the proposed changes, and he will be attending the meeting at Governors State University. Employee representatives to the System (members of the Employee Advisory Committee) are also interested in these proposed changes. NIU employees are represented in this regard by John Hulseberg, with whom I have also discussed the proposed changes. Finally, in my capacity as the NIU Board's representative on the Merit Board, I have been invited to a meeting of the Operating Staff Council (OSC) on April 2, 2020, where I will discuss the proposed changes and other System-related matters with that body (UAC member Jeffry Royce is the OSC President).

f. Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

Events – With 240,000+ alumni, and 140,000 of them in the state of Illinois, the NIUAA focuses on engaging alumni in our backyard first. However, we have 100,000+ alumni outside

of Illinois, so in partnership with the NIU Foundation, we have been traveling to engage pockets of alumni that have been strategically identified.

So far this calendar year, we have hosted events outside of Illinois in Southwest Florida, San Diego, and Los Angeles. We have events scheduled for this fiscal year yet in San Francisco, Phoenix, New York City, and Washington DC.

Because we want to remember the alumni who still reside in Illinois, we will continue to do events in Chicago, DeKalb, and Rockford. We will also be visiting Springfield, Bloomington/Normal, and Peoria this Spring.

Additionally, we will continue to push long-standing successful events, including the annual Alumni Golf outing, NIU day with the Chicago White Sox and Chicago Black Hawks, alumni support for NIU Cares Day, and our very successful Lunch & Learns.

Advocacy & Volunteerism – Plans are well underway for 2020’s Advocacy Day in Springfield. We already have 35 alumni registered for our activities on April 1st. Last year we had 40 alumni, so we are well on pace to eclipse that total. We encourage alumni, faculty & staff, and students to join us for this very important activity.

A new wrinkle will be added this year with the launch of the Foundation’s Day of Giving to coincide. Additionally, the NIUAA is recruiting “Day of Giving (DOG) Ambassadors” to help spread our message through personal channels, including social media.

The NIUAA remains committed to being the conduit through which alumni can connect back to their alma mater if they would like to give their time and talents to the University.

g. Northern Illinois Research Foundation

The Board of Directors and the Audit Committee of the Northern Illinois Research Foundation held their quarterly meetings December 3, 2019. The Audit Committee discussed the NIRF and EIGERlab quarterly financial reports and final FY19 audit report. The Board was introduced to Dr. Elizabeth Gaillard and listened to a presentation on the Molecular Analysis Core (MAC) Lab sponsored by Shimadzu Scientific Instruments. The Board also received quarterly updates from the Audit Committee, EIGERlab staff, and the NIU Office of Innovation. The next NIRF Board of Directors meeting was scheduled for March 4, 2020.

h. Northern Illinois University Foundation

Fundraising: Through the first seven months of this fiscal year, fundraising total achievement reached \$8,567,987 vs. \$9,002,953 for the same period last fiscal year.

Engagement: Following the successful fall season of football events, NIUF and NIUAA embarked on a series of donor and alumni engagement events beginning in January. Events were hosted in Florida (Bonita Springs, Sarasota and Orlando), and in California (San Diego, Long Beach, Manhattan Beach and Huntington Beach), and plans are in place for Arizona and Washington D.C. in March.

Upcoming Events: In the coming months, donor events will complement the 125th Anniversary year. The annual Donor Scholarship Reception will be held on March 29th, and the Day of Giving will be on April 1st. Of note, the Red & Black will be held on campus this year in the Duke Ellington Ballroom on Saturday, November 14th.

NIU Foundation Board: The board welcomed two new board members at its January meeting: Jeff Liesendahl, ‘87 and Ken Greisman, ‘82. Jeff, who served the board previously,

is the retired CEO of Acertify and has rejoined the Audit Committee. Ken is recently retired from Takeda Pharmaceuticals and will serve on the Finance Committee.

Campaign Planning: The Foundation, in collaboration with university leadership, is in the planning stages of a comprehensive fundraising campaign that could potentially launch a quiet phase in early 2021. Activities in the current fiscal year are designed to increase institutional readiness and include identification of priorities, development of a case for support, development of internal campaign communications and training for staff and volunteers.

REQUEST FOR NEW CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Summary: New certificates of graduate studies require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves this addition, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes a Certificate of Graduate Study in Environmental Health and Safety offered by the Department of Engineering Technology within the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

Rationale: Students in this area of study develop skills required for jobs in local and national industries. As an integral part of business operations, the graduates will gain skills required to manage and lead environmental health and safety organizations. Courses completed under this certificate program can also be applied towards the completely online M.S. in Industrial Management and Technology program. This program increases the department's ability to attract and recruit more graduate students in the area of Environmental Health and Safety.

Funding: No new resources are needed to implement the proposed certificate of graduate study since all courses are already existing and being offered on a regular basis.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR DELETION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY IN APPLIED MECHANICS

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete certificates of graduate study. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete the Certificate of Graduate Study in Applied Mechanics offered by the Department of Mechanical Engineering within the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

Rationale: The Certificate of Graduate Study in Applied Mechanics appears to have fulfilled its usefulness. Students find obtaining the M.S. in Mechanical Engineering degree more relevant to their career goals and employment opportunities. There are currently no students enrolled in this graduate certificate.

REQUEST FOR DELETION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY IN CAD/CAM/CAE

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete certificates of graduate study. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete the Certificate of Graduate Study in CAD/CAM/CAE offered by the Department of Mechanical Engineering within the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

Rationale: The Certificate of Graduate Study in CAD/CAM/CAE appears to have fulfilled its usefulness. Students find obtaining the M.S. in Mechanical Engineering degree more relevant to their career goals and employment opportunities. There are currently no students enrolled in this graduate certificate.

REQUEST FOR DELETION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY IN SIMULATION, MODELING AND DATA ANALYSIS

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete certificates of graduate study. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete the Certificate of Graduate Study in Simulation, Modeling and Data Analysis offered by the Department of Mechanical Engineering within the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

Rationale: The Certificate of Graduate Study in Simulation, Modeling and Data Analysis appears to have fulfilled its usefulness. Students find obtaining the M.S. in Mechanical Engineering degree more relevant to their career goals and employment opportunities. There are currently no students enrolled in this graduate certificate.

REQUEST FOR DELETION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY IN THERMAL, FLUID, AND ENERGY SYSTEMS

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete certificates of graduate study. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete the Certificate of Graduate Study in Thermal, Fluid, and Energy Systems offered by the Department of Mechanical Engineering within the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

Rationale: The Certificate of Graduate Study in Thermal, Fluid, and Energy Systems appears to have fulfilled its usefulness. Students find obtaining the M.S. in Mechanical Engineering degree more relevant to their career goals and employment opportunities. There are currently no students enrolled in this graduate certificate.

REQUEST FOR DELETION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY IN VIBRATION, ROBOTS, AND CONTROL SYSTEMS

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete certificates of graduate study. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete the Certificate of Graduate Study in Vibration, Robots, and Control Systems offered by the Department of Mechanical Engineering within the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

Rationale: The Certificates of Graduate Study in Vibration, Robots and Control Systems appears to have fulfilled its usefulness. Students find obtaining the M.S. in Mechanical Engineering degree more relevant to their career goals and employment opportunities. There are currently no students enrolled in this graduate certificate.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR THE DELETION OF THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTEGRATED SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete major programs. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete the Master of Science (M.S.) in Integrated Systems Engineering offered by the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

Rationale: The M.S. in Integrated Systems Engineering appears to have fulfilled its usefulness. Students find obtaining the M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, or Industrial and Systems Engineering more relevant to their career goals and employment opportunities. There are currently no students enrolled in this degree program.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR DELETION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY IN INTEGRATED SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete certificates of graduate study. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete the Certificate of Graduate Study in Integrated Systems Engineering offered by the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

Rationale: The Certificate of Graduate Study in Integrated Systems Engineering appears to have fulfilled its usefulness. Students find obtaining an M.S. degree in Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering or Industrial and Systems Engineering more relevant to their career goals and employment opportunities. There are currently no students enrolled in this graduate certificate.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR SPECIALIZATION IN BEHAVIOR ANALYSIS WITHIN THE PH.D. IN EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

Summary: New subdivisions of existing graduate programs are called specializations. Specializations require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves this addition, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes a Specialization in Behavior Analysis within the Ph.D. in Educational Psychology offered by the Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations within the College of Education.

Rationale: The creation of the Specialization in Behavior Analysis, per the doctoral degree in Educational Psychology, will enable stronger links between two of the departments in the College of Education (i.e., the Department of Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations and the Department of Special and Early Education). This linkage will lead to a more collaborative relationship that is expected to offer cross-disciplinary programming and assist in the recruitment of students to into the Ph.D.in Educational Psychology program.

Funding: No new funding or personnel are needed, or requested, to enact the Specialization in Behavior Analysis.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR SPECIALIZATION IN TEACHER LEADER WITH ENDORSEMENT WITHIN THE M.S.ED. IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Summary: New subdivisions of existing graduate programs are called specializations. Specializations require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves these additions, the university will report them in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes a Specialization in Teacher Leader with Endorsement within the M.S.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction offered by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction within the College of Education.

Rationale: This area of study had been offered under the M.S.ED. in Curriculum and Instruction but was previously identified as a “focus” area rather than as an official specialization. A switch from focus to specialization will allow students who take the courses in this area to have the specialization appear on their transcripts. This program includes the Teacher Leader Endorsement approved by the state of Illinois.

Funding: No new resources are needed to implement the proposed specialization. The courses and faculty needed to offer this specialization are currently in place.

REQUEST FOR SPECIALIZATION IN CURRICULUM AND CULTURE PEDAGOGIES IN SOCIAL JUSTICE WITHIN THE M.S.ED. IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Summary: New subdivisions of existing graduate programs are called specializations. Specializations require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves these additions, the university will report them in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes a Specialization in Curriculum and Culture Pedagogies in Social Justice within the M.S.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction offered by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction within the College of Education.

Rationale: This area of study had been offered under the M.S.ED. in Curriculum and Instruction but was previously identified as a “focus” area rather than as an official specialization. A switch from focus to specialization will allow students who take the courses in this area to have the specialization appear on their transcripts.

Funding: No new resources are needed to implement the proposed specialization. The courses and faculty needed to offer this specialization are currently in place.

REQUEST FOR SPECIALIZATION IN ACADEMIC LITERACIES, LANGUAGE, AND CULTURE WITHIN THE M.S.ED. IN CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Summary: New subdivisions of existing graduate programs are called specializations. Specializations require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves these additions, the university will report them in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes a Specialization in Academic Literacies, Language, and Culture within the M.S.Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction offered by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction within the College of Education.

Rationale: This area of study had been offered under the M.S.ED. in Curriculum and Instruction but was previously identified as a “focus” area rather than as an official specialization. A switch from focus to specialization will allow students who take the courses in this area to have the specialization appear on their transcripts.

Funding: No new resources are needed to implement the proposed specialization. The courses and faculty needed to offer this specialization are currently in place.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR SPECIALIZATION IN READING WITHIN THE M.S.ED. IN LITERACY EDUCATION

Summary: New subdivisions of existing graduate programs are called specializations. Specializations require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves these additions, the university will report them in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes a Specialization in Reading within the M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education offered by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction within the College of Education.

Rationale: The current M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education description is open-ended, and its lack of specificity makes it difficult for students to see its value or envision programs that meet their needs. Providing a Specialization in Reading addresses the needs of students for a focused program of study and the needs of districts providing support to children who struggle with reading. This specialization leads to K-12 Reading Specialist certification or the 24-semester-hour Reading Teacher endorsement added to professional educator license (PEL). The K-12 Reading Specialist certification is for licensed teachers interested in becoming a certified Reading Specialist. The Reading Teacher endorsement is for licensed teachers (already holding a PEL) who are interested in developing their expertise in literacy teaching or in applying to be a reading teacher.

Funding: No new resources are needed to implement the proposed specialization. The courses and faculty needed to offer this specialization are currently in place.

REQUEST FOR SPECIALIZATION IN ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE/BILINGUAL EDUCATION WITHIN THE M.S.ED. IN LITERACY EDUCATION

Summary: New subdivisions of existing graduate programs are called specializations. Specializations require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves these additions, the university will report them in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes a Specialization in English as a Second Language/Bilingual Education within the M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education offered by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction within the College of Education.

Rationale: This program was launched as a pilot under the identifier of “focus.” We are seeking permission to elevate this from “focus” to specialization. The current M.S.Ed. in Literacy Education description is very open-ended, and its lack of specificity makes it difficult for students to see its value or envision programs that meet their needs. Providing a Specialization in English as a Second Language/Bilingual Education addresses the needs of students for a focused program of study and the needs of districts providing support to children who struggle because they are English learners or bilingual.

Funding: No new resources are needed to implement the proposed specialization. The courses and faculty needed to offer this specialization are currently in place. However, if this specialization continues to grow as projected, there may be a need for new faculty in the future.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR NEW CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY IN INSTRUCTIONAL COACHING

Summary: New certificates of graduate studies require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves this addition, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes a Certificate of Graduate Study in Instructional Coaching offered by the Department of Curriculum and Instruction within the College of Education.

Rationale: The changing populations in educational systems have left many schools, particularly those predominantly identified as “high need,” poorly prepared to address academic support for both teachers and their students. An instructional coach works with both the teacher and the student to support learning, build relationships, develop academic self-efficacy, and impact change ensuring every child has the opportunity to learn in a way that meets his or her needs. This certificate addresses competencies identified by the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards (IPTS) that address the changing needs of schools. 25.32(d) Section (b) Designing professional development to meet teaching and learning needs to include: (b2) ability to coach teachers and staff; (b4) ability to observe instruction and provide coaching, mentoring or professional development feedback to teachers. Section (c) Building school culture that focuses on student learning to address: (c1) understanding diverse learners (including students with Individualized Education Programs, students who are underrepresented in the school population, and at-risk students and their families and communities).

Funding: No new resources are needed to implement the proposed Certificate of Graduate Study in Instructional Coaching. Currently there are faculty in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction who can teach these courses. In the future, there may be a need for new faculty in this area depending on enrollment, faculty attrition or other unforeseen circumstances.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR NEW MINOR IN ESPORTS INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

Summary: New subdivisions of existing undergraduate programs, including minors, require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves this addition, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to offer a Minor in Esports Industry Professionals in the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education within the College of Education.

Rationale: In 2019, the Esports industry exceeded the billion-dollar revenue mark. As a result, professional opportunities are becoming more prevalent. This minor will introduce students to some of these opportunities and potentially give them a competitive advantage when entering the job market.

Discussion among faculty and administration in the College of Education and University Outreach and Engagement has led to the conclusion that this minor would be a well-aligned and timely complement to majors such as, but not limited to, Communications, Computer Science, Psychology, Sport Management, and those housed in the College of Business. Further, this minor would align with a recent NIU outreach initiative in the Esports area. Coursework in this minor would better prepare students for job placement in the Esports industry.

Funding: No new resources are needed to implement the proposed minor.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

**REQUEST FOR DELETION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF UNDERGRADUATE
STUDY IN CULTURALLY RELEVANT TEACHING**

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete certificates of undergraduate study. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete the Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Culturally Relevant Teaching offered by the College of Education.

Rationale: No students have completed the certificate since Fall 2014.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

**REQUEST FOR DELETION OF THE CERTIFICATE OF GRADUATE STUDY
IN CHILDREN’S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE/MEDIA**

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete certificates of graduate study. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete the Certificate of Graduate Study in Children’s and Young Adult Literature/Media offered by the College of Education.

Rationale: Only one student has completed the certificate since Fall 2014 and no students are currently completing the graduate study certificate.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR NEW MINOR IN REHABILITATION COUNSELING

Summary: New subdivisions of existing undergraduate programs, including minors, require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves this addition, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to offer a Minor in Rehabilitation Counseling in the School of Interdisciplinary Health Professions within the College of Health and Human Sciences.

Rationale: Close to 13% of the population of the United States identify as being an individual with a disability. NIU students will inevitably interact with, work with, and serve individuals with disabilities in virtually every field of study completed at NIU. Creating a minor in Rehabilitation Counseling allows for students across the university to increase their awareness and skills related to working with individuals with disabilities.

Funding: All of these courses in this minor are currently offered and there is enrollment room in the courses. Thus, this is a minor that requires no additional institutional resources, but offers a value-added educational experience for undergraduate students.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR NEW CERTIFICATE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDY IN ILLINOIS FAMILY SPECIALIST CREDENTIAL CERTIFICATE-LEVEL 5

Summary: New certificates of undergraduate studies require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves this addition, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes a Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Illinois Family Specialist Credential Certificate-Level 5 offered by the School of Family and Consumer Sciences within the College of Health and Human Sciences.

Rationale: This certificate responds to labor market demands in the area of human/social services throughout the state of Illinois. This new credential will provide undergraduate students in the field of Human Development and Family Sciences with the competencies needed to acquire the Illinois Family Specialist Credential through the Illinois Gateways to Opportunity credentialing program. This credentialing program was created through legislative action in the State of Illinois.

Funding: No additional funding is required for this certificate.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR NEW CERTIFICATE OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDY IN BLACK STUDIES

Summary: New certificates of undergraduate studies require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves this addition, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes a Certificate of Undergraduate Study in Black Studies offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Rationale: This certificate is proposed as a way of providing interested undergraduate students another pathway to engage in Black Studies (in addition to the current Minor in Black Studies). Currently there are many students interested in the Black Studies minor, but they are unable to accommodate all of the course requirements for the minor into their studies. Offering a Certificate of Undergraduate Studies will allow students unable to take the full 18 credit hours for the minor the opportunity to nonetheless show a concerted interest and emphasis in Black Studies; a Certificate of Undergraduate Study will allow that work to be explicitly recognized on student transcripts. Additionally, for some students, the Certificate of Undergraduate Study can serve as a gateway to the minor.

Funding: There are no additional costs associated with the certificate. Courses are offered routinely by the respective departments that contribute to the minor/certificate, based on the level of student interest.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR EMPHASIS 6: SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS WITHIN THE B.A./B.S. IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Summary: New emphases require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves this addition, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes an Emphasis 6. Sustainable Food Systems within the B.A./B.S. in Environmental Studies offered by the Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Rationale: This emphasis is proposed to recognize the growing interest in food, farming, and agriculture. There are several similar programs in sustainable food systems offered around the country, which are listed on the website of the Sustainable Agriculture Education Association. Among these, programs are listed at 36 land grant universities, 13 four-year state and private universities, eight private liberal arts colleges, and 18 community and junior colleges.

The Sustainable Food Systems emphasis would follow the certificate of undergraduate study in sustainable food systems as an effort at NIU to offer academic recognition for studies related to agriculture, which is important given that NIU is centrally located in an agricultural area. There are many local resources that should feed into this emphasis program such as the master gardeners classes offered through the U of I Extension Office, the Gardener's Pathway workshop held at Kishwaukee College, and the DeKalb County Community Gardens volunteer base.

Emphasis 6. Sustainable Food Systems will take advantage of the courses being created in departments across several disciplines to provide students with the framework to understand more about the different ways that food is produced and how it is integrated into various cultures. Given the national trend to offer these programs, the minimal regional competition for a program that focuses on sustainable food systems, and abundant local engagement opportunities, enrollment in this emphasis program should be robust.

Funding: No additional funding is needed for this emphasis.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR DELETION OF EMPHASIS 2: GEOMATICS (B.S.) WITHIN THE B.A./B.S. IN GEOGRAPHY

Summary: Public University governing boards have the final authority to delete subdivisions of major programs including emphases. If the board approves this deletion, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to delete Emphasis 2: Geomatics (B.S.) within the B.A./B.S. in Geography within the Department of Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences offered by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Rationale: This academic program (Geomatics) was small when it was initiated in 2013. Student enrollment in the Geomatics program never grew beyond approximately 10 students in the period between 2013 and 2019. Due to continued low student demand and high program-related costs, the department and college agreed on the decision to delete the program.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

REQUEST FOR NEW MINOR IN MUSIC

Summary: New subdivisions of existing undergraduate programs, including minors, require the approval of the Board of Trustees. If the board approves this addition, the university will report it in the Annual Listing of Changes sent to the Illinois Board of Higher Education in June 2020. These requests come to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee after receiving approval from the curriculum committees at the department, college and university levels and the concurrence of the provost.

