



Regular Meeting  
of the  
Board of Trustees

*June 17, 2021*

**Regular Meeting of the  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

**9:00 a.m. – Thursday – June 17, 2021**

**This BOT meeting is being conducted through video conferencing communications and is being conducted pursuant to Section 6 of Executive Order 2020-7 (Suspending OMA requirements of in person attendance by members of a public body).**

**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 May 13, 2021](#) ..... *Action*..... 1
5. Chair's Comments/Announcements
6. Public Comment\*
7. [Reports of Board Committees and Board Liaisons](#)..... *Information*..... 5
  - 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 Research Foundation
  - g. Northern Illinois University Alumni Association
  - h. Northern Illinois University Foundation
8. President's Report No. 151
  - a. University Recommendations Forwarded by the Board Committees
    - 1) [Request to Transition Tenure Home](#) ..... *Action*..... 9
    - 2) [Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2021-2022](#) ..... *Action*..... 10
    - 3) [Renewal of Blackboard Learn Software License](#)..... *Action*..... 12
    - 4) [Smart Guidance](#)..... *Action*..... 13
    - 5) [Beverage Program \(Fiscal Year 2022-Fiscal Year 2027 with Options\)](#)..... *Action*..... 14
    - 6) [Music Building – Partial Roof Replacement Capital Project Approval](#)..... *Action*..... 15
    - 7) [Convocation Center – Arena and Auxiliary Gym Lighting Upgrade Capital Project Approval](#) ..... *Action*..... 16

8) Outbound Ticket Sales Vendor Agreement .....	Action.....	17
9) Air Charter Services for NIU Football Team .....	Action.....	18
10) Secondary Student Health Insurance Contract Renewal .....	Action.....	19
11) NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract .....	Action.....	20
12) Talent Acquisition/Advertising Consulting Firm Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity .....	Action.....	21
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14) Cisco Hardware Maintenance Contract .....	Action.....	23
15) Renewal of OnBase Software Maintenance .....	Action.....	24
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b. University Reports Forwarded by the Board Committees

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3) Learning Management System Review .....	Information.....	29
4) Northwestern Medicine Partnership Update.....	Information.....	30
5) Plans for Fall 2021 .....	Information.....	31
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11) Quarterly Financial Summary Fiscal Year 2021 Third Quarter as of March 31, 2021.....	Information.....	48
12) Periodic Report on Investments for Period Ending March 31, 2021.....	Information.....	52
13) Series 2011 CHF Bond Refinancing with Series 2021 AFS Bond Update .....	Information.....	55
14) Fiscal Year 2022 University Budget Preliminary Summary....	Information.....	58
15) Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000 for the Period January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021.....	Information.....	60
16) Semi-Annual Progress Report of Active Capital Projects with a Budget Over \$100,000.....	Information.....	63

c. Items Directly from the President

1) Proposed Amendment to the University Constitution - Article 6.1.1 Definitions of University Faculty.....	Action.....	69
2) Fiscal Year 2022 University Internal Budget .....	Action.....	71
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4) Appointment of Dean for the College of Health and Human Sciences.....	Action.....	76
5) Establishment of Position of Vice President for Student Affairs and Appointment of Interim to Position .....	Action.....	77
6) Resolution to Adopt Deferred Compensation Plan Offered by the State Universities Retirement System and Employer Participation Agreement .....	Action.....	79
7) Fiscal Year 2022 Non-Represented Staff Salary Increment Allocation Guidelines.....	Action.....	90
8) Appointment of Interim Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for International Affairs .....	Action.....	91

9) Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for International Affairs Search Update .....	<i>Information</i> .....92
10) College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Overview .....	<i>Information</i> .....93

9. Chair’s Report No. 98

- a. Fiscal Year 2022 Election of Board Officers and Civil Service Merit Board Representative.....*Action*.....94
- b. Resolution Honoring Student Trustee Aidan Shields for Distinguished Service to the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees.... *Action*.....95