Description: The University proposes to offer a Minor in Music in the School of Music within the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Rationale: The School of Music seeks to expand enrollment in ensembles, performance studios and introductory classes by welcoming qualified students from other academic units to participate in a program that provides cohesion and depth of study, but in a less extensive and time-intensive commitment than a program majoring in music. This is expected to help overall recruiting to NIU, as many prospective students inquire about a music minor, but are currently turned away.

The proposed program will also serve as an “on-ramp” for students considering a program majoring in music but reticent about fully making the commitment, or as an “off-ramp” for students who begin a program majoring in music and decide the complete program is not the right fit, but want to remain connected to their music study and have their work recognized while pursuing a different academic path. Having this flexibility in the way students can interact with the School of Music offerings will lead to increased enrollment in the School’s large ensembles (chorus, bands, orchestra) and connect these musical outlets and the School to other units across campus, opening up the possibility for individualized interdisciplinary pursuits.

Funding: This program will utilize existing capacity in courses and ensembles, particularly the music appreciation course and ensembles. Depending on which instruments the minors play, Graduate Assistants (GA) may need to be reassigned to teach secondary music lessons. Initially, no additional funding needs are expected. Growth beyond the anticipated target might ultimately require one additional section of Music Theory I and possible more GA funds. Any new expense would follow substantial enrollment growth.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

CHANGE TO FULL-TIME TENURE REQUIREMENT

Summary: The Board of Trustee regulations require full-time appointments for tenure-track or tenured faculty. The full-time requirement limits the ability of the University to fully benefit from collaborations with other institutions and to recruit and retain faculty. The University requests specific exemptions to this requirement that will enhance the competitiveness and reputation of the University.

Background: The Board of Trustee Regulations Section II: Faculty and Administrative Employees, Subsection A. Appointments, 12. Tenure, a. General Provisions states that “*Only faculty that hold full-time regular appointments at the rank of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor shall be eligible for tenure appointments.*” The full set of regulations can be found at <https://www.niu.edu/board/regs/index.shtml>.

The University research mission and reputation have been greatly strengthened by collaborations with the national laboratories, particularly Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory. These collaborations generate outstanding research and educational opportunities for students, highly regarded publications, and significant external funding. Over the past decade, joint appointments with the laboratories have resulted in external funding totaling \$41M. At present, because of the fulltime requirement, the only joint tenured positions allowed require that NIU be the faculty member’s primary employer and that a partner, such as a laboratory, provide funding to NIU to support the faculty member. A similar arrangement, with a laboratory serving as the primary employer and NIU providing funding, does not allow for a tenured appointment at NIU. Incentivizing and maintaining laboratory-based appointments with the highly qualified and renowned staff of the laboratories would be greatly facilitated by the possibility of a tenured appointment at NIU.

As worded, the University regulations also do not support extended leave to tenured faculty. Accordingly, faculty are unable to benefit from appointments requiring leave; examples include appointments to other educational institutions, national academies or professional organizations, national laboratories, and state and federal agencies. More generally, the tenured status of faculty requiring extended leave for personal or family reasons can be called into question with the current regulation. Finally, the regulations are inconsistent with the implementation of phased retirement which, if instituted, would provide the university with flexible faculty staffing. Phased retirement would be particularly attractive for faculty with active research grants; the current regulations would require a faculty member to give up tenure to participate in a phased-retirement program.

Funding: No funding is required for this recommendation.

Recommendation: Board of Trustees approval is requested for exceptions to the requirement of full-time employment for tenure track appointments to accommodate joint positions, leave, and phased retirement. The proposed change to the regulations follows:

Section II: Faculty and Administrative Employees

Subsection A. Appointments

12. Tenure

a. General Provisions

Tenure appointments shall be for an indefinite term and may be terminated only by (1) retirement, (2) acceptance of resignation, (3) demonstrable financial exigencies, (4) discharge for cause, or (5) the reduction or elimination of a department or similar academic unit. Only faculty that hold full-time regular appointments at the rank of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor shall be eligible for tenure appointments. Exceptions to the full-time appointment will be granted for phased retirement and for temporary leave and by the Provost for formal joint appointments with external higher education, research, or clinical institutions. While a faculty member holding a contingent appointment with the rank of instructor shall not be eligible for tenure, service under that appointment shall count toward the probationary time period prior to a tenure decision. Employees holding other academic titles shall not be eligible for tenure but, with the concurrence of the university and the Board of Trustees, campus regulations may be adopted to safeguard the academic freedom of and provide reasonable job security for other faculty and teaching personnel.

The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FACULTY AND SUPPORTIVE PROFESSIONAL
STAFF SABBATICAL LEAVES FOR THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department/School/Unit</u>	<u>Time Period</u>
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS (in alphabetical order)		
Churyk, Natalie	Accountancy	Fall 2020
Ferguson, Amanda	Management	Spring 2021
Lee, Chih-Chen	Accountancy	Spring 2021
Lee, Jung Young	Operations Management and Information Systems	Spring 2021
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (in alphabetical order)		
Summers, Kelly	Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations	Spring 2021
Tonks, Stephen	Leadership, Educational Psychology and Foundations	Spring 2021
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING & ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY		
Ryu, Ji-Chul	Mechanical Engineering	Spring 2021
COLLEGE OF HEALTH & HUMAN SCIENCES (in alphabetical order)		
Geiger, Sarah	Health Studies	Fall 2020
Herrmann, Lynn	Health Studies	Spring 2021
COLLEGE OF LAW		
Oswalt, Michael	Law	Fall 2020
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES (in alphabetical order)		
Adelman, Jahred	Physics	Fall 2020
Allori, Valia	Philosophy	Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
Bujarski, Jozef	Biological Sciences	Fall 2020
Cady, Kathryn	Communication	Fall 2020
Clark, April	Political Science	Spring 2021
Duvall, M. R.	Mathematical Sciences	Spring 2021
Ferris, Kerry	Sociology	Spring 2021
Gallaher, Courtney	Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences and Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies	Fall 2020
Glatz, Andreas	Physics	Spring 2021
Hamayotsu, Kikue	Political Science	Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
Hoffman, Beatrix	History	Spring 2021
Joy, Natalie	History	Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
LaDue, Nicole	Geology and Environmental Geosciences	Fall 2020
Luo, Wei	Geographic and Atmospheric Sciences	Spring 2021
Mounts, Nina	Psychology	Spring 2021
Pillow, Bradford	Psychology	Fall 2020
Ponomareva, Maria	Economics	Fall 2020
Thu, Kendall	Anthropology	Fall 2020
Van Wienen, Mark	English	Spring 2021
Xu, Tao	Chemistry and Biochemistry	Fall 2020

COLLEGE OF VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS (in alphabetical order)

Freedman, Kerry	Art and Design	Fall 2020
Rea, Michael	Art and Design	Fall 2020
Thomas, Reginald	Music	Spring 2021
Villanueva Conroy, Rodrigo	Music	Fall 2020
Wang, Jui Ching	Music	Fall 2020 – Spring 2021

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Johnson, Wendell	University Libraries	Fall 2020
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SUPPORTIVE PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Van Ael, Peter	Art and Design	Fall 2020 – Spring 2021
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Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Students Affairs and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS NEW CREATIVITY AND EMPATHY LAB

Summary: The College of Business has received donor funding towards the creation of a Creativity and Empathy Lab space which is to be located on the second floor (entry level) of Barsema Hall. This new lab is intended to be a flexible collaborative working lab space for NIU students to be able to test out their new business and product ideas. The space will facilitate and support development of creativity and empathy skills among students, faculty, staff, alumni, business partners and the local community. The university is now requesting to proceed with the renovation project and expend \$400,000 in donor funds.

Background: The College of Business, in conjunction with the Foundation have been working with a design consultant to finalize the concept for the lab. Features of the space will include a maker area, a recording space and a variety of flexible furniture, all designed to encourage collaboration. Construction is targeted to be complete by summer 2020.

Scope details include the conversion of two existing classrooms (rooms 204 and 232) on the second floor level into one larger 2,500 square foot flexible lab space which will include some minor interior demolition, installation of new glass walls and doors, all new finishes, cabinetry, furniture, fixtures and equipment within space that is two existing classrooms.

Funding: Foundation – Donation Funds: \$400,000

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

STEVENSON TOWERS A, B, C & D – ROOF REPLACEMENT CAPITAL PROJECT APPROVAL (REVISED)

Summary: This item had previously been approved as two separate projects in March 2016 and September 2016 board meetings. The projects were originally envisioned to be executed in separate years to spread out cost expenditures but were delayed due to competing priorities. To drive cost efficiency, all four roofs are planned to be executed under one contract. While leveraging competitive bidding across 8 interested companies, the cost for completing the roof replacements has increased from the original combined approval of \$1,250,000 due to inflation and continued deterioration since 2016. \$1,400,000 of total project authority is requested to proceed with this important repair action.

Background: The roofs on Stevenson Hall Towers have experienced numerous significant leaks which cannot be adequately addressed by spot patching. The existing built-up asphalt roof membrane system was restored in 1981 and is now considerably past the 20-year life expectancy of the asphalt products.

The work will include the removal of all existing roofing materials down to the existing roof deck. The roof deck will be repaired as required, new insulation will be installed with a new roofing membrane system, including flashing around the perimeter of the building and at all penetrations of the roof. The work will include any necessary clean-up and repair of damaged ceilings and other surfaces in the ceiling plenum and the rooms below the roof area. The work will be completed during the summer 2020 to minimize disruptions to housing operations.

Funding: Institutional – Auxiliary Reserve Funds - \$1,400,000

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

**CHICAGO-BASED OFFICE LEASES FOR
THE EDUCATION SYSTEMS CENTER AND
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS MBA PROGRAMS**

Summary: Two leases have been in place since August 2016 supporting the Education Systems Center, part of the Division of Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development, and two College of Business master's programs. A dispute had arisen concerning electrical charges for the leased property at 105 W. Madison where NIU believed the charges were included in the rent and the property management believed the charges should be paid in addition to the rent. After numerous discussions and in an interest to avoid legal costs, the parties desired to settle the disagreement. Since NIU desired to continue the programs at this location, the leases will be extended and begin paying electrical charges as of November 1, 2019 in addition to the rental amount. The property manager would forgo the past claim on electrical charges since 2016.

Background: Both programs require a presence in downtown Chicago and the collocation allows for the programs to share common spaces for the most efficient leasing arrangement. The Education Systems operation has been operating in Chicago since its inception in 2012 and interacts with Chicago-based state officials, advocacy organizations, and non-profits to develop and implement education-related legislation, apply for federal grants to promote educational initiatives, and administer education and workforce development programs. Funding for this program has come from direct revenues consisting of philanthropic, state agencies, and federal grant support. The current lease authority for this program is \$370,000 through February 2021. This lease will be extended to December 2022 for an additional amount of approximately \$250,000.

The College of Business offers two programs from this location, a Master of Business Administration (MBA) and Master of Science in Financial Risk Management (MS FRM). Both programs target working professionals at a location where they can optimize their time between professional and personal lives. A strategic vision for the College of Business is to deepen connections with businesses and alums in Chicago and the location offers an excellent platform to reach out to these constituents. The current lease authority is \$254,000 through December 2020. This lease will be extended to July 2021 for an additional amount of approximately \$50,000. The enrollment for the program will be assessed before considering extending further.

Funding: Institutional – Local Funds

Education Systems: Total lease authority \$620,000 for August 2016-December 2022

College of Business: Total lease authority \$305,000 for August 2016-July 2021

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

FY21 MASTER AGREEMENT FACILITY CONTRACT RENEWALS

Summary: Master agreements for labor and materials supporting facility repairs/improvements are required to be established or renewed for FY21 for various contractors. These agreements provide an important streamlined contractual mechanism to engage companies effectively and efficiently as facility requirements emerge. The renewal awards will be advertised on the *Illinois Procurement Bulletin*.

Background: As the level of deferred maintenance and repair demands continue to increase, the ability and agility to respond quickly when failures occur becomes more critical. The amounts listed on the next page are not-to-exceed (NTE) limits established for FY21. The addition of new companies provides for increased ordering flexibility and price competitiveness. The amounts listed do not reflect a commitment or obligation but are an upper limit for the amount of work that may be requested under these agreements. Services will be requested on an as-needed basis throughout the FY21 period. Any individual orders under these agreements at or above \$250K will be preceded with a specific project approval request to the Board.

Funding: Institutional – Local Funds

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

New awards – depending on criteria met, may be awarded to more than one qualified responder:

<u>New general contractor services agreements (each)</u>	\$ 600,000
<u>New mechanical services agreements (each)</u>	\$ 600,000

Renewals:

<u>Advanced Boiler Control Services – Crown Point, IL</u>	\$ 450,000
<u>AGAE Contractors, Inc. – Chicago, IL</u>	\$ 600,000 *
<u>Ballard Services, Inc. – Rockford, IL</u>	\$ 800,000
<u>Campos Construction, Inc. – Rockford, IL</u>	\$ 600,000 */**
<u>Carnow Conibear & Associates, LTD – Chicago, IL</u>	\$ 600,000
<u>Cooling Land Concepts, LLC – Cherry Valley, IL</u>	\$ 700,000
<u>Curran Contracting Company – DeKalb, IL</u>	\$ 425,000
<u>EDE Corp. – Chicago, IL</u>	\$ 700,000
<u>Elete Construction & Environmental, Inc. – Chicago, IL</u>	\$ 600,000 */**
<u>Elliott & Wood, Inc. – DeKalb, IL</u>	\$ 750,000
<u>Environmental Design International – Chicago, IL</u>	\$ 600,000
<u>Environmental Group Services – Chicago, IL</u>	\$ 600,000
<u>Freeport Industrial Roofing, Inc. – Freeport, IL</u>	\$ 400,000
<u>G.D. Barri & Assoc., Inc. – Peoria, AZ</u>	\$ 325,000
<u>Hygieneering, Inc. – Willowbrook, IL</u>	\$ 600,000 **
<u>Independent Mechanical Ind., Inc. – Chicago, IL</u>	\$ 400,000
<u>Lake & Pond Solutions Co. – Greenville, WI</u>	\$ 300,000 *
<u>Mid Valley Concrete Co. – Sandwich, IL</u>	\$ 300,000
<u>Otto Baum Co., Inc. – Morton, IL</u>	\$ 600,000 *
<u>Ringland Johnson, Inc. – Cherry Valley, IL</u>	\$ 550,000
<u>Rush Power Systems, LLC – Kirkland, IL</u>	\$ 475,000
<u>Schoening Painting & Decorating, Inc. – Rockford, IL</u>	\$ 550,000 **
<u>Sprinkmann Sons Corp. – Milwaukee, WI</u>	\$ 700,000
<u>Sterling Commercial Roofing, Inc. – Sterling, IL</u>	\$ 500,000
<u>Swedberg Electric, Inc. – Sycamore, IL</u>	\$ 800,000 **
<u>Tecnica Environmental Services, Inc. – Lemont, IL</u>	\$ 775,000 **
<u>True North Consultants, Inc. – Naperville, IL</u>	\$ 600,000
<u>Veya, Inc. – Champaign, IL</u>	\$ 600,000 */**
<u>Virgil Cook & Son, Inc. – DeKalb, IL</u>	\$ 800,000
<u>Weaver Construction, Inc. – Sycamore, IL</u>	\$ 600,000
<u>Total renewals</u>	\$ 17,300,000

* New vendors since FY20 approval

** BEP vendors currently meeting CMS qualifications

Amount approved for FY20: \$17,525,000 (including results of new award actions)

FISCAL YEAR 2021 OPEN ORDER AGREEMENTS FOR CONSUMABLE COMMODITIES

Summary: Commodity purchases for consumable items are required to support the operations of various University departments for FY20. These commonly include materials for cleaning, office supplies, postage, and fuel. The following open order renewals or new agreements will be processed in accordance with applicable Illinois procurement regulations and advertised, as required on the Illinois Procurement Bulletin.

Background: The amounts listed are not-to-exceed (NTE) limits established for FY21. The cumulative total is higher than FY20 due to the addition of a vendor for increased ordering flexibility and price comparison. These amounts do not reflect obligations but serve as an upper limit for the cost of materials that may be procured under these agreements. Materials will be ordered on an as-needed basis to maintain in-house stocks or respond to individual requests throughout the FY21 period. Any individual orders under these agreements at or above \$250K will be preceded with a specific approval request to the Board.

Funding: Institutional – Local Funds

<u>Office Depot Max, Inc. – Itasca, IL</u>	\$ 400,000
<u>Home Depot Pro (formerly Supplyworks) – Rockford, IL</u>	\$ 500,000
<u>W.W. Grainger – Rockford, IL</u>	\$ 250,000*
<u>U.S. Postal Service / Postmaster – DeKalb, IL</u>	\$ 800,000
<u>Vendor(s) for fuel to be determined</u>	\$ 370,000
<i>Total</i>	\$ 2,320,000

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

*New vendor since FY20 approval

Amount approved for FY20: \$1,870,000

FY21 STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

Summary: The University offers group health insurance to students, funded solely by student health insurance fees. For participating students, their fees are collected and submitted to the broker or insurer as a “pass through” expense by the University. Students may waive their participation in this plan if they have proof of other, comparable health insurance.

In April 2019, the University convened a Committee to strategically review student health insurance. This Committee was comprised of students and other University stakeholders. One recommendation of the Committee was to utilize a broker for the FY21 program. As a participating institution of the Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative (IPHEC), the University used an approved insurance broker to source and secure a student health insurance plan and program for FY21. This agreement supersedes the previous RFP for student health insurance.

Background: Total premiums collected by NIU on behalf of students have decreased due to fewer student participants and continuous overall management of the program. The FY21 plan and program coverages, terms, and conditions remain the same as FY20, with the exception of Dependent coverage which will be included in the FY21 premium. This change was made based on a recommendation from the Committee noted previously.

In previous years, the requested purchase limits far exceeded the actual payouts to insurers. The request for FY21 has reduced the requested purchasing limit to better align with program demand.

	Health Insurance Provider	Original Purchase Order Requested Amount	Actual Amount Paid to Insurance Provider	Number of Students Enrolled in Student Health Insurance¹	Semester Premium
FY21	Aetna	\$ 7,250,000			\$ 1,131
FY20	Aetna	\$ 7,750,000	\$ 2,374,419 ¹	2,638	\$ 1,179
FY19	Aetna	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 6,012,792	3,258	\$ 1,179
FY18	Aetna	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 5,988,691	3,548	\$ 1,039
FY17	BCBS	\$ 12,500,000	\$ 6,336,402	4,021	\$ 991

¹The information reported for Fall term only. Students are charged separately for Fall and Spring terms.

Funding: Agency Funds
 Marsh and McLennan Companies – New York, NY.....\$7,250,000

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

**FY21 DIVISION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY MICROSOFT
ENROLLMENT CONTRACT RENEWAL**

Summary: The Division of Information Technology requests permission to issue an order for the Fiscal Year 2021 Renewal of Microsoft Enrollment for Education Solutions software for resale during the license period July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021. This is the seventh of nine, one-year renewal options based on RFP #KMC138285, which was originally awarded on June 6, 2013. The renewal award will be advertised in the Illinois Procurement Bulletin.

Background: The licensing under this contract allows NIU to run Microsoft Windows Desktop OS and Microsoft Office products, including their updates, for all University owned computers and provides five copies of Office for all students, faculty, and staff to run on their personal devices while they are enrolled or employed by the University. This contract also covers Windows Server licensing costs in NIU’s virtual environment and license costs for several features such as Multi-Factor Authentication and Self-Service Password Reset.

Funding: Appropriated Funds

ScholarBuys – Carpentersville, IL \$ 400,000

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of this item.

Amount Approved for FY20: \$400,000

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF SABBATICAL LEAVES

Executive Summary of Sabbatical Report for 2016-2017 Academic Year

The purpose of the sabbatical leave program is to maintain and improve the quality of the educational programs of Northern Illinois University by creating opportunities for academic and other eligible staff to acquire new methods and techniques, to broaden outlooks, and to improve professional competency and stature through study, research and other professional development activities. The university awards sabbaticals to faculty and SPS staff based on the following criteria: the quality of the proposed scholarship, the capacity of the applicant to conduct the proposed work, and the likelihood that the proposed project will be completed. At the request of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees, the university conducts an annual process to enumerate the products that result from sabbatical leaves, and faculty and staff are asked to report on awards and honors; curricular developments; outreach; grants and projects; performances, exhibitions, and recordings; presentations; publications; other outcomes; and works in progress.

This executive summary provides a summary of the outcomes for the forty-eight faculty and staff who received sabbaticals during the 2016-2017 academic year (a more detailed report is available). Sabbaticals were accepted by faculty and staff from six colleges and university libraries: twenty-six from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, six from the College of Visual and Performing Arts, five from the College of Education, four from the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, three from the College of Business, three from the College of Health and Human Sciences, and one from the University Libraries. Since 2016-2017, four of the recipients have retired, and four have resigned. This report contains information from the forty sabbatical recipients who are still employed at NIU.

Since their sabbaticals, the recipients have delivered 279 publications, 229 presentations, 58 grant submissions, one artistic work, 28 curricular development projects, 22 awards and honors, 21 outreach activities, 37 other significant contributions, and 35 submitted works in progress. Of the 58 internal and external grant applications submitted, 33 initiatives were funded for nearly \$3.29 million.

Publications included journal articles, books, book chapters, recordings, and public media. Presentations were given at other universities, conferences (both national and international), and in public venues. Many of the recipients were active in submitting grants or conducting the work associated with a grant. Over the past three years, sabbatical recipients submitted 58 grant applications, 12 internal and 46 external. Twenty-two of the external grants' applications were funded for a total of nearly \$3.2 million in funding.

Sabbatical recipients completed 28 curriculum development projects. These projects included the development of six new courses and revisions to 22 existing courses.

Sabbatical recipients also made several other contributions to their professional fields. Below, we highlight some of the experiences of those faculty.

Sabbaticals provide faculty with the time to develop research, artistic works, curricular redesign, outreach, and engagement that support NIU's mission, vision and values. Each of our faculty reflected on their experience and its contribution to NIU. All recipients expressed their deep appreciation for the time they received as part of these competitive awards and discussed how the resulting opportunities and experiences renewed their connections to their research, teaching, and service missions.

Many of the recipients said that the time allowed them to develop new areas of research or to expand current areas of activity. A typical recipient commented:

“My accomplishments, supported by the sabbatical leave, ultimately contributed to me gaining international recognition in my field, as evidenced by subsequent requests to present findings to international audiences, serve on a major grant review panel, sponsoring a visiting Fulbright Scholar, and being asked to serve as an Associated Editor of a major journal in my field. Thus, the work supported by my sabbatical leave resulted in increased visibility for not only my work, but also increased visibility of the Psychology Department and NIU. My leave time also allowed me the time to mentor over 20 NIU undergraduate and graduate students, facilitating important outcomes (e.g., admission to graduate school for undergraduate students, and involvement in peer-reviewed publications and conference presentations for both undergraduate and graduate students) for these individuals.”

Another recipient said:

“My recent international sabbatical provided me with an amazing opportunity for professional and personal growth. I used this opportunity to initiate an international research project on social and emotional learning in physical education. Collecting data and building on my collaborations in Scotland was my primary focus, but I also established or strengthened collaborations in Finland, Spain, and Greece. I also used this opportunity to connect with the office at UNESCO focused on sport and physical education. There is a surge of interest around the globe in social and emotional learning through sport and physical education. This sabbatical project provided me with a perfect opportunity to establish myself as an international leader on this topic. The number of invitations to conduct research and to present in other countries and/or for international organizations has grown substantially since my sabbatical.”

Several recipients focused on curricular redesign or pedagogical innovation to support student success. A faculty member in engineering describes his innovation:

“My favorite course to teach is MEE 211, Engineering Mechanics...it is one of the first courses in which we teach students the engineering problem solving process. It is a challenging course. In order to develop students’ skills, we give them periodic assignments and projects to complete.

While the work that students turn in is usually a fairly good representation of their understanding of the material, it doesn’t shed much light on the learning process. It doesn’t show all the false starts students embarked on and misunderstandings they had to overcome. It doesn’t show students’ frustration, their efforts to seek help from their classmates and instructional staff. It doesn’t typically show students’ elation when they finally figure it out.

One big advantage of using a simulation-based learning environment (e.g. Spumone) in which students demonstrate their knowledge of course material by interacting with a computer, is that we have the ability to log every step that students take as they attempt to solve engineering problems. We get a detailed look into how learning takes place. As part of my sabbatical leave, I built software tools to analyze the mountains of data that the educational software produces, looking for patterns in student learning. In doing so, we have categorized common approaches that students take to learn the course material. Some of these approaches correlate to stagnation in student learning while others tend to be associated with large educational gains. This provides insight into how to build better engineering software. In the future, it will lead to just-in-time interventions.”

Another faculty member outlined the impact of the sabbatical on approaches to literacy:

“My primary teaching responsibility focuses on preparing candidates to become middle school or high school English teachers. The activities during the sabbatical leave informed my understanding about the close connection between oral and written discourse. The collected

transcripts and the linked compositions from my studies reveal the intellectual “moves” that learners make during small group work and large group discussions and the transfer of these moves into the processes of composing academic essays.

...A conference presentation related to this work led to an editor’s invitation to submit a book proposal, which led to an edited collection about the role of discussion in the English language arts classroom—Raise Your Voices: Inquiry, Discussion, and Literacy Learning. The sabbatical leave also allowed me time to complete a long-term project about the pedagogical content knowledge that teachers need to command in order to teach English in a principled way. This project became Teaching on Solid Ground: Knowledge Foundations for the Teacher of English. These projects have a direct impact on my teaching, since my primary responsibility is in teaching English classes in the Teacher Licensure program. The three books offer a summary of my understanding of the knowledge and procedures necessary for the teaching of English. This understanding informs my teaching.”

Many faculty were engaged in activities that supported NIU’s commitment to diversity and inclusion, sustainability and social justice. One faculty member served as co-chair of the national Committee on LGBT History from 2015-2018 and was asked to review manuscripts, chair conference sessions, mentor junior scholars, and serve on conference program committees. Another faculty member’s team discovered unusual widespread occurrence of radiocarbon beneath the Antarctic Ice Sheet. After communicating this controversial result with researchers from different labs, they published a paradigm-shifting paper in Nature magazine. Another conducted studies on the associations between female breast cancer and socioeconomic and environmental factors. Finally, one faculty member designed a course on the History of Sustainable Design.

The investment that NIU makes in its faculty and staff yield dividends in cutting edge research and artistic activity, more research opportunities for NIU’s students, exciting new pedagogical approaches and courses, and allows NIU to bring its expertise to the region, state, nation, and world.

**COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY
OVERVIEW**

Donald Peterson, Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, presented an overview of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology.

SERIES 2010-2011 BOND REISSUANCE UPDATE

Overview and Summary: Northern Illinois University has \$175.5 million in outstanding Series 2010 and 2011 Auxiliary Facilities System (AFS) bonds. The average rate on the current debt outstanding is approximately 5.25%. Both issues are eligible to be re-financed with tax-exempt bonds effective January 1, 2020. Over the past several months, the Division of Administration and Finance and its financial advisor, Longhouse Capital Advisors (LCA), has been exploring the feasibility of refinancing its Series 2010 and Series 2011 AFS Bonds. As discussed during previous meetings with the Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities, and Operations (FACFO) Committee and Board of Trustees (BOT), the refinancing would be broken into fixed rate publicly offered bonds and variable rate bank placement bond tranches. The bond issue will not include any monies for new projects and the new debt payments will not extend beyond the April 1, 2041 maturity date of the Series 2010 bonds. The goals of the refinancing are to:

- **Provide cash flow savings to the University**, with a significant portion of these savings (\$14 million) directed towards fiscal years 2020 – 2023 to help mitigate the budgetary impact of closing the structural budget gap in those years.
- **Modernize NIU’s Bond Resolution**, which governs the operation of the AFS, for the first time since 1996. Planned changes to the Resolution would better accommodate the use of variable rate debt, allow for changes to the System if a Public-Private Partnership (P3) transaction were contemplated, liberalize the System’s financial covenants to match those of other Illinois, 4-year publics, and allow for transfers of AFS assets, if the System were to be overfunded.

December 5, 2019 Board Action:

In the time leading up to the December 5, 2019 BOT meeting the Division in consultation with its financial advisor completed a Request for Proposal (RFP) process to create a pool of underwriters/placement agents to work on the refinancing. On December 5th, the Board:

- Approved a pool of five Bond Underwriting / Placement Agent firms, along with their Business Enterprise Program (BEP) partners, as eligible to work on the refinancing and other financings for the coming 5 years. At the time of the Board meeting, the selection of the final subset of firms to work on the refinancing was still pending the evaluation of the results of a follow-up “Pricing RFP.”
- Approved a 7th Supplemental AFS Revenue Bond Resolution, and other bond documents, subject to final approval of Authorized Officers, including the General Counsel; and
- Authorized refinancing the Series 2010 and 2011 AFS Bonds, subject to meeting certain parameters of size (not to exceed \$185 million); initial rate or true interest cost (4.75%); final maturity (4/1/2041) and price (bond price no less than 97% of par amount of the issues).

Updates Since December 5, 2019

Since December 5, 2019, the Division has taken the following actions related to the refinancing:

- Selected a subset of the Underwriting Pool to work on the refinancing, as follows:

Direct Bank Placement Series 2020A Bonds: Sr. Placement Agent: Piper Sandler; Co- Placement Agents: Backstrom, McCarley, Berry and Co. and Estrada Hinojosa.

- Fixed Rate Series 2020B Bonds: Senior Manager: Wells Fargo, Co-Managers: Robert W. Baird; Siebert Williams Shank & Co.; and Valdes & Moreno.
- Finalized the relative size of the two financing tranches, with the Direct Bank Placement financing set at \$30 million, and the fixed rate issue comprising the remainder of the borrowing necessary to refinance the two-prior series, with the total amount of the two tranches not to exceed \$185 million;
- With the partnership of Chapman and Cutler LLC, outside bond counsel, drafted and finalized an updated AFS Bond Resolution, with review and approval by the General Counsel;
- Requested from Moody’s an updated bond rating for the Series 2020B fixed rate bonds, currently rated at Ba2 with a stable outlook. A decision on the rating is due on February 11, 2020.
- Through the Placement Agent, sent out a “Request for Terms” soliciting bank term sheets to directly purchase the Series 2020A Bond. Term sheets are due on February 7, 2020.
- Through the Senior Managing Bond Underwriter, sent out credit packages soliciting bond insurance bids from Assured Guaranty and Build America Mutual. Bids are due February 7, 2020.

General levels of interest rates have continued to fall since the Board’s approval of the refinancing on December 5, 2019, making the team optimistic that it will be able to achieve its financing goals. For example, the municipal index upon which most fixed rate financings are priced has fallen .20% -.25% in yield, depending on the maturity, between December 9, 2019 and the end of January 2020. However, a number of factors, including the interest rate climate on the date of the pricing, likely between February 20 – 27, 2020, and on the still yet-to-be determined bond insurance premium and bond rating, will determine final savings for NIU’s refinancing.

Next Steps

A high-level summary of the timetable for completing the refinancing is shown below:

Date	Milestone
February 12, 2020	Selection of Series 2020A Bank Placement Purchaser from banks responding to “Request for Terms” solicitation.
February 13	Further update on refinancing at FACFO meeting. Preliminary Official Statement for Series 2020B fixed rate bonds is posted for investors.
February 20-27	Series 2020B fixed rate bonds are priced (i.e. rates are locked in) for a closing of March 31, 2020. Drafting of documents for Series 2020A Bank Direct Placement Bond begins.
March 25-27	Documents for both issues finalized. Pre-closing of Series 2020A and 2020B Bonds.
March 31	Closing of Series 2020A and 2020B bonds. Funds provided to Series 2010 and Series 2011 Escrow Agent to redeem these bonds on April 1, 2020
April 1, 2020	Series 2010 and 2011 AFS Bonds redeemed with Series 2020 proceeds.

**QUARTERLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY
FISCAL YEAR 2020 - SECOND QUARTER
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2019**

Background: The University has prepared a second quarter financial summary.

At the conclusion of the second quarter of FY20, the University recorded a positive performance of approximately \$112.9M. This is approximately \$17.7M less than prior year due to factors including differences in the timing of debt service payments.

University tuition and student fee revenues have decreased by approximately \$7.3M from the prior year. Other revenues for second quarter FY20 are tracking close to budget, down \$2.2M (1.3%) from budget, collectively. Expenses through the second quarter exceeded budget by approximately \$1.15M (0.6%). In total, the first quarter net results are \$8.0M worse than budget.

With the rollout of a multi-year budget plan and the Strategic Enrollment Management Plan, management is demonstrating its ongoing leadership to monitor and develop strategies to effectively control expenses in order to keep in line with expected revenue. Efforts are underway to review planned expenses through the remainder of the year and make the necessary adjustments to align expenses with revenues. Management expects to finish the year on budget with net revenue of negative \$5.2M.

Revenues

- 1. Tuition and Fees:** All tuition, including differential tuition, course and materials fees, athletics fees, bus fees, and health service fees.
- 2. Gifts, Grants, & Contracts:** Includes on-campus scholarships, research grants and associated indirect cost pools, Pell grants, and sub-contract fees for research.
- 3. Other Fees and Fines:** Includes parking, residential living-learning community fees, parking fines, and transcript and commencement fees.
- 4. Sales:** Includes board plan and retail food sales, concessions sales, advertising/sponsorship, sales of services to off-campus entities (including, but not limited to catering, childcare, and conference services).
- 5. Rental & Room Income:** Includes room fees for residential students, rental of on-campus and off-campus meeting and conference space, hotel revenues, and Northern View apartment revenues.
- 6. Gate Receipts & Commissions:** Includes athletic ticket sales, performing arts ticket sales, commissions, and concert/event revenues from the Convocation Center.
- 7. Miscellaneous & Investment Income:** Includes athletics' game guarantees, NIU share of conference tournament revenues, rental of facilities, and interest income from investments, gains and losses on disposals of fixed assets, and year-end transfers to mandated reserves in the auxiliary facilities system.
- 8. State of Illinois:** Represents the annual state appropriation to public universities.

Expenses

1. **Cost of Sales:** Includes the cost of all items purchased for resale on campus such as food for dining units, parts and supplies to be charged out through the campus work order system, as well as paper for pay-to-print copiers and printers.
2. **Personnel Services:** Includes all salaries paid to faculty, supportive professional staff, civil service, graduate assistants, extra help, and student employees. Also includes required payments for Medicare and employee health insurance.
3. **Contractual Services:** Includes annual software support, subscriptions, conference registrations, non-employee travel reimbursements, service contracts, repairs & maintenance, grounds, building service work charges, speaking fees, and other arrangements with outside contractors to perform services for the University.
4. **Travel:** Includes airfare, hotel rooms, mileage, meals (all up to limits set by the state and the University), and ancillary expenses for employees to travel to-and-from campus on official University business.
5. **Automotive:** Includes the cost to rent cars, vans, and busses from the University transportation department.
6. **Scholarships:** Includes scholarships awarded, including Pell Grant funds disbursed (which, when netted against Pell Grant funds received, results in zero effect on the University's cash position).
7. **Telecommunications:** Includes the cost of providing phone, internet, and other digital services to the University.
8. **Equipment & Library Materials:** Includes the cost of all items over \$100 with an estimated useful life of two years or more, as well as library books, journal subscriptions, manuscripts, films, music, and video materials
9. **Capital Repairs:** Includes the cost of centralized capital repair activities.
10. **Debt Service:** Includes debt service payment on bonds, certificates of participation, and performance contracts.
11. **Other:** Includes refunds issued for on-campus external programming and other expenses not classified elsewhere.

Following is a financial summary of the University's operations as of the end of December FY20 and a comparison perspective to December FY19.

Northern Illinois University
as of December 31, 2019
(\$ in thousands)

	Current Year FY20			Prior Year FY19		Current Year FY20		
	Second Quarter			Second Quarter		Annual		
	YTD Actuals	YTD Budget	Variance	YTD Actuals	Variance	YTD Forecast	Budget	Variance
Revenue								
Tuition & Student Fees	\$ 149,792	\$ 154,458	\$ (4,666)	\$ 157,077	\$ (7,286)	\$ 167,408	\$ 176,085	\$ (8,677)
Gifts, Grants, & Contracts	28,185	28,529	(345)	27,687	497	58,540	59,331	(791)
Other Fees and Fines	4,763	4,509	254	5,035	(272)	7,979	7,172	807
Sales	21,208	21,257	(49)	21,004	203	33,663	32,606	1,057
Rental & Room Income	31,092	32,175	(1,083)	29,755	1,337	33,372	33,735	(363)
Gate Receipts & Commissions	869	3,873	(3,004)	3,538	(2,668)	4,392	4,809	(417)
Miscellaneous & Investment Income	3,707	785	2,922	1,322	2,385	11,130	11,479	(349)
State of Illinois	82,426	83,347	(921)	79,401	3,025	87,804	87,804	-
Total Revenue	\$ 322,041	\$ 328,933	\$ (6,892)	\$ 324,819	\$ (2,778)	\$ 404,289	\$ 413,021	\$ (8,732)
Expenses								
Cost of Sales	\$ 2,806	\$ 2,736	\$ 70	\$ 2,449	\$ 357	\$ 6,589	\$ 5,599	\$ 990
Personnel Services	111,839	104,633	7,207	107,739	4,100	215,364	210,829	4,535
Contractual Services	38,257	41,299	(3,041)	40,354	(2,097)	80,000	85,079	(5,079)
Commodities	2,976	2,984	(8)	2,972	4	6,000	6,276	(276)
Travel	2,352	2,537	(185)	2,120	232	4,272	5,531	(1,259)
Automotive	646	606	40	641	5	1,226	1,153	73
Scholarships	27,794	31,097	(3,304)	26,822	972	55,411	59,338	(3,927)
Telecommunications	99	126	(27)	242	(143)	324	323	1
Equipment & Library Materials	4,526	5,235	(708)	4,520	6	8,261	9,374	(1,113)
Capital Repairs	922	1,325	(403)	3,186	(2,264)	2,650	2,650	(0)
Debt Service	15,111	15,373	(262)	1,387	13,724	24,804	31,921	(7,117)
Miscellaneous Expense	1,815	40	1,774	1,751	64	4,546	105	4,441
Total Expenses	\$ 209,143	\$ 207,990	\$ 1,153	\$ 194,183	\$ 14,960	\$ 409,447	\$ 418,179	\$ (8,732)
Net Revenue	\$ 112,898	\$ 120,943	\$ (8,045)	\$ 130,636	\$ (17,738)	\$ (5,158)	\$ (5,158)	\$ -

To ensure that the amounts reported per the budget are in line with the University's anticipated financial statement results, a reconciliation between Budget (Fund Accounting) and GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) has been prepared.

An explanation of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) versus Fund Accounting (Budget):

- GAAP - a common set of accounting principles, standards, and procedures that companies must follow when compiling financial statements.
- Budget - based on fund accounting which is a method of accounting that emphasizes accountability rather than profitability. The focus is on "fund balances" that are set aside to achieve a specific goal with the organization.

The change in annual net position is a projection for FY20 and was calculated using the FY19 annual GAAP figures. Following is the reconciliation from the University's Budget to GAAP financial statements based on year-to-date projections.