10. Other Matters

11. Next Meeting Date

12. Closed Session

13. 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 Crystal Doyle, [ccoppel@niu.edu](mailto:ccoppel@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 Crystal Doyle, [ccoppel@niu.edu](mailto:ccoppel@niu.edu) or (815) 753-1273, as soon as possible.**

Minutes of the  
**Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University**  
**Special Meeting**  
May 13, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 2:35 p.m. by Board Chair Dennis Barsema virtually. This Special meeting was conducted through video conferencing communications pursuant to Section 6 of Executive Order 2020-7 (Suspending Open Meetings Act requirements of in person attendance by members of a public body). Board Chair Barsema noted that some of the trustees and staff are in-person today for the Board of Trustees meeting, but their in-person attendance is voluntary. The meeting is still being conducted pursuant to Section 6 of Executive Order 2020-7. Recording Secretary Crystal Doyle conducted a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present	Trustee John Butler: Absent
Trustee Montel Gayles: Present	Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present
Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present	Trustee Aidan Shields: Present
Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Absent	Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Present

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Board Liaison and Chief of Staff Matt Streb; Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram; Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer Sarah Chinniah; Vice President for Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications Sol Jensen; Associate Vice President for Information Technology Matt Parks; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; Vice President for University Advancement Catherine Squires; Executive Director for the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning; Director of Precollegiate Programs Felicia Bohanon; and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representative Kendall Thu.

**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 Barsema asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes	Trustee John Butler: Absent
Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes	Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes
Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes	Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes
Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Absent	Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 18, 2021**

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve the minutes of March 18, 2021. Trustee Athas so moved, and Trustee Shields seconded.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Absent

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Absent

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

### **CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Barsema welcomed the members of the University Advisory Council who were present.

Chair Barsema mentioned that the Board of Trustee officer elections will be held on June 17, 2021 at the upcoming full Board of Trustees meeting. The positions that will be voted on are for the chair, vice chair, secretary, civil service merit board representative and the fifth member representative for the executive committee.

Trustee Gayles thanked Chair Barsema for serving as chair and vice chair and for his leadership while serving in those positions.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chair Barsema introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry stated that there were no public comments.

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 150**

Chair Barsema asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 150.

#### **President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.a. Collective Bargaining Agreement for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union #364**

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 7.a. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Absent

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Absent

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

#### **President Lisa Freeman presented Agenda Item 7.b. Classroom Technology Upgrades**

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to approve item 7.b. Trustee Athas so moved, and Trustee Gayles seconded.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Absent

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes

Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Absent

Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

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 June 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Barsema stated that the Board needed to go into closed session and would not take up new business following the closed session. He asked for a motion to close the public meeting to conduct closed session to discuss the following subjects as authorized by the Open Meetings Act: personnel matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(1)(2)(3) and (21) of the open meetings act; collective bargaining matters as generally described under section 2(c)(2) of the open meetings act; litigation and risk management matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(11) and (12) of the open meetings act; and closed session minutes matters as generally described under section 2(c)(21) of the open meetings act.

Trustee Shields so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to take a roll call vote to close the public meeting.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes	Trustee John Butler: Absent
Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes	Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes
Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes	Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes
Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Absent	Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 2:50 p.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 3:45 p.m.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call.

Trustee Rita Athas: Present	Trustee John Butler: Present
Trustee Montel Gayles: Present	Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present
Trustee Bob Pritchard: Absent	Trustee Aidan Shields: Present
Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Absent	Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Present

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Barsema asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Athas seconded.

Chair Barsema asked Ms. Doyle to conduct a roll call vote.

Trustee Rita Athas: Yes	Trustee John Butler: Yes
Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes	Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes
Trustee Bob Pritchard: Absent	Trustee Aidan Shields: Yes
Vice Chair Eric Wasowicz: Absent	Board Chair Dennis Barsema: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Doyle  
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 May 13, 2021. Two action items appeared on the agenda: Request to Transition Tenure Home and Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2021-2022, both were approved. The committee received five information items: Oral English Proficiency Annual Report 2019-2020, Police Chief Search Update, Learning Management System Review, Northwestern Medicine Partnership Update, and Plans for Fall 2021.