Budget to GAAP Reconciliation
Year End Projection
(\$ in thousands)

Net Revenue, per Budget	\$ (5,158)
Depreciation Expense	(28,232)
Debt - Principal	<u>10,504</u>
Total Decrease in Net Position	\$ (22,886)

As of December 31, 2019, the projected year-end decrease to net position is \$22.886 million. Based on forecasted year-to-date net loss of (\$5.158) million, estimated annual depreciation expense of \$28.232 million, and annual debt principal of \$10.504 million, the estimated ending net position for fiscal year 2020 is as follows:

FY20 Change in Net Position
For the Year-Ended June 30, 2020
(\$000's)

Net Position, June 30, 2019	\$167,845
Decrease in net position	<u>(22,886)</u>
Estimated Net Position, June 30, 2019	<u><u>\$144,959</u></u>

**Unaudited*

Northern Illinois University FY20-FY24 Projected Budget Summary

	Actuals	Approved Budget			Projected Budgets		
	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	
REVENUE							
General operating revenues	\$ 152,733,706	\$ 149,131,855	\$ 149,131,855	\$ 149,131,855	\$ 149,131,855	\$ 149,131,855	
Tuition & fees	172,481,371	176,085,067	175,060,353	178,074,668	181,095,696	186,060,704	
State appropriation	83,647,023	87,804,400	87,804,400	87,804,400	87,804,400	87,804,400	
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 408,862,100	\$ 413,021,322	\$ 411,996,608	\$ 415,010,923	\$ 418,031,951	\$ 422,996,959	
EXPENSE							
General operating expenses	\$ 373,675,017	\$ 383,608,500	\$ 382,607,887	\$ 382,423,838	\$ 381,211,007	\$ 381,303,212	
Equipment & library books	8,094,600	-					
Capital improvements	2,460,583	2,650,000	3,400,000	4,150,000	4,900,000	5,650,000	
Debt service	23,988,200	31,920,944	31,920,944	31,920,944	31,920,944	31,920,944	
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 408,218,400	\$ 418,179,444	\$ 417,928,831	\$ 418,494,782	\$ 418,031,951	\$ 418,874,156	
Net Revenue - Budgeted Surplus/(Deficit)	\$ 643,700	\$ (5,158,122)	\$ (5,932,223)	\$ (3,483,859)	\$ (0)	\$ 4,122,804	

PERIODIC REPORT ON INVESTMENTS FOR PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019

In accordance with the approved University Investment and Cash Management policy, this report on cash and investments is submitted at the end of each calendar quarter to the Board of Trustees. This report is required by Board of Trustees *Regulations* (Section V, Subsection D). The following schedules are included:

- Cash and Investment Holdings Summary as of December 31, 2019
- Investment Earnings for the quarter ended December 31, 2019

The *Cash and Investment Holdings Summary* at December 31, 2019 shows NIU's total holdings at \$150 million. This balance is nearly \$25 million lower than the balance at December 31, 2018 which is largely due to NIU's planned spending of Build America Bond proceeds on the Holmes Student Center renovation throughout the year. The majority of operating funds were invested in money markets and investment savings accounts because cash and cash equivalents were earning higher yields than long term investment instruments during the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2020.

The *Investment Earnings* report shows the interest earnings for the 2nd quarter at \$698,420 and an overall annualized rate of return of 1.73%. The lower return this quarter over the previous quarter resulted from a decrease in interest rates and lower cash balances.

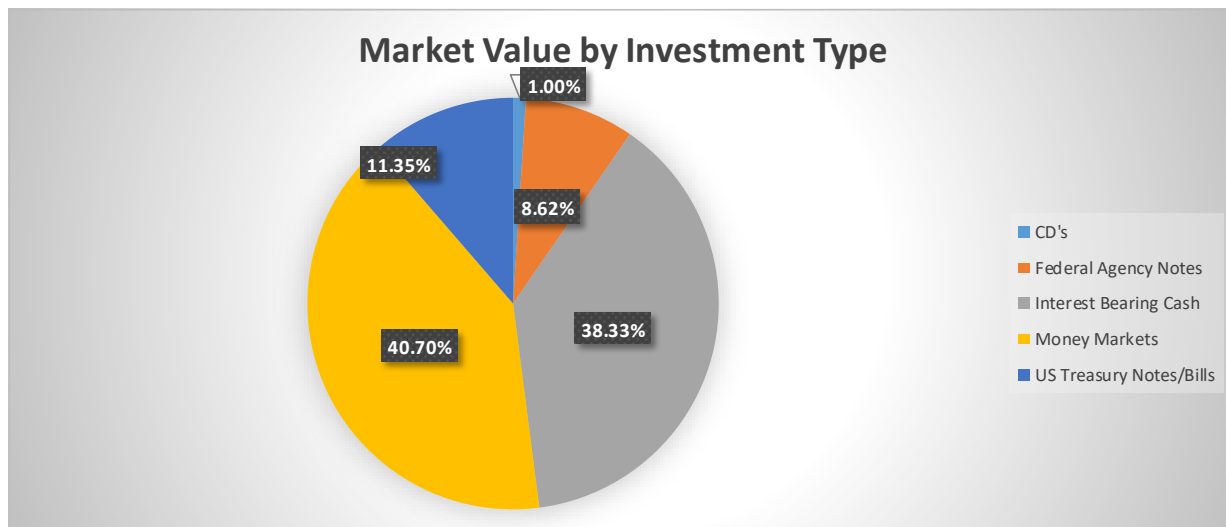
In December 2019, \$9.8 million was transferred from an interest-bearing cash account to a contributory trust that is invested in a money market fund. The trust is earmarked for a Capital Development Board project and is expected to be depleted over the next eighteen months.

Forecasters predict the US economic outlook for 2020 to be stable with a low unemployment rate and very little inflation. The Federal Open Market Committee is not expected to raise interest rates until next year. Management will continue to monitor market conditions, operating cash needs, and investment opportunities in order to align the investment strategy with the university's investment and cash management policy.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
CASH and INVESTMENT HOLDINGS SUMMARY

December 31, 2019
For Fiscal Year 2020

Investment Type	Purchase Price/ Ending Bal *	Book Value **	Market Value ***
CD's:			
Local Funds	\$ 1,509,311	\$ 1,509,311	\$ 1,509,311
Federal Agency Notes:			
Local Funds	\$ 12,829,673	\$ 12,940,185	\$ 12,952,099
Interest Bearing Cash Accounts:			
Local Funds	\$ 57,584,369	\$ 57,584,369	\$ 57,584,369
Money Markets:			
Contributory Trust	\$ 9,839,000	\$ 9,839,000	\$ 9,839,000
Local Funds	47,102,214	47,102,214	47,102,214
Project Funds	4,192,875	4,192,875	4,192,875
	<u>\$ 61,134,089</u>	<u>\$ 61,134,089</u>	<u>\$ 61,134,089</u>
US Treasury Notes/Bills:			
Local Funds	\$ 17,023,314	\$ 17,042,315	\$ 17,044,221
TOTAL INVESTMENT HOLDINGS	\$ 150,080,756	\$ 150,210,269	\$ 150,224,089
Non-interest Bearing Cash	\$ 297,723	\$ 297,723	\$ 297,723
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENT HOLDINGS	\$ 150,378,479	\$ 150,507,992	\$ 150,521,812
TOTAL REPORTED FOR 12/31/2018	\$ 175,043,368	\$ 175,269,008	\$ 175,109,273



* Amounts per Bank and Investment Statements

** Purchase price, net of accumulated amortization of premiums and discounts

*** Estimated price for which an investment would sell in the marketplace

Assets reported in the CASH and INVESTMENT HOLDINGS SUMMARY comply with the Illinois Public Funds Investment Act (30 ILCS 235) and the NIU Investment and Cash Management Policy

NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
INVESTMENT EARNINGS
For Fiscal Year 2020
July 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019

	December 31 Ending Balance	Qtr2 Average Daily Balance	Percent of Portfolio	Qtr 2 Income Earned	Annualized Rates of Return			
					FY 2020		FY 2019	
					2nd Qtr	1st Qtr	4th Qtr	3rd Qtr
Short-Term Investment Accounts								
Illinois Funds	\$ 47,102,214	\$ 55,333,391	34.58%	\$ 253,546	1.818%	2.239%	2.435%	2.448%
Investment Accounts - Financial Institutions	\$ 57,584,369	\$ 57,823,150	36.13%	\$ 271,798	1.865%	2.342%	2.477%	2.424%
Contributory Trust*	\$ 9,839,000	\$ 9,839,000	6.15%	\$ -	1.540%	-	-	-
Investment Accounts - Project Funds	\$ 4,192,875	\$ 6,637,933	4.15%	\$ 29,709	1.776%	2.178%	2.245%	2.052%
CD's	\$ 1,509,311	\$ 1,505,151	0.94%	\$ 5,111	1.347%	1.639%	1.710%	-
ST Investment Accounts Total	\$ 120,227,769	\$ 131,138,625	81.95%	\$ 560,164	1.695%	2.275%	2.414%	2.371%
Fixed Income Securities								
Local Funds	\$ 29,852,987	\$ 28,885,438	18.05%	\$ 138,256	1.915%	2.029%	1.883%	1.475%
Fixed Income Securities Total	\$ 29,852,987	\$ 28,885,438	18.05%	\$ 138,256	1.915%	2.029%	1.883%	1.475%
Non-interest Bearing Cash	\$ 297,723	\$ -	-	\$ -	-	-	-	-
COMBINED TOTAL	\$ 150,378,479	\$ 160,024,063	100.00%	\$ 698,420	1.73%	2.23%	2.27%	2.03%

*Interest for December was paid in January 2020

Assets reported in INVESTMENT EARNINGS comply with the Illinois Public Funds Investment Act (30 ILCS 235) and the NIU Investment and Cash Management Policy

**QUARTERLY SUMMARY REPORT OF TRANSACTIONS IN EXCESS OF
\$100,000 FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2019 TO DECEMBER 31, 2019**

Purchase Amount	No. of Transactions	Appropriated*	Non-Appropriated	Total
Over \$100,000	11	\$233,000	\$1,775,425	\$2,008,425

TRANSACTIONS DETAIL:

Purchases:

1. Intercollegiate Athletics requested permission to purchase membership in the Mid-American Conference and the 2019-2020 Bowl Assessment. This order was exempt from advertising on the Illinois Procurement Bulletin because memberships and athletic organizations are exempt. (Mid-American Conference, Cleveland OH) 100,000*
130,000
2. The Department of Information Technology Services requested permission to issue an open order for the purchase of maintenance of transact hardware and software products utilized by the University in support of multi-purpose campus ID card and point-of-sale (POS) system. This order was advertised on the Illinois Procurement Bulletin, #KMC23430. (Blackboard Inc., Washington DC) 158,090
3. Finance and Treasury Services requested permission to pay audit costs allocated to the University Income Fund for the period ending 6/30/18. This order was exempt from the bid process as the engagement is with a state agency and is not subject to the rules of the Procurement Code and applicable laws. (Office of the Auditor General, Springfield IL) 220,776
4. Intercollegiate Athletics requested permission to increase payment to the Mid-American Conference for Olympic Sport shared cost assessment, Men's Basketball shared cost assessment, and Mid-American Conference officials for the period 9/1/19-1/31/20. This order was exempt from the Illinois Procurement Bulletin because athletic events by or for a public institution of higher education are exempt (30 ILCS 500 / 1-13(b)(4)). (Mid-American Conference, Cleveland, OH) 153,359
5. Intercollegiate Athletics requested permission to issue an open order for payment of student athlete book loan charges for the period July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. This procurement was processed under the authority of RFP #JMT05012018 (Follett Bookstore Management award) and was previously advertised in the Illinois Procurement Bulletin. (Follett Higher Education Group Inc., Westchester, IL) 197,000

6. Intercollegiate Athletics requested permission to issue an open order to pay 166,200
basketball officials for the period October 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020. This order
was exempt from the Illinois Procurement Bulletin because athletic events by
or for a public institution of higher education are exempt
(30 ILCS 500 / 1-13(b)(4)).
(Mid-American Conference, Cleveland, OH)
7. Administration and Finance requested permission to issue an FY20 open order 200,000
for Bond Counsel in connection with the issuance of two new issues of bonds
to refund all or a portion of the following:
Auxiliary Facilities System Revenue Bonds, Series 2010
(Build America Program – Taxable)
and
Auxiliary Facilities System Revenue Bonds, Series 2011
(Refunding – Tax-exempt)
(Chapman and Cutler LLP, Chicago, IL)
8. Transportation requested permission to enter into a multi-year lease via an 248,000
IPHEC contract. NIU relies on key vehicles to support operations which
require high reliability and a professional image to best represent the
university. The following higher profile vehicles typically support
public/student engagement and have been determined to best be provided via
a multi-year lease arrangement. The maximum estimated cost noted below is
based on an anticipated 5-year lease term where the annual cost is expected to
be about \$49,600. Vehicles to be included in this lease were:
- Two (2) Sedans for Admissions
 - Two (2) Police sedans for the Police Department
 - One (1) Sedan for multi-department support
 - Two (2) Minivans for multi-department support
 - One (1) 12-passenger van for multi-department support
- It was noted that due to unavailability of certain uncommon vehicles, some of
the vehicles may not be available and will be adjusted to best meet the needs
of the University.
(Enterprise Fleet Management)
9. Transportation requested permission to lease a 25-passenger bus. The existing 120,000
self-operated bus fleet required systematic replacement to remain reliable for
long trips and presentable to promote the NIU image. Through analysis of bus
uses and passenger demands, it was determined that a 25-passenger bus would
provide more flexibility to accommodate trips with smaller passenger
demands and provide more efficient transportation than larger buses. Leasing
a 25-passenger bus has been determined to be more effective at maintaining a
professional image for the University. The maximum estimated cost was
based on an anticipated 6-year lease term where the annual cost is expected to
be about \$20,000. Two older mini buses will be targeted for trade-in to offset
the lease costs.
(Vendor TBD)

10. Transportation requested permission to issue an open order for Charter bus services for the period July 1, 2019-June 30, 2020. This order was exempt from advertising on the Illinois Procurement Bulletin because it was below the bid threshold. This item was approved on the July 5, 2019 President's Report in the amount of \$81,000. An amendment was then requested on November 27, 2019 to increase the open order by another \$81,000, bringing the total of this request over \$100,000.
(Vendor TBD) 162,000

Capital Improvement Projects:

1. As part of the recent Holmes Student Center (HSC) remodel project several units were moving out of the Campus Life Building (CLB) to newly remodeled space in HSC. Over the past several months space within CLB has been re-evaluated, it has been determined that CLB should house departmental units that are student-centered to help foster the building of community and to make it easier for students to find support services. To that end several departments have been relocated to this building from others. This project included costs associated with these moves along with minor associated remodeling work. The goal was to be able to have some of this work performed as soon as possible around the winter break, finalized scope is being coordinated with the Provost office. Work will be completed by outside contractors and in-house workforce under the coordination of a NIU project manager. 133,000*

*Appropriated/Income Funds

FACILITIES UPDATE

The following slides provide an update on major facility projects recently completed, underway, or in development for near term execution. Brief update information is noted for the following state and major NIU projects to keep the Board apprised of progress and developments related to facility and infrastructure improvements.

State projects:

- Steam Isolation Valve/Expansion Joint Replacement (~\$476K)
- Critical Steam Distribution Structural Repairs (~\$5M)
- Boiler Replacement Phase 1 (~\$16M)
- Health Informatics Building (~\$77M)

NIU projects:

- Holmes Student Center Renovation (\$20.9M)
- Neptune Renovation (\$5.4M)
- Campus Life Building – Student Support Consolidations (~\$133K)
- College of Business Creativity & Empathy Lab (\$400K donation)
- Miscellaneous major repair projects



Northern Illinois University

Campus Facility Project Updates

February 13, 2020

State Funded Projects Update



- Health Informatics Building
 - Recent notification of \$7.7M released to CDB
 - CDB to hire firm for planning
 - NIU planning team to coordinate with CDB
- Critical Structural Steam Tunnel Distribution Repairs
 - ~\$5M released to CDB
 - CDB hiring design firm
- Boiler Replacement Phase I
 - See next slides for update
- Steam Isolation Valve/Exp joint replacement (\$476K)
 - Completed Fall 2019

2

Boiler Replacement (Phase I)



CDB preparing Design-Build project

~\$6M state funding

~\$10M Aux funding

Schedule Update:

- CDB consultant A/E started: June 2019
- **Schematic design complete Dec 2019**
- Solicitation: ~ Feb 2020
- DB Award: ~ May 2020



BOT APPROVAL JUNE 2017

3

Boiler Replacement(Phase I)



VIEW FROM SOUTH EAST



VIEW FROM SOUTH WEST



CONCEPTUAL EXTERIORS

VIEW FROM NORTH WEST



VIEW FROM NORTH EAST

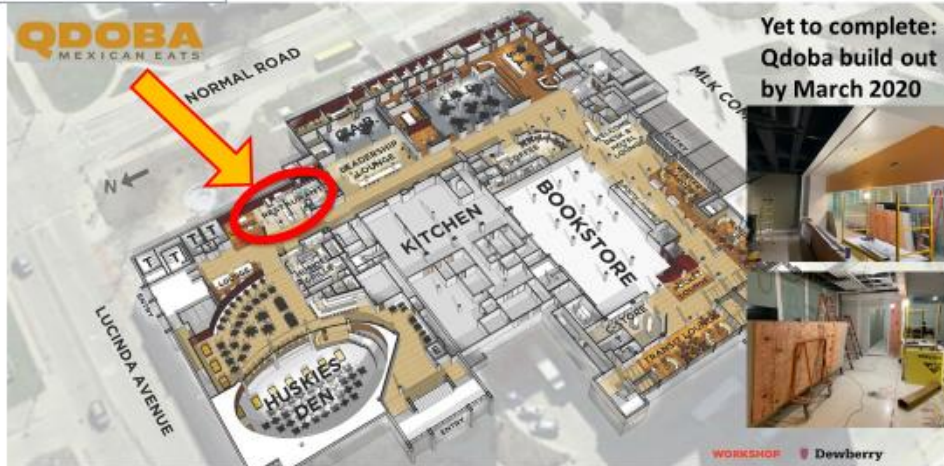


4

Holmes Student Center Renovation Update



\$20.9M Investment



The design of the Ground Floor creates a clear circulation path through the building that connects with and defines together a variety of programs forming a social hub at the Holmes Student Center.

5

Holmes Student Center Renovation Update



Leadership Lounge, N-S Hall



Huskie Den restaurant



Fireplace/Winter Garden



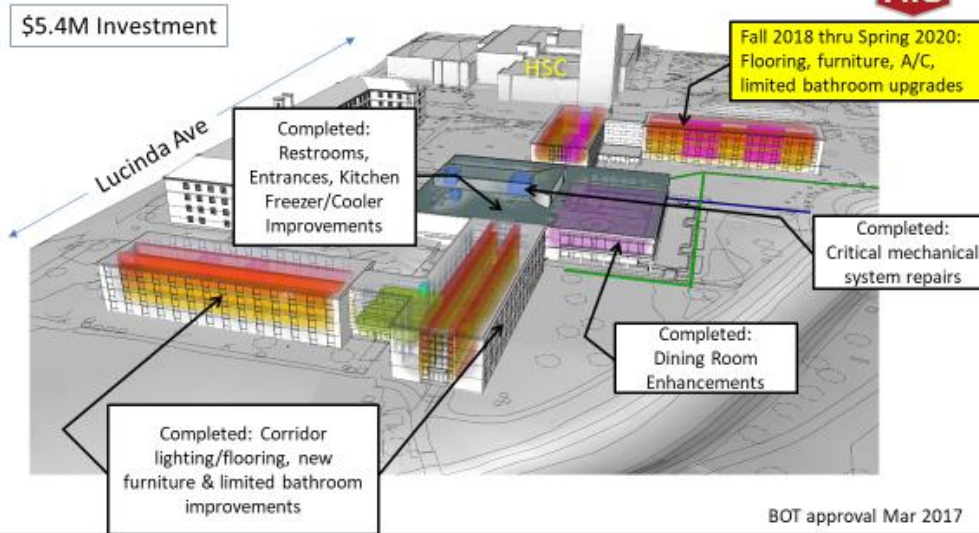
Organizations and Student Involvement Suite (OASIS)



OASIS, Collaboration Spaces

6

Neptune Renovation



7

Neptune East Wing status

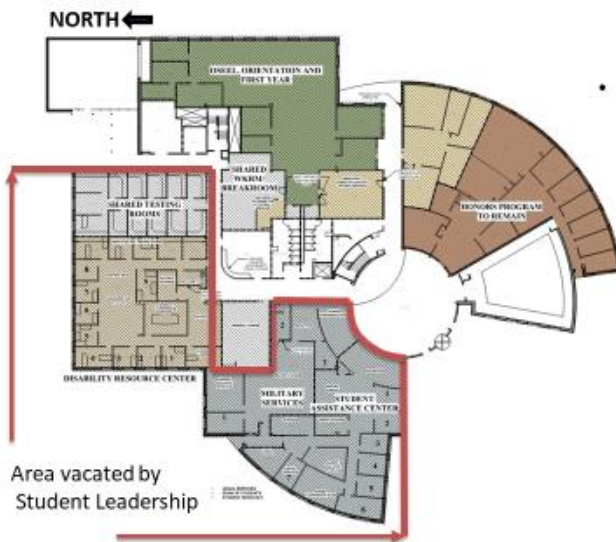


- Room Flooring 100% complete
- Neptune East Room A/C 100% complete
- Bathroom improvements by May 2020
- Overall 95% complete



8

Campus Life Building – Student Support Consolidation

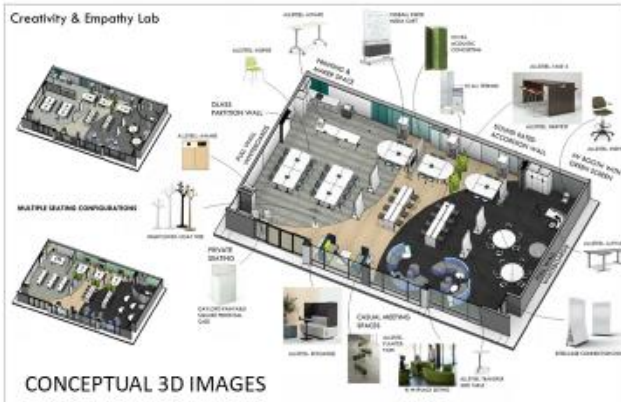


- Collocated functions:
 - Disability Resource Center
 - Testing Services
 - Academic Advising
 - Military & Post-Traditional
 - Legal Services
 - Career Services
 - Counseling/Consultation
 - Student Conduct
 - Honors Program
 - Chance (in progress)
 - OSEEL, Orientation & 1ST YEAR (move to be scheduled)

Area vacated by Student Leadership

9

College of Business – Creativity & Empathy Lab



CONCEPTUAL 3D IMAGES

Conversion of two classrooms into a collaborative space

- Donor funded
- Design complete
- Budget \$400K
 - (BOT action item)
- Contractor bidding Feb
- Spring/Summer execution



10

Repair Projects – current overview



- Completed:
 - Convocation cooling tower repairs
 - Sealcoating parking lots
 - Broadcast Center roof replacement
 - Chessick LED lighting upgrades
- In process for Spring completion:
 - Gabel/Graham – exhaust fan replacements
 - Founders library escalator maintenance/repairs
 - Elevator control upgrades (Williston, Holmes south entrance)
- In process for Summer/Fall completion:
 - Elevator upgrades (Holmes tower elevators)
- Pending approvals for Summer execution
 - Stevenson towers roof replacements

CLERY REPORT UPDATE

The Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act requires NIU to publish statistics for the previous calendar year by October 1.

The Department of Police and Public Safety prepared statistics concerning reported crimes within NIU Clery Geography with information collected from local law enforcement agencies, Ethics and Compliance Office, Housing and Residential Services, Student Conduct, Human Resources, Counseling and Consultation Services, and other Campus Security Authorities. Early each year these statistics are audited, and in October, they are submitted to the Department of Education and published in the Annual Security Report. The 2018 calendar year are below.

Reported Crimes against Persons Incidents

- Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter – 0
- Manslaughter by Negligence - 0
- Rape - 16
- Fondling – 8
- Incest – 0
- Statutory Rape -0
- Robbery -1
- Aggravated Assault – 7

Reported Crimes against Property Incidents

- Burglary - 10
- Motor Vehicle Theft - 3
- Arson – 1

Reported Violence against Women Act Offenses

- Domestic Violence - 7
- Dating Violence - 36
- Stalking – 9

Weapons Arrests and Referrals

- Weapons Arrests - 4
- Weapons Referrals – 2

Alcohol Arrests and Referrals

- Alcohol Arrests - 11
- Alcohol Referrals -100

Drug Arrests and Referrals

- Drug Arrests - 13
- Drug Referrals - 17*

*There was a reduction in drug referrals beginning with the 2017 calendar year due to guidance from the Department of Education regarding how these types of incidents are classified and counted in accordance with the Illinois Compiled Statutes Cannabis Control Act and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act.

**As of January 1, 2020, possession and recreational use of small quantities of Cannabis and Cannabis infused products will be legal under State law for adults over 21 years of age. However, due to provisions of the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act, Illinois Compassionate Use of

Medical Cannabis Program Act, and the Federal Drug Free Schools and Communities Act, possession and use of Cannabis on colleges or Universities in Illinois remains prohibited. We are continuing to work with the Department of Education regarding the impact of changes in State law and potential statistical implications under the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act.

Clery reportable statistics from 2016-2018 are available in the Annual Security Report at www.niu.edu/clery.

CHANGE TO FULL-TIME TENURE REQUIREMENT

Summary: The Board of Trustee regulations require full-time appointments for tenure-track or tenured faculty. The full-time requirement limits the ability of the University to fully benefit from collaborations with other institutions and to recruit and retain faculty

Background: The Board of Trustee Regulations Section II: Faculty and Administrative Employees, Subsection A. Appointments, 12. Tenure, a. General Provisions states that “*Only faculty that hold full-time regular appointments at the rank of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor shall be eligible for tenure appointments.*” The full set of regulations can be found at <https://www.niu.edu/board/regs/index.shtml>.

The University research mission and reputation have been greatly strengthened by collaborations with the national laboratories, particularly Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory. These collaborations generate outstanding research and educational opportunities for students, highly regarded publications, and significant external funding. Over the past decade, joint appointments with the laboratories have resulted in external funding totaling \$41M. At present, because of the fulltime requirement, the only joint tenured positions allowed require that NIU be the faculty member’s primary employer and that a partner, such as a laboratory, provide funding to NIU to support the faculty member. A similar arrangement, with a laboratory serving as the primary employer and NIU providing funding, does not allow for a tenured appointment at NIU. Incentivizing and maintaining laboratory-based appointments with the highly qualified and renowned staff of the laboratories would be greatly facilitated by the possibility of a tenured appointment at NIU.

As worded, the University regulations also do not support extended leave to tenured faculty. Accordingly, faculty are unable to benefit from appointments requiring leave; examples include appointments to other educational institutions, national academies or professional organizations, national laboratories, and state and federal agencies. More generally, the tenured status of faculty requiring extended leave for personal or family reasons can be called into question with the current regulation. Finally, the regulations are inconsistent with the implementation of phased retirement which, if instituted, would provide the university with flexible faculty staffing. Phased retirement would be particularly attractive for faculty with active research grants; the current regulations would require a faculty member to give up tenure to participate in a phased-retirement program.

Here is the updated language:

Section II: Faculty and Administrative Employees

Subsection A. Appointments

12. Tenure

a. General Provisions

Tenure appointments shall be for an indefinite term and may be terminated only by (1) retirement, (2) acceptance of resignation, (3) demonstrable financial exigencies, (4) discharge for cause, or (5) the reduction or elimination of a department or similar academic unit. Only faculty that hold full-time regular appointments at the rank of professor, associate professor, or assistant professor shall be eligible for tenure appointments. Exceptions to the full-time appointment will be granted for phased retirement and for temporary leave and by the Provost

for formal joint appointments with external higher education, research, or clinical institutions. While a faculty member holding a contingent appointment with the rank of instructor shall not be eligible for tenure, service under that appointment shall count toward the probationary time period prior to a tenure decision. Employees holding other academic titles shall not be eligible for tenure but, with the concurrence of the university and the Board of Trustees, campus regulations may be adopted to safeguard the academic freedom of and provide reasonable job security for other faculty and teaching personnel.

STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Fall 2019 Legislative Engagement Overview

During the Fall 2019 semester, NIU hosted and attended a variety of legislative engagement opportunities including the following:

- **Second Annual Joint Caucus Breakfast with the University of Illinois.** In October, NIU and the University of Illinois hosted a joint breakfast with members of their respective legislative caucuses. At the event, President Lisa Freeman and President Tim Killeen discussed recent highlights from the campuses and the growing innovation partnership between the two universities. University leaders and staff engaged with just over a dozen supportive elected officials to discuss legislative priorities for the upcoming spring 2020 session and how we might be able to collaborate policy agenda efforts.
- **Legislative and Local Engagement in the Quad Cities.** In November, NIU joined U of I and the Illinois Connection at its final legislative breakfast event of the year in Moline, IL. Attendees included Congresswoman Cheri Bustos, members of the Quad Cities Chamber of Commerce and the Moline Foundation. President Lisa Freeman spoke about NIU's workforce development outcomes, innovative plans for the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability (NICCS), leadership within the Illinois Innovation Network, and collaboration with the U of I System. Congresswoman Cheri Bustos and U of I President Tim Killeen also spoke, followed by a joint Q&A period.
- **Testimony before the House Appropriations – Higher Education Committee.** During the second week of Veto Session in November, NIU and its eight sister institutions were called to testify before the committee on the topic of 10-year institutional plans. NIU was represented by Provost Beth Ingram and Sol Jensen, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing. Ingram and Jensen spoke to NIU's various strategic plans in place, including the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) plan, multi-year budgeting, strategies in place to reduce and eliminate achievement gaps, etc.
- **Three regional “Lunch and Learn with a Legislator” events.** The NIUAA Advocacy Committee, in partnership with the President's Office, hosted its second annual round of regional lunch and learn events in Chicago, Naperville and Rockford to discuss Illinois politics, alumni engagement and advocacy opportunities. Approximately 100 alumni attended the three events to engage with local elected officials and learn about ways in which they can get involved with the University and their state representatives. All three events provided a three-part panel discussion including:
 - An overview of Illinois' legislative session and policy creation from Dr. Matt Streb, Chief of Staff for NIU President Lisa Freeman,
 - An interactive Q&A session with State Senator and NIU Alumnus Cristina Castro (Chicago), former State Senator Matt Murphy (Naperville), Representative and NIU Alumnus Joe Sosnowski (Rockford) and Representative Maurice West (Rockford), and
 - A briefing on NIU's activities and presence in Springfield from Jenna Mitchell, NIU State Legislative Liaison. For the second semester, NIU has joined the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association's (NIUAA) advocacy committee in co-hosting luncheon events for NIU alumni and advocates to engage with local legislators.

2020 Illinois Public University Legislative Agenda

For the first time in recent history, the nine public universities have come together to create a formal, joint legislative agenda including the following items.

Expanded Access for Students and Programs

- Support for an increased annual budget appropriation for Illinois public higher education, including university operations
- Release of deferred maintenance capital funding from the FY20 Rebuild Illinois infrastructure package
- Increased investment in the Monetary Award Program
- Consistent support for the AIM HIGH scholarship program with the removal of cohort restrictions
- A new \$35 million grant to the Board of Higher Education for emergency completion grants and statewide bridge program support

Innovative Collaboration between Business and Education

- Support the creation of an **Illinois University-Industry Innovation Vouchers program** to attract current Illinois businesses to collaborate with Illinois public universities and grow the creation of new marketable products and services through vital university-industry research collaboration in Illinois.
- Implement the **Illinois Prosper** program to attract new businesses to Illinois with the incentive of tax-free zones provided new businesses and start-ups create jobs on or near a university campus and partner with the universities for research and education opportunities.

Promote Operational Efficiencies and Reduced Administrative Burden

- Procurement reforms to attract minority vendors, including the passage of legislation regarding Single Prime and Design Build (Rep. Kifowit, Sen. Hastings)
- Legislative remedies to address repeat audit findings
- Allow universities to enter into lease agreements beyond 10 years
- Exempt Illinois Public Universities from the Grants Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA)

Spring 2020 Engagement and Upcoming Events

- **February 6:** Treasurer Michael Frerichs, President Lisa Freeman and the NIU Foundation co-hosted a forum on investing in Illinois' students on NIU's DeKalb campus regarding. Topics discussed focused on the idea of income sharing agreements (ISA's) and the Treasurer's Offices' new authority to invest in ISA's.
- **February 19:** Governor Pritzker's FY21 budget address.
- **February 26:** Joint public university advocacy day in Springfield with an evening reception at the Governor's Mansion.
- **April 1:** Save the date for the second annual NIU advocacy day in Springfield.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT

This report covers the period of November 2019 through January 2020.

Appropriations

Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 appropriations package was finalized in December 2019. Nearly all of NIU's programmatic priorities saw year-on-year increases and none were cut. Across the board there were increases to federal student financial aid programs such as the maximum individual Pell grant award increased by 2.4%, to \$6,345, and funding for the Federal Work Study program increased by 4.4%. Funding for NIU's federal research agency priorities also increased, for example the National Science Foundation saw a 2.5% increase, the Department of Energy's Office of Science, which includes Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory and Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois, saw a 6.3% increase, the National Institutes of Health saw a 6.7% increase, and the National Endowment for the Humanities saw a 4.7% increase.

Fiscal Year 2021 Appropriations

President Trump intends to release his Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 President's Budget Request (PBR) in February 2020. As with the past few years, the PBR is expected to propose cuts to many NIU priorities, and Congress is expected to reject those cuts. The FY2021 overall discretionary spending level was set during last year's budget negotiations and, if Congress adheres to that spending limit, spending on all non-defense discretionary programs (including all those named above) will only increase by \$2.5 billion, or less than 1%, over FY2020. Therefore, it is unlikely that we will continue to see flat or increased spending on NIU priorities in FY2021.

The Administration

On January 2, the Senate confirmed Dr. Kelvin Droegemeier as the Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Dr. Droegemeier previously served as Vice President for Research at the University of Oklahoma. OSTP and the National Science and Technology Council have convened the Joint Committee on Research Environments (JCORE) to address the most pressing challenges facing America's research and scientific community, namely safe and inclusive research environments, rigor and integrity in research, research security, and reducing administrative burdens. NIU is engaging in these and other conversations with OSTP directly and through our associations.

Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) posted a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) that could potentially affect Title IV federal student aid program benefits. It would potentially also affect F-1 and J-1 visa applicants. Under the proposed rule, USCIS could restrict visas and green cards if public assistance benefits are received by a member of a noncitizen's household. USCIS has also posted a NPRM for proposed filing fee increases for certain immigration-related paperwork such as renewal applications for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

The federal government has increased its scrutiny of foreign influence on university campuses. The latest agency to join this discussion is the Department of Education (ED). ED has ramped up its oversight and enforcement of Section 117 of the Higher Education Act regarding the disclosure of foreign gifts and contracts that meet certain reporting criteria. NIU is tracking this issue and sharing information with campus at <https://www.niu.edu/divresearch/compliance/integrity/foreign-influence/index.shtml>.

Congress

Congress has focused much of its time and attention on passing FY2020 appropriations as well as investigating and impeaching President Trump. Considering the impeachment process and 2020 being a presidential election year, the legislative productivity of Congress is expected to slow down as the year progresses.

In December 2019, the FUTURE Act became law. The legislation permanently extends Higher Education Act Title III (F) funding for Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs), and Minority Serving Institutions (MSIs) as well as allows the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to share data with ED to simplify completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and enrollment in income-driven repayment plans, and it increases funding for Pell grants. A related and more comprehensive reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, called the College Affordability Act, passed out of the House Education and Labor Committee on a party-line vote in October 2019. Policy merits aside, its price tag is estimated to be \$331.9 billion over ten years which makes it unlikely to gain traction and advance into law.

The Courts

In November 2019, oral argument began in the US Supreme Court over the lawfulness of the DACA program. A decision is expected by June 2020.

Federal Engagement with NIU

Recent and upcoming federal engagements with NIU include:

- December 9-10: Prof. Tao Xu Visited Capitol Hill and Agencies. At the invitation of Rep. Adam Kinzinger, Prof. Tao Xu represented the 16th congressional district at the Energy and Environment Innovation Showcase on Capitol Hill where he presented his research on clean energy technology. He also visited with program managers at the Department of Energy, the Advanced Research Projects Agency – Energy, and the National Science Foundation to discuss his research.
- January 30: VP Jerry Blazey Attends Meeting at White House. Vice President Jerry Blazey attended a meeting at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy regarding federal policy on open access publishing of federally funded scientific research results.
- Planning for March 5-6: Student Trip to DC. Undergraduate Meghan Trentz, 2019-2020 Federal Relations Intern, plans to participate in federal-level meetings and attend the Council on Governmental Affairs quarterly meeting for the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities.
- Planning for March 8-12: NIU Spring Break Trip to DC. Fourteen NIU undergraduate students and Prof. Scot Schraufnagel will visit DC to learn about the federal government through touring federal buildings and meeting with federal officials from the legislative and executive branches.
- Planning for March 10-11: Pres. Freeman Visits Capitol Hill. President Freeman plans to visit Capitol Hill to meet with members of the Illinois congressional delegation.
- Planning for March 11: NIU Congressional Reception. Building on last year's success, NIU Federal Relations, the NIU Foundation, and the NIU Alumni Association are partnering on a congressional reception that will showcase five NIU faculty and build relationships with our alumni, federal agency officials, IL congressional delegation, and key stakeholders in national science and education policy.
- Planning for March 11-12: Faculty Visit Agencies and Capitol Hill. Five NIU faculty plan

to conduct meetings with federal program managers regarding their scholarship as well as staff-level meetings on Capitol Hill regarding federal investments in programs that support the research, education, and service mission of NIU.

SPONSORED PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION QUARTERLY REPORT

For the first two quarters of FY20, Sponsored Programs Administration processed 82 awards totaling \$17.5 million (Figure 1). The decreases in total funding and in research funding relative to previous years are due to the nonrenewal of a large multi-year research contract and sponsor processing delays in releasing ongoing awards.

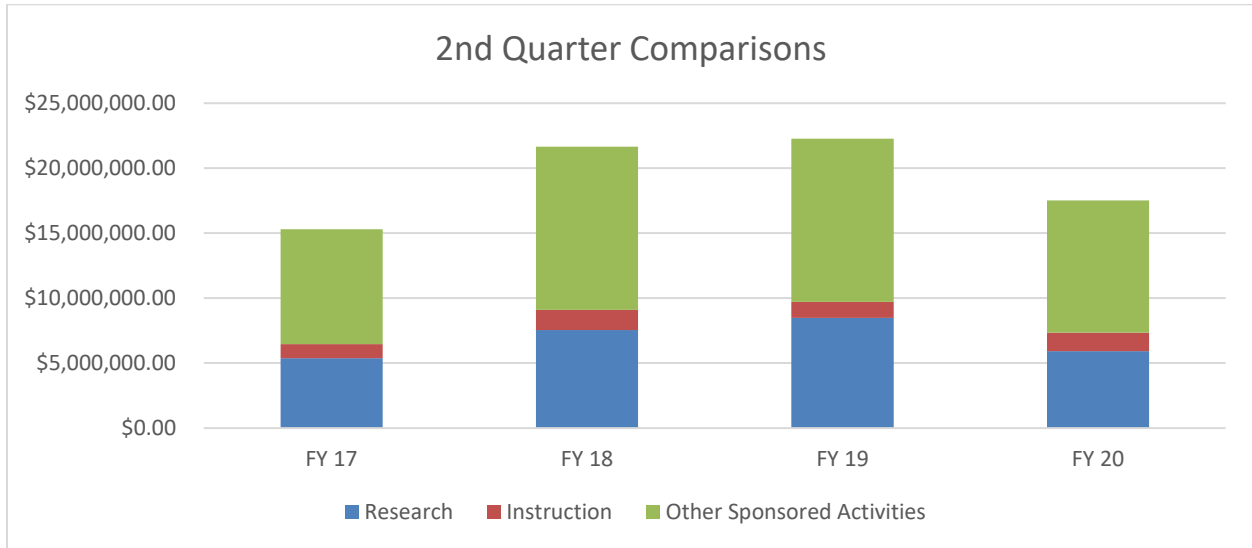


Figure 1

While funding from federal sources accounts for over 90% of our current year’s sponsored funding, half of that amount is awarded to NIU through state agencies. Most of our direct federal funding is received from U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Education, and the National Science Foundation. Significant sources of federal funding through agencies located in Illinois include the Argonne National Laboratory and the Illinois Manufacturing and Extension Partnership. Funding directly from state agencies include awards from the Department of Children and Family Services and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services. On the following page, Table 1 provides a detailed listing of funding by program type and sponsor.

Table 1

Program Type	Sponsor Name	Total
Instructional Programs	DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation	\$13,500.00
	Econ Illinois	\$35,000.00
	Illinois Board of Higher Education	\$132,000.00
	Illinois State Board of Education	\$349,670.00
	Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Department of Education	\$841,053.55
	Public Financial Publications, Inc.	\$9,500.00
	Waubonsee Community College	\$46,170.00
Instructional Programs Total		\$1,426,893.55
Organized Research	American Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences	\$783.60
	Argonne National Laboratory	\$889,426.11
	Columbia University	\$17,999.00
	Department of Agriculture	\$50,000.00
	Department of Energy	\$185,000.00
	Directorate for Education and Human Resources/NSF	\$593,406.00
	Directorate for Engineering/NSF	\$186,787.00
	Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory	\$37,214.27
	Harvard University	\$50,000.00
	Illinois Board of Higher Education	\$10,000.00
	Illinois Department of Public Health	\$147,000.00
	Illinois Institute of Technology	\$135,000.00
	Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center	\$1,638,422.66
	Illinois State Board of Education	\$145,000.00
	National Aeronautics & Space Administration	\$35,981.72
	National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute/NIH/DHHS	\$372,500.00
	National Institute of General Medical Sciences/NIH/DHHS	\$235,859.00
	National Institute of Standards & Technology/Technology Administration/DOC	\$125,942.00
	National Institutes of Health/NIH/DHHS	\$188,853.00
	National Science Foundation/NSF	\$46,000.00
	Northern Illinois Food Bank	\$5,286.15

	Northwestern University	\$50,736.00
	Office of Science/Department of Energy	\$101,000.00
	Pacific Rim Conservation	\$10,000.00
	Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation	\$134,400.00
	School District # 205, Rockford	\$24,951.90
	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada	\$4,544.94
	Sterling Medical Products	\$20,689.20
	University Corporation for Atmospheric Research	\$19,652.37
	University of Central Florida	\$78,930.00
	University of Illinois at Chicago	\$16,691.00
	University of Notre Dame	\$3,000.00
	Winnebago County	\$353,104.00
Organized Research Total		\$5,914,159.92
Other Sponsored Activities	Corporation for Public Broadcasting	\$220,735.00
	DeKalb County Community Foundation	\$2,500.00
	Department of State	\$329,990.00
	Futures Without Violence	\$17,504.65
	Illinois Arts Council	\$43,860.00
	Illinois Board of Higher Education	\$31,598.27
	Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority	\$99,999.00
	Illinois Department of Children and Family Services	\$6,683,595.00
	Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services	\$1,695,577.28
	Illinois State Board of Education	\$115,436.00
	Illinois State Library	\$28,273.00
	Institute of International Education	\$59,254.00
	Institute of Museum & Library Services	\$250,000.00
	Occupational Safety and Health Administration/Department of Labor	\$99,431.00
	Office of Postsecondary Education/Department of Education	\$266,727.00
	Ohio University	\$172,847.00
	Winnebago County	\$67,819.15

Other Sponsored Activities Total		\$10,185,146.35
Grand Total		\$17,526,199.82

Funding across colleges and university units continues to track past patterns both for level and type of funding. (See Table 2 on page 5). Programs supported by these awards range from infusing STEM and business curricula in undergraduate sustainability education to providing high quality public radio programming in the northern Illinois region. A detailed listing of awards is provided at the end of this report.

Table 2

	Research	Instruction	Other Sponsored Activities	Total
College of Education	\$24,952	\$650,001	-	\$674,952
College of Engineering and Engineering Technology	\$200,536	-	-	\$200,536
College of Health and Human Sciences	\$587,782	\$349,670	\$269,227	\$1,206,679
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences	\$3,170,731	\$214,053	\$7,198,908	\$10,583,692
College of Visual and Performing Arts	\$50,000	-	\$7,900	\$57,900
Outreach, Engagement and Regional Development	\$195,736	\$35,000	\$2,195,412	\$2,426,148
Other Academic and University Units	\$1,684,423	\$178,170	\$513,699	\$2,376,292
Total	\$5,914,160	\$1,426,894	\$10,185,146	\$17,526,200

A separate measure of the university's research activity is the amount of sponsored and institutional funding spent on research. As discussed during the SPA August 2019 report to the Board, one industry measure widely used by U.S. universities and NIU is the Higher Education Research and Development (HERD) survey.

Since 2015, NIU has increased its position in the rankings moving from 274 to 255. Approximately 600 universities report to the survey. For the most recent reporting period, of Illinois institutions, NIU trailed only behind the University of Illinois system and Southern Illinois University – Carbondale but led in public universities without medical schools (see Table 3 on page 6). Based on preliminary data for FY 19, NIU will continue to see modest growth in R&D expenditures.

Table 3

Institution	Rank	2015	2016	2017	2018
All institutions	-	68,550,653	71,750,973	75,184,396	79,285,866
U. Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	37	639,817	625,180	642,084	652,709
U. Illinois, Chicago	69	354,560	337,296	372,619	361,690
Southern Illinois U., Carbondale	198	57,509	53,172	48,416	49,636
Northern Illinois U.	255	17,722	21,225	19,150	23,280
Illinois State U.	266	18,742	20,408	20,080	21,055
Southern Illinois U., Edwardsville	275	19,051	18,780	17,393	18,420
Western Illinois U.	506	860	ne	2,006	2,466
Northeastern Illinois U.	509	ne	ne	1,403	2,442
U. Illinois, Springfield	519	2,070	1,683	2,900	2,164

NIU has increased its position in these rankings due to growth in sponsored research and more proactive reporting between university units of institutional expenses. Continued increases in survey rankings will require sustaining externally funded research and continued campus improvements in reporting. SPA is working with campus units to evaluate additional reporting enhancements and to streamline the reporting process.

ALLIED HEALTH AND COMMUNICATIVE DISORDERS

DeKalb County Community Foundation for "Building Bridges: NIU students share music with adults living with sequelae of dementia/stroke." Jamie Mayer.

Award: \$2,500.00.

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds are requested to bring evidence-based music programming to local residential facilities for adults, by training NIU students in a community-based service-learning context.

ANTHROPOLOGY

University of Central Florida for "SocialSim Modeling / Repast HPC Programming Support." John Murphy.

Award: \$78,930.00.

August 1, 2019 - December 10, 2019. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project seeks to develop technologies for high-fidelity simulation of on-line social behavior (the spread and evolution of online information) while rigorously testing and measuring simulation accuracy.

ART MUSEUM

Illinois Arts Council for "Art Museum Support." Josephine E. Burke.

Award: \$7,900.00.

September 16, 2019 - August 31, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

This award will support ongoing exhibits and operating costs for the NIU Art Museum.

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

Department of Agriculture for "Identification of Regulatory Genes in *A. Flavus* that are Involved in Mycotoxin Production, Morphogenesis, and Virulence." Ana Calvo.

Award: \$50,000.00.

June 3, 2019 - June 2, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The purpose of this project is to further the understanding of the signaling pathways involved in the production of mycotoxins, and fungal development and the role of VeA in fungal virulence.

Pacific Rim Conservation for "Review and Database Development of Worldwide Seabird Restoration Projects on Islands." Holly Jones.

Award: \$10,000.00.

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

To conduct a global review of seabird restoration projects resulting in a dataset of seabird restoration techniques used on islands around the world. This dataset will allow greater knowledge transfer between those working toward seabird conservation.

National Aeronautics & Space Administration for "Chlorophyll d as a model for biosignature evolution." Wesley Swingley.

Award: \$35,981.72. (Cumulative \$107,942.00).

February 13, 2019 - February 12, 2020. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

To study phototrophic oxygen production both on Earth and exoplanets using the cyanobacterium *Acaryochloris* to assess how it extends the limits of oxygenic photosynthesis and how its photosynthetic apparatus performs at the minimum of water oxidation.

CENTER FOR BURMA STUDIES

Institute of Museum & Library Services for "Burma Art Collection Rehousing Project." Catherine M. Raymond.

Award: \$250,000.00.

November 1, 2019 - October 31, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.

Funds will be used for rehousing artifacts from the Burma Studies collection, in order to allow for more meaningful display and use of the collection by the university community.

CENTER FOR GOVT STUDIES

Illinois State Board of Education for "Centralized Demographic Database Administrator." Diana L. Robinson.

Award: \$48,817.00. (Cumulative \$119,617.00).

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

CGS will manage the Common Demographic Data Administrator for the multi-agency Illinois Longitudinal Data System.

CENTER FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation for "Visiting Fellowship for Piphah Heng." Eric A. Jones.

Award: \$134,400.00.

September 30, 2019 - September 29, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Purpose of the funding is to support a visiting fellow in southeast Asian studies.

Department of State for "PYLP: Engaging Young Advocates in Environmental Preservation and Peacebuilding." Rhodalyne Q. Crail/Eric A. Jones.

Award: \$329,990.00. (Cumulative \$579,990.00).

September 17, 2018 - December 31, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Exchange program bringing teenagers and adult educators from the Philippines to the U.S. for exposure to/training in civic education, leadership, diversity, and community engagement, and preparation to conduct projects at home that serve a community need.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT

Futures Without Violence for "Illinois Domestic Violence Co-Location Program - Program Assistant Contract." Julie L. Crouch.

Award: \$17,504.65.

May 1, 2019 - September 30, 2019. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

This contract is to add a Program Assistant to the Illinois Domestic Violence Co-Location Program (DVCLP). The purpose of the DVCLP is to improve child welfare interventions provided to families experiencing domestic violence.

Winnebago County for "Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative (DVHPDI)." Julie L. Crouch, Joel S. Milner/Joseph Przybyla.

Award: \$353,104.00. (Cumulative \$953,403.00).

August 1, 2019 - July 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project will evaluate the implementation process and impact of the U.S. Department of Justice's Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Demonstration Initiative.

CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY

Argonne National Laboratory for "Cycling stable electrode interfaces for lithium batteries with covalently bonded fluorocarbon monolayers." Tao Xu.

Award: \$10,675.98. (Cumulative \$40,369.00).

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The project will attempt to improve the cycling stability and reliability of high energy density electrode materials, and conceivably develop batteries that have at least a doubled lifetime compared with the current state-of-the art.

Directorate for Engineering/NSF for "Collaborative Research: Design of a Novel Photo-Thermo- Catalyst for Enhanced Activity and Stability of Dry Reforming of Methane." Tao

Li.

Award: \$186,787.00.

September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

To test the hypothesis that a catalyst can be designed for effective CO₂ (dry) reforming of methane (DRM) to produce syngas (CO and H₂) that will enhance the conversion efficiency and catalyst stability compared with traditional thermal catalysts.

Argonne National Laboratory for "Li Joint Appointment NIU-ANL FY20." Tao Li.

Award: \$72,628.66.

August 16, 2019 - August 15, 2020. (Organized Research) IPA or Joint Appointment.

Funds are being used for a joint appointment between NIU and Argonne in support of Dr. Tao Li.

Argonne National Laboratory for "Investigating Solid State Battery Materials with X-ray Technique." Tao Li.

Award: \$141,022.35.

October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The objective of this work includes: synthesis of inorganic-organic hybrid electrode; measurement of the structure of the hybrid material with X-ray technique; and understanding the relationship of structure of materials and battery performance.

Argonne National Laboratory for "Investigating the interfacial stability of battery materials." Tao Li.

Award: \$112,284.94. (Cumulative \$229,746.00).

September 1, 2019 - September 30, 2019. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Objectives include fundamental understanding of the nature, quantitative measurement of the kinetics, and interfacial engineering of Li-ion battery material for rational suppression of the parasitic reactions for a safer and longer life chemistry.

Argonne National Laboratory for "Material Development for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Applications." Tao Xu.

Award: \$16,543.49.

July 1, 2019 - December 31, 2019. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The purpose of this project is to prepare, characterize, and improve new materials for energy efficiency and environmental applications.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Argonne National Laboratory for "High Performance Computing Research." Michael Papka.

Award: \$42,363.22. (Cumulative \$192,361.00).

August 16, 2019 - August 15, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The funds support research and development in high performance computing, including visualization and analysis of abstract datasets based on ALCF operational logs, quantum computing algorithms, and dashboard development for monitoring of systems.

Argonne National Laboratory for "High Performance Computing Research." Michael Papka.

Award: \$69,397.03. (Cumulative \$192,361.00).

August 16, 2019 - August 15, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The funds support research and development in high performance computing, including visualization and analysis of abstract datasets based on ALCF operational logs, quantum computing algorithms, and dashboard development for monitoring of systems.

Argonne National Laboratory for "Predicting Scientific Fields using Machine Learning and Text Mining Techniques." Hamed Alhoori.

Award: \$41,116.75.

September 6, 2019 - September 5, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This research will use machine learning and text mining techniques to improve our understanding of projects that use Argonne National Laboratory machines.

CONTINUING PROF EDUC

Occupational Safety and Health Administration/Department of Labor for "Susan Harwood Training Program 2019-2020: Targeted Training Program." Petia S. Guerrero.

Award: \$99,431.00.

September 30, 2019 - September 29, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Targeted Training topic will be machinery and machine guarding covering subjects related to operating and using stationary equipment, guarding point of operation, amputation prevention, control circuit systems and other machinery the general industry.

ECON ILLINOIS

Econ Illinois for "Illinois Council Operation Grant." Luanne K. Mayorga.

Award: \$35,000.00.

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

Funding is being used to support outstanding teacher training and innovative economic education programs for students.

EDUCATION SYSTEM CENTER

Illinois State Board of Education for "Intergovernmental Grant Agreement Fiscal Year 2020." Jonathan Furr.

Award: \$7,500.00.

August 15, 2019 - September 17, 2019. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

The grantee will prepare a proposal to the Institute of Education Sciences on behalf of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to support Illinois Statewide Longitudinal Data System.

Illinois State Board of Education for "Early Childhood Needs Assessment Cost Modeling and Unduplicated Count Scope and Deliverables." Charles Rosemond.

Award: \$145,000.00.

June 18, 2019 - December 31, 2019. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project will match child-/family-level data across state agencies' systems to describe the population receiving publicly funded early childhood services and produce a cost model analyses and developed options for phase-in of funding modifications.

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH AND ASSESSMENT

School District # 205, Rockford for "Scientific Argumentation in Transportable Invention Space (SAITIS) 2.0 in Rockford School District." Pi-Sui Hsu.

Award: \$24,951.90.

October 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The purpose of the project is to develop and implement an after-school science program that incorporates Maker Education and scientific argumentation for middle-school students.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

Directorate for Education and Human Resources/NSF for "Collaborative Research: Broadening the fusion of STEM and business curricula in undergraduate sustainability education." Melissa E. Lenczewski.

Award: \$593,406.00.

October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

To catalyze change in the way faculty and institutions of higher education prepare all students to tackle the wicked problems of sustainability in the 21st century.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Illinois State Board of Education for "NIU Preschool for All Expansion." Thomas Pavkov.

Award: \$349,670.00. (Cumulative \$705,100.00).

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

This project will enhance cohesive and comprehensive early learning opportunities for preschoolers in the DeKalb community.

Office of Postsecondary Education/Department of Education for "CCAMPIS 2018." Thomas Pavkov.

Award: \$266,727.00. (Cumulative \$683,621.00).

October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

This project allows the Child Development and Family Center to provide low-income student families with high-quality, campus-based childcare to allow the parents to seek higher education.

GEOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES

University Corporation for Atmospheric Research for "Bringing back weather.niu.edu: A multifaceted server at Northern Illinois University." Victor Gensini.

Award: \$19,652.37.

July 15, 2019 - March 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This proposal seeks to re-establish the online presence of <http://weather.niu.edu> as a cornerstone of community weather/climate data dissemination.

DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation for "DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation graduate internship." Philip P. Young.

Award: \$13,500.00.

August 15, 2019 - May 14, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

This project provides one Graduate Assistant to the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation to provide research services of mutual benefit to NIU and the DCEDC.

GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES

Columbia University for "Participation of Reed Scherer on IODP Expedition 379." Reed P. Scherer.

Award: \$17,999.00. (Cumulative \$66,271.00).

August 23, 2019 - February 29, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Research on International Ocean Discovery Program (IODP) Expedition 379 includes diatom paleontology on sediments recovered from drilling in the Amundsen Sea, Antarctica applying biostratigraphy, paleoenvironmental reconstruction and glacial geology.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Waubonsee Community College for "Graduate Student Placements at Waubonsee Community College." Bradley G. Bond.

Award: \$46,170.00.

August 1, 2019 - May 15, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

This project provides three Graduate Assistants to Waubonsee Community College to work under the Dean of Students in the areas of Student Affairs (two students), and the under the Athletics Manager to work with the Athletics Trainer (1 student).

Illinois Board of Higher Education for "Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois FY20." Bradley G. Bond.

Award: \$132,000.00.

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

NIU will serve as Fiscal Agent for IBHE for FY 2019 in administering grants awarded by the Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois ("DFI") Program Board to fellows at the institution under the DFI Program.

National Science Foundation/NSF for "GRFP Holthuijzen, Wieteke Aste." Bradley G. Bond/Holly Jones.

Award: \$46,000.00. (Cumulative \$92,000.00).

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

To determine the ecological impacts of invasive mice on MANWAR through measures of seed predation, seed preference, and plant and arthropod community composition both before and after mouse eradication and on islands with and without mice.

INDUSTRIAL AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

Sterling Medical Products for "Development of Equipment Validation and Verification Procedures." Purushothaman Damodaran.

Award: \$20,689.20.

September 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Development of Equipment Validation and Verification Procedures for small manufacturer.

University of Illinois at Chicago for "Biomechanical Evaluation of Exoskeletons during Patient Handling." Jaejin Hwang.

Award: \$16,691.00.

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funds are requested to assess the efficacy of postural assist exoskeletons in reducing biomechanical stresses among caregivers during patient handling.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT AND SCHOLAR SERVICES

Institute of International Education for "2019 Fulbright Gateway Orientation (Renewal)." Stephanie Brown.

Award: \$59,254.00.

April 1, 2019 - September 15, 2019. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

This program will orient foreign Fulbright students to the Fulbright program and community; the U.S. academic system; U.S. history, culture, and government; and develop skills for success as students and future leaders.

JOBS PLUS

Illinois Board of Higher Education for "Northern Illinois University FY2020 Cooperative Work Study." Chad Glover, Dosier, David.

Award: \$31,598.27.

July 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Student Service.

The purpose of the project is to provide valuable career-related work experiences to students that are applicable to their fields of study.

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

National Institute of Standards & Technology/Technology Administration/DOC for "Characterization and standardization of in-situ powder flow monitoring methods for directed energy deposition." Federico Sciammarella.

Award: \$125,942.00.

October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funds are requested to help NIST establish which measurement method would be the best to qualify powder flow monitoring for directed energy deposition in Additive manufacturing.

Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory for "Dark Matter Searches Employing Quantum Metrology." Iman Salehinia.

Award: \$37,214.27.

August 1, 2019 - December 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Professor Iman Salehinia will mentor a graduate student in the design and analysis of components for dark matter searches employing quantum metrology.

NORTHERN PUBLIC RADIO

Illinois Arts Council for "FY19 BSG-J." Staci Hoste.

Award: \$9,420.00.

September 15, 2018 - August 31, 2019. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds are used for high quality public radio programming.

Illinois Arts Council for "FY19 OSG-U." Staci Hoste.

Award: \$8,560.00.

May 15, 2019 - August 31, 2019. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds are used for high quality public radio programming.

Illinois Arts Council for "Public Radio & Television Operating Grant-WNIJ-FM." Staci Hoste.

Award: \$8,560.00.

May 15, 2019 - August 31, 2019. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds are used for high quality public radio programming.

Corporation for Public Broadcasting for "2019 Radio Community Service Grant." Staci Hoste.

Award: \$220,735.00.

October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds are used to support high quality public programming.

Illinois State Library for "Northern Illinois Radio Information Service (NIRIS)." Staci Hoste.

Award: \$28,273.00.

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds are used to provide informational services for persons who cannot read conventional print due to visual or physical disability, and because individual libraries cannot provide such services.

Illinois Arts Council for "FY19 BSG-U." Staci Hoste.

Award: \$9,420.00.

September 15, 2018 - August 31, 2019. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds are used to support high quality public radio programming.

NOT FOR PROFIT NONGOVORGS

Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services for "Electronic Health Record (EHR) Systems and Meaningful Use -Illinois Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (ILHITREC)." Lisa Kaye Bergeron.

Award: \$1,695,577.28.

December 1, 2019 - November 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.

This project will increase awareness, adoption, implementation, and meaningful use of Electronic Health Records with HFS Medicaid providers in Illinois with the goal of decreasing cost and improving health outcomes.

NURSING

National Institutes of Health/NIH/DHHS for "Feasibility of group versus individual self-management of depression using a mobile app, to increase treatment adherence among Dominican primary care patients." Susan Caplan.

Award: \$188,853.00.

September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The proposed research project will examine using a mobile app to deliver group-based CBT for depression treatment in a primary care setting in the Dominican Republic.

Illinois Board of Higher Education for "IBHE Nursing Fellowship--FY 2020." Elizabeth Moxley.

Award: \$10,000.00.

December 10, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funding will provide a fellowship for a faculty member in the School of Nursing.

P-20 CENTER

Illinois State Board of Education for "FY 20 Migrant Education - Regular Year." Susana Das Neves/Amy Jo Clemens/Adam Zurko.

Award: \$59,119.00.

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

To ensure that migrant children fully benefit from the same free public education provided to other children and to address the special educational needs of migrant children to better enable them to succeed academically.

PHYSICS

Argonne National Laboratory for "Development of a damping-ring-free electron injector for Future Linear Colliders." Phillippe R. Piot.

Award: \$8,000.00. (Cumulative \$12,000.00).

June 1, 2019 - May 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The purpose of the project is to finalize the conceptual design of a GeV-class electron injector capable of attaining electron bunch with the required properties without having to rely on the currently envisioned 6-lm-long damping ring parameters.

Argonne National Laboratory for "Xiao Joint Appointment NIU-ANL FY20." Zhili Xiao.

Award: \$118,812.81.

August 16, 2019 - August 15, 2020. (Organized Research) IPA or Joint Appointment.

Funds are being used for a joint appointment between NIU and Argonne in support of Dr. Zhili Xiao.

Illinois Institute of Technology for "Chicagoland Accelerator Science Traineeship." Michael Syphers/Piot, Phillippe R.

Award: \$135,000.00.

September 25, 2019 - September 24, 2020. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

Funds are requested to establish the proposed "Chicagoland Accelerator Science Traineeship".

Office of Science/Department of Energy for "Ultrafast X-ray spectroscopy on nonequilibrium systems." Michel A. Van Veenendaal.

Award: \$30,000.00.

September 15, 2019 - September 14, 2020. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The goal of this project is to describe the time-dependent X-ray spectroscopy of nonequilibrium phenomena, such as spin crossover and ultrafast phase transitions.

Argonne National Laboratory for "High pressure effects on nitrogen-vacancy centers in diamond."

Zhili Xiao/Fotovvat, Roxanna.

Award: \$41,464.53. (Cumulative \$71,465.00).

October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Develop a novel instrument that will enable high-sensitive magnetization measurements in diamond anvil cell (DAC) by incorporating NV centers into diamond pieces of the DAC and using microwave to excite the NV centers and optically detect the resonance.

Department of Energy for "High-current electron sources for superconducting radiofrequency injectors." Phillippe R. Piot/Venumadhav Korampally/Iman Salehinia.

Award: \$110,000.00. (Cumulative \$272,001.00).

September 25, 2019 - September 24, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funds are requested to explore the coupling of a high-current electron source to a superconducting accelerator with ultimate goal of forming electron beams with Mega-Watt average power.

Argonne National Laboratory for "Support for a Visiting Professor Andrey Varlamov in NIU's Physics Department." Andreas Glatz.

Award: \$20,860.00.

November 1, 2019 - December 6, 2019. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Professor Varlamov is a world-leading scientist on superconducting fluctuations and the direct collaboration with him will be useful for future research at NIU and Argonne.

Office of Science/Department of Energy for "High-Performance Electron Sources: Numerical Methods and Beam Dynamics at the Precision Frontier." Bela Erdelyi.

Award: \$71,000.00.

September 25, 2019 - September 24, 2020. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

Funds are requested to develop an efficient and accurate numerical method to fix the boundary layer instability and devise an indirect method for very low emittance and temperature measurements based on caustics of multi-beamlet expansion.

Department of Energy for "Nonlinear Dynamics of Integrable Hamiltonian Systems for Novel Particle Accelerators in High Energy Physics." Bela Erdelyi.

Award: \$75,000.00. (Cumulative \$75,000.00).

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The project will undertake a comprehensive investigation of the dynamics of nonlinear integrable Hamiltonian systems for particle accelerators in high energy physics, with a special emphasis on the Integrable Optics Test Accelerator (IOTA) at Fermilab.

Argonne National Laboratory for "Synthesis, Single Crystal Growth and Diffraction Studies of Multiferroic and Functional Oxides." Omar H. Chmaissem.

Award: \$36,817.20. (Cumulative \$72,727.00).

September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This proposal aims to develop the know-how and the precise control of design variables for new multiferroic materials and related functional oxides.

University of Notre Dame for "The Quarknet Project." Dhiman Chakraborty.

Award: \$3,000.00.

September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The purpose of this project is to involve high school teachers and their students in state-of-the-art research that seeks to resolve some of the mysteries about the structure of matter and the fundamental forces of nature.

Argonne National Laboratory for "High Performance Computing (Support for Tsezar Seman)." Michel A. Van Veenendaal.

Award: \$15,507.68.

August 1, 2019 - September 30, 2019. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The postdoctoral associate will work on computations using high-performance computing in relation to spin crossover phenomena in iron complexes, related to time-dependent X-ray spectroscopy, and finish the submission of manuscript related to his research.

Argonne National Laboratory for "Glatz Joint Appointment NIU-ANL FY20." Andreas Glatz.

Award: \$141,931.47.

August 16, 2019 - August 15, 2020. (Organized Research) IPA or Joint Appointment.

Funds are being used for a joint appointment between NIU and Argonne in support of Dr. Andreas Glatz.

PSYCHOLOGY

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada for "Parent Engagement in the Learning of Children with ADHD." Julia Ogg.

Award: \$4,544.94.

April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project will examine the reciprocal relationships between parent engagement and child ADHD symptoms, and how these relationships influence academic and social-emotional outcomes over time.

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for "Integrated Assessment Program FY20." Laura D. Pittman/Skarbek, Matthew.

Award: \$6,683,595.00.

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds support the Integrated Assessment (IA) Program, which provides clinical screening and assessment services to children under the care of DCFS in the northern, central, and southern IA Program regions.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Department of Education for "Project Prevent and Address Bullying (PPAB) for Students with Disabilities: A Multitiered Behavioral Framework." Christine E. Malecki/Michelle Demaray/Julia Ogg.

Award: \$191,053.00. (Cumulative \$1,163,439.00).

September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

The proposed project will prepare 24 highly-qualified, licensed school psychologists with specialized training (a) emphasizing prevention of bullying, especially with students with disabilities; and (b) improving student outcomes by decreasing bullying.

Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority for "Saving blue lives through training on mental health, suicide, resilience, and peer support." Michelle M. Lilly.

Award: \$99,999.00.

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

The award supports development and dissemination of trainings for law enforcement in Illinois. The trainings focus on reducing risk for PTSD and suicide through better recognition of signs and symptoms, and bolstering resilience and peer support.

National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute/NIH/DHHS for "Sex-specific mechanisms of exercise underlying resilience to social stress." Angela Grippo.

Award: \$372,500.00.

December 1, 2019 - November 30, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project uses an animal model to investigate the protective effects of exercise against negative behavioral, biological, and brain consequences of social stress.

Winnebago County for "Research and Evaluation of the Winnebago County Adult Drug Court Program." Julie L. Crouch.

Award: \$67,819.15. (Cumulative \$134,559.00).

September 30, 2019 - September 29, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

NIU will serve as the primary research partner/local evaluator for the Winnebago County Adult Drug Court Enhancement Project.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Public Financial Publications, Inc. for "An Educator Version of Balancing Act." Kurt Thurmaier.

Award: \$9,500.00.

July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

The goal of this project is to fund specific enhancements to a new public budgeting simulation so that it can be used for teaching public budgeting and financial management courses.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Northwestern University for "Great Lakes Practice Transformation Network." Lisa Kaye Bergeron.

Award: \$50,736.00. (Cumulative \$1,324,749.00).

September 29, 2019 - December 28, 2019. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

NIU will build off its existing work with the Illinois Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (IL-HITREC) in developing relationships with medical practices to help them achieve clinical transformation.

SCHOOL OF ART AND DESIGN

Harvard University for "Cohen Fellowship at Hutchins Center for African & African American Research, Harvard University." Sinclair Bell.

Award: \$50,000.00.

August 16, 2019 - May 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

The aim of this research project is to write a book-length study of black Africans in the visual and material culture of imperial Rome.

SCHOOL OF HEALTH STUDIES

American Society for Clinical Laboratory Sciences for "Reducing Medical Errors: Perceptions of Collaboration with a Doctor of Clinical Laboratory Science." Leah Ames.

Award: \$783.60.

August 27, 2019 - August 26, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project will explore the perceptions that clinicians have about medical laboratory professionals as a resource for ordering and interpreting diagnostic laboratory testing and how those perceptions change after collaborating with a DCLS.

Northern Illinois Food Bank for "Research and Outreach at the Northern Illinois Food Bank." Josephine Umoren.

Award: \$5,286.15. (Cumulative \$52,139.00).

September 1, 2019 - August 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

NIU will provide consultation for the Northern Illinois Food Bank related to research and nutrition education program implementations.

SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY HLTH PRF

National Institute of General Medical Sciences/NIH/DHHS for "The FoodMASTER Initiative: Supporting the STEM learning pipeline for underserved, minority youth through informal science learning environments." Melani Duffrin.

Award: \$235,859.00. (Cumulative \$473,374.00).

August 1, 2019 - July 31, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project investigates the impact of the FoodMASTER (Food, Math, and Science Teaching Enhancement Resource) Initiative on attitudes towards science among underserved minority youth in southern states to impact the health professions STEM pipeline.

Illinois Department of Public Health for "Illinois Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (IL-BRFSS)." Kathryn Mazurek.

Award: \$147,000.00.

September 30, 2019 - December 31, 2019. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Data collection, data management, reporting and technical support on the Illinois Behavioral Risk Factor

SPECIAL AND EARLY EDUCATION

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Department of Education for "Preparation of Vision Rehabilitation Therapists and Orientation & Mobility Specialists to Prepare Individuals with Visual Disabilities for the 21st Century Workplace." Stacy Kelly.

Award: \$150,000.55. (Cumulative \$150,001.00).

October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

The purpose of the project is to train vision rehabilitation therapists (VRT) and orientation and mobility (O&M) instructors to provide services for adults and transition-aged adults with visual disabilities.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Department of Education for "Project Fusion: Bringing Together Scholars in Teacher of the Visually Impaired and Orientation and Mobility Programs to Serve Children with Visual Impairments in the 21st Century Classroom." Stacy Kelly.

Award: \$250,000.00. (Cumulative \$500,000.00).

August 15, 2019 - August 14, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

The purpose of this program is to train graduate students as special education teachers and orientation and mobility specialists to serve the needs of children who are blind or visually impaired with high-intensity needs in preschool through 12th grade.

Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Department of Education for "Preparing New Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments and Existing Personnel with Certifications in Assistive Technology for the 21st Century Workforce." Stacy Kelly/Tikkun, Sean.

Award: \$250,000.00. (Cumulative \$1,000,000.00).

May 2, 2019 - May 1, 2020. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

The purpose of this program is to train undergraduate and graduate students as teachers and assistive technology instructors to serve the needs of children who are blind or visually impaired in preschool through 12th grade.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Ohio University for "LuceSEA with CORMOSEA/UM." Hao N. Phan.

Award: \$172,847.00. (Cumulative \$172,847.00).

June 6, 2019 - June 5, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.

Funding will help to strengthen digital collections on Southeast Asian studies through the documentation of Cham religious rites, digitization of selected palm leaf manuscripts, and development and updating of online language and cultural materials.

VP RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS

Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center for "Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center Sub-recipient Contractual Amendment FY2020." Gerald C. Blazey.

Award: \$1,638,422.66.

October 1, 2019 - September 30, 2020. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The purpose of this project is to perform research services directed toward increasing the productivity and global competitive advantage of regionally-based manufacturing and technology-related firms.

FACULTY PRESENTATION

Fall 2016 Sabbatical Leave Outcome Report
Reed Scherer, Department of Geology & Environmental Geosciences

For my Fall semester, 2016 NIU sabbatical I was invited to Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, New York, as a Visiting Senior Scientist. My primary goal for the sabbatical was to prepare a manuscript reporting the most significant new finding of the NSF-funded WISSARD project (funding to Profs. Powell and myself). The project sought to evaluate West Antarctic ice sheet stability and history by drilling through a half mile thick ice, with extensive field work in 2013 and 2015 and laboratory research that followed. Our most surprising result from the project was the widespread occurrence of geologically very young sediment (as shown by radiocarbon analysis) beneath the ice. This result indicated that at the end of the last Ice Age, 10,000 years ago, the ice sheet retreated more than anyone had previously suggested, then began to regrow. This result demonstrated previously unknown dynamic ice sheet behavior, including a surprising resilience.

We knew that our findings and interpretations, while robust and confirmed, would be met with considerable skepticism in peer review, presenting a difficult writing challenge. Skeptical peers might choose to dismiss our result as somehow incorrect, simply because it was so surprising. But my sabbatical opened the door toward publication of a very high-profile publication in *Nature*, the single most prestigious and competitive science journal (Impact Factor of 43.070, acceptance rate of 7.7%).

During my sabbatical, I gave a talk on our new findings at Columbia University, during which a young Assistant Professor nearly jumped out of his seat, because he had come to an identical, controversial conclusion based on an entirely different kind of dataset, from the other side of West Antarctica. Coincidentally, a new computer modeling effort by Dr. Torsten Albrecht of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Research in Germany also displayed the same comparable, surprising result. We decided that rather than each group trying to write up our independent (controversial) stories, we would join forces for maximum impact. Condensing each of our complex research into a single short paper posed a significant challenge, but the end result was a paradigm-shifting 2018 paper in *Nature* magazine (Kingslake et al., 2018). This paper still maintains an Altmetric Score of 263, ranking it in the 99th percentile of published scientific articles. Kingslake, Scherer and Albrecht are co-lead authors, along with NIU colleagues Ross Powell, Nathan Stansell and Ph.D. candidate Jason Coenen and others (I suggested that the Assistant Professor be lead author).

This paper, the prestige it carries, the impact on junior scientists, including an NIU graduate student, the considerable media attention it garnered, and the subsequent research and funding that followed would never have happened were it not for my NIU sabbatical at Columbia University! During the sabbatical I also gave colloquium presentations at 4 other universities in the Northeast, was awarded a research grant from the Columbia University Foundation, and was interviewed by numerous science journalists stemming from another paper published at that time (Scherer et al., 2016). The entire experience highlights the rewards of the years-long investment and persistence needed to shepherd a scientific publication to print. Such achievements are made possible by sabbatical research travel and interdisciplinary approaches in research and instruction, all of which pay dividends back to NIU.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH — REED P. SCHERER

Department of Geology & Environmental Geosciences
Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115
815-753-7951 reed@niu.edu

A. PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Degree & Year</u>
The Ohio State University	Geological Sciences	Ph.D., 1992
University of South Carolina	Geological Sciences	M.S., 1983
Southampton College, NY	Marine Geology	B.S., 1979

B. POST-DOCTORAL APPOINTMENTS

Northern Illinois University (2000-present)

- Board of Trustees Professor (2013-2017; 2018-2022)
- Distinguished Research Professor (2013-present)
- Associate Director, Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability & Energy (2013-2018)
- Director, Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability & Energy (2011-2012)
- Interim Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs (2010-2011)
- Presidential Research Professor (2008-2013)
- Professor, Geology and Environmental Geosciences (2007)
- Associate Professor, Geology and Environmental Geosciences (2003)
- Assistant Professor, Geology and Environmental Geosciences (2000)

Uppsala University, Sweden (1994-2000); Quaternary Geology

- Research Associate Professor (1998-2000)
- Research Assistant Professor (1994-1998)

University of Massachusetts Amherst (1993-1994); Research Assistant Professor, Dept. of Geosciences

The Ohio State University, Columbus (1992-1993); Senior Research Associate, Byrd Polar Research Center

C. SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PAPERS (of >75 reviewed; 40 edited; 205 abstracts)

*NIU Graduate Students

- ***Coenen, J., Scherer, R.,** Baudoin, P., Warny, S., Castañeda, I., and Askin, R. Paleogene marine and terrestrial development of the West Antarctic Rift System. *Geophysical Research Letters*. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2019GL085281>.
- Kingslake, J., **Scherer, R.,** Albrecht, T., ***Coenen, J.,** Powell, R., Reese, R., Stansell, N., Tulaczyk, S., and Whitehouse, P., 2018. Extensive retreat and re-advance of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet during the Holocene. *Nature*, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-018-0208-x>. (*co-lead authors). *Altimetric* 263 (99th %).
- Scherer, R.P.,** DeConto, R., Pollard, D. and Alley, R.A. 2016. Windblown Pliocene diatoms and East Antarctic Ice Sheet retreat. *Nature Communications*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1038/NCOMMS12957>. *Altimetric* 209 (98th %).
- ***Warnock, J.P. and Scherer, R.P.,** 2016. Increased diatom dissolution in Prydz Bay, East Antarctica linked to inception of the Prydz Bay gyre. *Diatom Research*, 31(2), pp.161-168.
- ***Hodson, T.O.,** Powell, R.D., Brachfeld, S.A., Tulaczyk, S. and **Scherer, R.P.,** 2016. Physical processes in Subglacial Lake Whillans, West Antarctica: Inferences from sediment cores. *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 444, 56–63. DOI:10.1080/0269249X.2016.1182075
- ***Warnock, J., Scherer, R. and Konfirst, M.,** 2015. A record of Pleistocene diatom preservation from the Amundsen Sea, West Antarctica with possible implications on silica leakage. *Marine Micropaleontology*. 117, 40-46.
- ***Warnock, J. and Scherer, R.** 2015. A revised method for determining the absolute abundance of diatoms and other silt-sized sedimentary particles. *Journal of Paleolimnology*. DOI 10.1007/s10933-014-9808-0.

***Konfirst, M., Scherer, R.,** Kuhn, G., and Hillenbrand, C.D., 2012. A marine diatom record from the Amundsen Sea – Insights into the response of West Antarctic oceanography and climate to the Mid-Pleistocene Transition in the West Antarctic sector of the Southern Ocean. *Marine Micropaleontology*. 92/93, 40-51.

Scherer, R. P., Bohaty, S., Dunbar, R., Esper, O., Flores, J., Gersonde, R., Harwood, D., Roberts, A., and Taviani, M., 2008. Antarctic records of precession-paced insolation-driven warming during early Pleistocene Marine Isotope Stage 31. *Geophysical Research Letters*. 35-39.

D. GRANTS >\$9.8 M generated in collaborative and solo grants from both federal (mostly NSF) and private foundations

E. SYNERGISTIC ACTIVITIES

Ongoing public outreach activities: Promote polar research and science literacy at annual [NIU STEMfest](#), which reaches up to 10,000 visitors each year. Numerous print and broadcast media interviews, mostly regarding recent scientific publications. Frequent contributor to on-air radio editorial series, [Perspectives](#), on NPR Affiliate WNIJ, often covering issues of science, education and climate. STEM and science outreach activities for elementary, middle school and high school students, to professional societies and the general public, related to environmental and sustainability awareness, global and Antarctic climate change, dinosaur paleontology and evolution (15 formal events over the past 5 years, other informal events). Co-developed and co-organize the bi-annual Green Lens Environmental and Social Justice Film Series in DeKalb, IL, showing free environmental documentary films with special guests and panel discussions. Frequently serve on discussion panels.

Advisory Councils, Program Development and Editorial Boards: IODP Science Evaluation Panel (2018-2021). Participant in [NEXT](#) (Scientific Drilling Beyond 2023) workshop, 2019. Co-editing special issue of *Marine Micropaleontology* on polar marine diatom research. NIU UC, Governance Council. NIU Graduate School Curriculum Committee. NICCS. Lead developer of the interdisciplinary NIU Institute for the Study of the Environment, Sustainability and Energy (ESE) and ENVS undergraduate program, now serves >150 majors; served as ESE Director.

Short-courses and Workshops: Taught the next generation of ocean drilling scientists at the SCAR-PAIS-IODP Antarctic School, College Station, TX, 6/2019. With Drs. Amy Leventer and Beth Caissie, organized, hosted and taught polar diatom science to 35 students from 12 countries at the international Polar Diatom Workshop, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory, 8/2018, with support from a grant from IODP and the Micropaleontology Society.

Professional Societies: Phi Beta Delta International Honor Society; American Geophysical Union; International Society for Diatom Research

F. ADVISOR TO CURRENT NIU GRADUATE STUDENTS

Jason Coenen (Ph.D. in progress, MS, 2016)

Joe Mastro (M.S. in progress)

Heather Furlong (M. S. in progress)

G. PAST Ph.D. ADVISEES AT NIU

Jonathan Warnock (2016)

Matthew Konfirst (2015)

Joseph Peterson (2012)

Matthew Olney (2009)

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES OVERVIEW

Acting Dean Judy Ledgerwood will present an overview of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE REFINANCING OF SERIES 2010 AND 2011 AFS REVENUE BONDS

Overview and Summary: Northern Illinois University has \$175.5 million in outstanding Series 2010 and 2011 Auxiliary Facilities System (AFS) bonds. The average rate on the current debt outstanding is approximately 5.25%. Both issues are eligible to be re-financed with tax-exempt bonds effective January 1, 2020.

Over the past several months, the Division of Administration and Finance and its financial advisor, Longhouse Capital Advisors (LCA), have been exploring the feasibility of refinancing its Series 2010 and Series 2011 AFS Bonds. As discussed during previous meetings with the Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities, and Operations (FACFO) Committee and Board of Trustees (BOT), the refinancing will be broken into two tax-exempt tranches: a fixed rate, publicly-offered series and a variable rate bank placement series. The overall financing will not include any monies for new projects and the new debt payments will not extend beyond the April 1, 2041 maturity date of the Series 2010 bonds. The goals of the refinancing are to:

- **Provide cash flow savings to the University**, with a significant portion of these savings (\$14 million) directed towards fiscal years 2020 – 2023 to help mitigate the budgetary impact of closing the structural budget gap in those years.
- **Modernize NIU's Bond Resolution**, which governs the operation of the AFS, for the first time since 1996. Planned changes to the Resolution would better accommodate the use of variable rate debt, allow for changes to the System if a Public-Private Partnership (P3) transaction were contemplated, liberalize the System's financial covenants to match those of other Illinois, 4-year publics, and allow for transfers of AFS assets, if the System were to be overfunded.

On December 5th, the Board:

- Approved a pool of five Bond Underwriting / Placement Agent firms, along with their Business Enterprise Program (BEP) partners, as eligible to work on the refinancing and other financings for the coming five years. At the time of the Board meeting, the selection of the final subset of firms to work on the refinancing was still pending the evaluation of the results of a follow-up "Pricing RFP."
- Approved a 7th Supplemental AFS Revenue Bond Resolution, and other bond documents, subject to final approval of Authorized Officers, including the General Counsel; and
- Authorized refinancing the Series 2010 and 2011 AFS Bonds, subject to certain parameters of size (not to exceed \$185 million); initial rate or true interest cost (4.75%); final maturity (4/1/2041) and price (bond price no less than 97% of par amount of the issues).

A further report on the progress of the refinancing was delivered at the February 2020 FACFO meeting. University leadership confirmed that the modernization of the Bond Resolution had been completed and announced that Moody's had confirmed the University's current Ba2 (Stable) rating.

Update on Progress Since February 13, 2020

Since February 13, 2020, additional progress has been made:

- The University received four bids from banks seeking to act as Purchaser of the Series 2020A variable rate bonds. The best bid was from PNC Bank, which offered the opportunity for a more competitive rate if the Series 2020A bonds could be enhanced with bond insurance. The expected initial rate for this bank placement is significantly below preliminary expectations.
- NIU has selected Build America Mutual (BAM) as its bond insurer for the Series 2020A and Series 2020B Bonds. During the RFP process, university leadership worked hard to familiarize the insurer with NIU’s strengths and dynamism, and the insurer’s aggressive bid reflected the success of those efforts. In particular, the proposed BAM bond insurance commitment did not require a Debt Service Reserve Fund, which would have raised the borrowing amount by more than \$13 million. In addition, the final insurance premium was about 60% lower than initial indications.
- The expected date of the pricing of the Series 2020B Bonds is now set for March 4, 2020. Since the February 13 FACFO meeting, the municipal bond index against which NIU’s bonds will be priced has fallen further. Indeed, on February 21, the 20-year index hit an all-time low.

Next Steps

A high-level summary of the timetable for completing the refinancing is shown below:

Date	Milestone
February 20, 2020	Preliminary Official Statement for Series 2020B Bonds is posted for review by interested investors.
March 2	Commitment letter for purchase of Series 2020A to be received from PNC Bank.
March 4	Series 2020B fixed rate bonds are priced (i.e. rates are locked in) for a closing of April 1, 2020. Drafting of documents for Series 2020A Bank Direct Placement Bond continues.
March 30 -31	Documents for both issues will be finalized. Pre-closing of Series 2020A and 2020B Bonds.
April 1, 2020	Closing of Series 2020A and 2020B bonds. Series 2010 and 2011 AFS Bonds redeemed with Series 2020 proceeds.

DRAFT STRATEGIC ACTION PLANNING FRAMEWORK

Summary:

President Freeman's FY20 goals include delivery of a university-level strategic plan that respects NIU's mission, vision and values, research vision and SEM plan, and that will provide the foundation for fundraising and facilities plans that strengthen the university and surrounding community. This item is a progress update on that imperative.

During the past year, the university revised our vision, mission and values statements, and identified six strategic themes interwoven throughout existing planning documents. The attached strategic action planning framework expands upon those themes. The framework was developed by a small working group that included members of the senior roundtable as well as College deans. It is intended to support multi-year planning efforts of NIU divisions and departments, and to:

- Inform and prioritize decisions that impact the experiences of NIU students, faculty and staff
- Allocate resources to the highest priority initiatives that support the direction of the institution
- Increase stakeholder understanding about the ways that NIU's strengths support our value proposition
- Identify compelling initiatives for the university's comprehensive campaign



**Northern Illinois
University**

NIU Strategic Action Planning Framework 2020

PREFACE

This section is currently under development and will be completed using feedback from the Leadership Meeting on Tuesday, February 25.

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VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

Northern Illinois University's vision is to be an engine for innovation to advance social mobility; promote personal, professional and intellectual growth; and transform the world through research, artistry, teaching and outreach.

The mission of Northern Illinois University is to empower students through educational excellence and experiential learning as we pursue knowledge, share our research and artistry, and engage communities for the benefit of the region, state, nation and world.

In pursuing our vision and fulfilling our mission, we value and practice:

- Curiosity and creativity.
 - We provide our students active learning experiences.
 - We champion innovation.
 - We commit our resources to supporting students, faculty and staff in their research, artistry and professional development.
- Equity and inclusion.
 - We seek and are strengthened by the diverse perspectives and experiences of our university community members.
 - We use an inclusive decision-making process.
 - We appreciate and respect every member of our community.
- Ethics and integrity.
 - We prepare our students to become global leaders who work to build a better society.
 - We model ethical behavior in and out of the classroom.
 - We are transparent and accountable to our stakeholders.
- Service and stewardship.
 - We serve society and confront local, national and global challenges through collaborations that improve our learning, teaching and research.
 - We make accessible the knowledge and resources we create.
 - We promote our students' success through advising and mentoring.

To achieve our mission, vision and values, we will pursue outcomes aligned with the following strategic themes and guiding principles.

STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND STUDENT SUCCESS

TAKE A STUDENT-CENTRIC APPROACH

We strive to put the student at the center of our academic programs, co-curricular opportunities and support services. We will offer academic programs that respond to the needs of our region, state and nation. We aspire for all students to succeed in their chosen majors and graduate on time.

FOCUS ON INCLUSIVE SOCIAL MOBILITY

We recruit and retain students with diverse backgrounds and different lived experiences. We aspire to be a leader in supporting diverse students to achieve their academic, professional and personal goals and to eliminating equity gaps.

SUPPORT GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

NIU will provide educational and cultural experiences that prepare our students to be global citizens and leaders. We aspire to be a destination for students from around the world and to expand our educational offerings beyond the U.S. to establish a global footprint for NIU. Our international engagement initiatives will advance learning and discovery and prepare students for the global economy in which they will live, learn, work and thrive.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND CURRICULUM INNOVATION

FOSTER A CULTURE OF INNOVATION

Innovative ideas do not just appear – they are cultivated in spaces where taking risks is encouraged and where people are committed to finding better ways to do things, solutions to complex problems and new ways to make the world a better place. We provide opportunities and support for students, faculty and staff to be innovative, entrepreneurial and forward-focused. We are not afraid to fail in the pursuit of innovation.

SUPPORT TRANSDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH

We push the boundaries of academic disciplines to meet the needs of today and tomorrow through transdisciplinary degree programs, research centers and outreach initiatives.

COMMIT TO A NIMBLE AND INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum supports our mission, vision and values, and responds to the needs of our students. We focus on engagement, relevancy and innovate pedagogy. Using relationships as resources, we develop pioneering programs and experiential learning opportunities that speak to the critical issues facing the region, state and nation.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION

CULTIVATE EQUITY

We create and foster equity-minded practices that support the academic success of our students as well as the professional development and career progression of our faculty and staff.

BUILD AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

NIU strives to create a welcoming, inclusive and equitable community where all people are treated with dignity and respect. We are committed to safeguarding every individual's constitutional rights to free speech and assembly, as well as to addressing incidents of bias that might negatively affect individuals and communities.

PROMOTE EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND ACTION

We provide our students, faculty and staff with timely and effective education and discussion around issues of equity, diversity, social justice, implicit bias and other topics. We work toward creating an equity-minded community that challenges and eliminates exclusionary practices so that all of our faculty, staff and students succeed.

EMPOWERMENT AND SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF LEADERS

We are committed to developing our leadership capabilities and to embedding good leadership practice in all that we do.

COMMUNICATE TRANSPARENTLY AND EFFECTIVELY

We communicate with each other in a respectful, transparent and supportive manner. Information is shared that supports collaborative decision-making and shared governance.

CREATE A CULTURE OF SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Faculty and staff understand and embrace NIU's goals, and are committed to the mission, vision and values of NIU. Our daily work on campus reflects the pursuit of our goals.

INSPIRE ACTIONS THAT DRIVE SUSTAINABILITY

We commit to building sustainability into the fabric of what we do, and to fostering a culture of awareness and engagement around issues of environmental, social and economic balance.

RESEARCH, ARTISTRY AND ENGAGEMENT

PREPARE NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOR A CENTURY OF CHANGE

We promote and support research and innovation to prepare our students and region for a century of change in the environment, demographics, and technology. With significant expertise in areas related to creating a sustainable world, NIU can aspire for regional and national leadership in sustainable communities.

DEVELOP A ROBUST RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PORTFOLIO

We pursue ideas and creativity within the disciplines and at the intersection of disciplines. Transdisciplinary programs and research centers will bring expertise across campus to address broad and complicated problems.

PROMOTE PARTNERSHIPS THAT STRENGTHEN OUR MISSION

We leverage connections with the local community as well as the greater Chicago region to build, nurture and enhance partnerships with a range of entities, including educational institutions from PK-12 through university, non-profits, governmental laboratories and the private sector to create research, scholarly and artistic opportunities for students and faculty.

PROMOTE ENGAGED RESEARCH AND ARTISTRY

Our students, both undergraduate and graduate, actively participate in the research and artistic pursuits of our faculty. Our research and artistry extend beyond the boundaries of the campus as we engage with our communities.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

ENCOURAGE AND CELEBRATE EXPERIMENTATION AND INNOVATION

We encourage entrepreneurial action to improve our processes, procedures and policies. We reimagine and streamline what we do in light of new technologies, external environments and the needs of our students, faculty and staff.

ESTABLISH FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

We recognize the importance of stewardship in our deployment of our financial resources. We deploy resources to meet our strategic goals and live within our means. Relationships and partnerships are resources we mine and develop in support of our goals. We identify strategy partners to add value and speed in achieving results.

CREATE A DATA-INFORMED AND TECHNOLOGY-SUPPORTED DECISION FRAMEWORK

We base our decisions on well-curated, understandable data. We use technology platforms to create efficiencies and support data-informed decision making.

KEY REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

The above themes and guiding principles are woven throughout existing goals and strategic planning documents, including:

- [Presidential Goals](#)
- [Strategic Enrollment Management Plan](#)
- College strategic plans – [College of Education](#) and [College of Business](#)
- [ADEI Diversity Plan](#)
- [ADEI Annual Report](#)
- [Research Vision & Strategy](#)
- [Engagement Networks](#)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULATIONS RELATED TO ACADEMIC PROGRAM APPROVALS

Background Information:

NIU is committed to encouraging innovation and nimbleness in our curriculum. One mechanism for enabling innovation is through the development of emphases, specializations, and concentrations within major program degrees. An emphasis, specialization or concentration allows students to group courses together within their degree programs to meet their academic and personal goals. In addition, emphases, specializations, and concentrations allow for flexibility in curricular offerings and allow departments to explore new curricular areas without committing to offering full major degree programs. Currently, NIU BOT Regulation Section I.C.a.2.a requires that the Board of Trustees approve new Emphases, Specializations, and Concentrations. This results in delays in offering these focused areas to students and requires an approval process that is not mandated by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE).

Here is the language from the Illinois Administrative Code 1050.4 governing approval of curricular changes, which requires only new degrees and programs to be approved:

*Procedures of Obtaining Approval a) Approval of the Board of Control 1) Applications for new units of instruction, research and public service will be reviewed by the appropriate board of control. Upon approval by the appropriate board of control, the institution shall submit to the Board a completed notice of intent on the form provided by the Board. The notice of intent shall include the **degree and program name**, region located, description of the program, demographics of the intended students, estimated enrollment and contact person...3) If the appropriate board of control determines that the proposed unit is a reasonable and moderate extension rather than a new unit, the institution will so inform the Board. If the Board does not concur in this determination, the institution shall submit an application requesting approval of the new unit of instruction, research or public service to the Board.*

Currently, as approved by the IBHE staff, institutions report to the IBHE in June all curricular changes, including emphases, specializations and concentrations. This annual listing of changes is approved by the Board of Trustees before submission to the IBHE. The University will continue to bring the Annual Listing of Changes to the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee in May and to the full BOT in June before submitting to the IBHE.

Proposed Action: The amendment that is requested to the Board of Trustees Regulations is as follows:

Section 1: Academic Programs

Subsection C. Program Approval

Programs and Administrative Units Requiring Board Approval

a. Coverage

Board of Trustees approval is required prior to the addition or deletion of the following:

(2) Instructional Programs

(a) Minors, ~~Emphases, Specializations, Concentrations~~

Recommendation: The University recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the request to amend Board of Trustees Regulations Section I.C.a.2.a as presented above.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULATIONS RELATED TO ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES VACATION

Background Information:

Under the current Board of Trustees Regulations articulated in Section II (Faculty and Administrative Employees), Subsection D (Benefits), 1 (Vacation), supportive professional staff accrue vacation at a rate of two working days per month and do not accrue vacation based on years of service to the university. The regulation is at odds with Section III (Civil Service Employees), Subsection C (Benefits), 1 (Vacation), d (Exempt Employees), that allows “Employees in positions which would be defined as exempt by federal Fair Labor Standards Act criteria, who are eligible as defined in these regulations, [to] earn vacation in accordance with the following schedule:

- (1) For the first, second and third years of consecutive service, 25 work days in each year of service.
- (2) For the fourth, fifth, and sixth years of consecutive service, 26 work days in each year of service.
- (3) For the seventh, eighth, and ninth years of consecutive service, 27 work days in each year of service.
- (4) For the tenth year and beyond, 28 work days in each year of service

This disparity in vacation accrual was raised to the administration at a recent Supportive Professional Staff Council meeting.

Proposed Action: The University recommends the Board of Trustees approve changes to the Board of Trustees Regulations Section II.D.1 as follows:

Subsection D. Benefits

1. Vacation

Vacation shall be earned in accordance with the following schedule for those employees whose work schedules do not conform to the academic calendar.

1. For the first, second and third years of consecutive service, 25 work days in each year of service.
2. For the fourth, fifth, and sixth years of consecutive service, 26 work days in each year of service.
3. For the seventh, eighth, and ninth years of consecutive service, 27 work days in each year of service.
4. For the tenth year and beyond, 28 work days in each year of service.

Vacation may be accumulated up to a maximum of 56 days.

Pay in lieu of vacation accumulated while in a regular appointment status will not be allowed except upon termination of employment at the university, at which time a lump sum payment shall be made for the amount of vacation accumulated as of the last day of work.

Departmental faculty and other employees whose work schedules conform to the academic calendar shall not accrue vacation days but may observe university term or holiday break periods that are designated by the president.

Employees on temporary appointments and those whose positions are funded entirely on grants and/or fees for services, who are eligible to earn vacation, shall not accumulate vacation beyond the termination date for each specific temporary appointment and any balance shall be adjusted to "zero" as of the termination date specified in each temporary appointment unless there is a consecutive temporary appointment. In the event of consecutive appointments, vacation balances may be accumulated at the applicable leave-earning rate to a maximum of that earned in two service years. No pay shall be provided in lieu of vacation accumulated while in temporary appointment status and employees will not be permitted to extend their service to the University by taking vacation at the end of the appointment.

Leaves for vacation purposes shall be arranged with due regard for the operational needs of the university and shall require supervisory approval.

Recommendation: Given that the costs of these proposed changes are minimal and the changes benefit employees, the University requests Board of Trustees approval of the proposed amendment to the Board Regulations regarding Benefits to be effective July 1, 2020.

REAL ESTATE PROPERTY SALE – PRESIDENT HOUSE

Summary: On September 12, 2019, the Board determined the former President’s house (the “Property”) as surplus to the university needs and authorized the Property to be sold under the provisions of the State Property Control Act (30 ILCS 605/). A reasonable offer has been made on the Property, 901 Woodlawn Drive, DeKalb, and efforts are proceeding to close the sale. To provide clarity for the title conveyance process, this action is to provide clear authorization for President Freeman, Treasurer (McGill) Chinniah, and Assistant Secretary Kaplan, to sign the closing documents on behalf of the Board of Trustees in accordance with Board *Regulations*, Section VI, Subsection A. 3., which provides:

All documents involving interests in real property approved by the Board shall be signed by the chair and the secretary. The president, the treasurer and assistant secretary are authorized to sign on behalf of the chair and secretary provided no one official may sign both names to the same document. Documents subject to approval by the president shall be signed by the president. The president is authorized to delegate in writing the authority to sign such documents to members of the university staff.

Background: The Property had been advertised for \$295,000 and, after a brief advertising period, an offer has been received and is considered reasonable considering known deficiencies with the property. The closing date is currently set for March 11, 2020. The University’s proceeds will be subject to closing costs and any other applicable deductions. Proceeds from the sale will be placed in an accounting cost center specifically to be used for campus deferred maintenance or emergency repair requirements in accordance with the State Property Control Act.

Funding: Revenue generating – Resulting net sale proceeds to be deposited in account conforming to State Property Control Act.

Recommendation: The University requests Board approval to accept an offer of not less than \$225,000 and for authorization for the University to take any and all steps customary and necessary to conclude the sale of the Property (“Sale”). This approval and authorization includes, but is not limited to, delegated authority for the President or the President’s designee(s) to accept the contract, carry out any required actions in furtherance of the Sale, and negotiate final terms and conditions of the Sale, including the final Sale price for the Property after inspections and other due diligence by the parties to the Sale. Any documents necessary for the conveyance of title and other interests in the Property shall be executed in accordance with Board of Trustees *Regulations*, Section VI, Subsection A. 3.

In the event that the Sale is terminated and not completed, the Board further authorizes the President and the President’s designee(s) to accept other offers on the Property that the University deems are reasonable and appropriate, and to take any and all actions in order to conclude the sale of the Property. The President shall subsequently report to the Board the status of any offers that the University deemed reasonable and appropriate for acceptance.