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

The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee met on May 13, 2021. The committee was presented with four Financial Update items: Quarterly Financial Summary Fiscal Year 2021 – Third Quarter as of March 31, 2021, Periodic Report on Investments for Period Ending March 31, 2021, Series 2011 CHF Bond Refinancing with Series 2021 AFS Bond Update, and Fiscal Year 2022 University Budget – Preliminary Summary. The committee approved 15 actions items: Classroom Technology Upgrades, Renewal of Blackboard Learn Software License, Smart Guidance, Beverage Program (Fiscal Year 2022-Fiscal Year 2027 with Options), Music Building – Partial Roof Replacement Capital Project Approval, Convocation Center – Arena and Auxiliary Gym Lighting Upgrade Capital Project Approval, Outbound Ticket Sales Vendor Agreement, Air Charter Services for NIU Football Team, Secondary Student Health Insurance Contract Renewal, NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract, Talent Acquisition/Advertising Consulting Firm Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity, Campus Printer/Copier Program Contract Renewal, Cisco Hardware Maintenance Contract, Renewal of OnBase Software Maintenance, and Adobe Enterprise Term License Agreement (ETLA). The committee also received two University Information items: Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000 for the Period January 1, 2021 to March 31, 2021 and the Semi-Annual Progress Report of Active Capital Projects with Budget Over \$100,000.

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

The Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee met on May 13, 2021. The committee was presented with five information items: State Legislative Report, Federal Legislative Report, Sponsored Programs Administration Quarterly Report, a presentation on Open Access, and a Faculty Research Presentation. Dr. Gerald Blazey, Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships reported on his recent congressional testimony to the House Subcommittee on Research and Technology regarding the NSF for the Future Act. Dr. Blazey also reviewed the current level of external funding. Dr. Matt Streb, Liaison to the Board of Trustees provided the State Legislative Report. Dr. Streb reported on IL Senate Bill 0815 Illinois School Student Records Act, which amends a previous bill and makes a technical change in a section concerning the short title. Dr. Streb also reported on IL Senate Bill 1832, which amends the Public Community College Act and allows the board of trustees of a community college district to establish and offer a baccalaureate degree in early childhood education and a Professional Educator License with endorsements in early childhood education and early childhood special education under certain conditions. Dr. Anna Quider, Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations provided the Federal Legislative Report. Dr. Quider reported that she received positive feedback from other universities, think tanks, and congressional offices regarding Dr. Blazey's testimony to the House Subcommittee on

Research and Technology. She also reported on the recently introduced, Endless Frontier Act, which proposes a \$95 billion investment in the National Science Foundation over five years. Dr. Quider also reported that the House of Representatives has agreed to reinstate congressionally directed spending, formerly known as earmarks, in a limited capacity called Community Project Funding, or CPF. Congressman Kinzinger selected NIU's proposal entitled "Understanding and Mitigating Future Weather and Climate Risks" as one of his ten CPF projects. Ms. Dara Little, Assistant Vice President for Research and Sponsored Programs provided a written Sponsored Programs Administration Quarterly Report. Mr. Fred Barnhart, Dean of the University Libraries provided a presentation on Open Access, which is a publishing model for scholarly communication that makes research information available to readers at no cost. Dr. Walker Ashley, Professor of Meteorology, Climatology and Hazards, presented his research on the interconnection of climate change and weather-related disasters.

**d. Illinois Board of Higher Education**

The IBHE met on January 13, 2021 and approved Fiscal Year 2022 Higher Education Budget Recommendations: Operations, Grants and Capital Improvement, and further approved consent agenda and other routine business items. The IBHE also met on February 23, 2021, March 9, 2021, April 14, 2021, and June 8, 2021. Updates will be provided when minutes are available and additional details regarding these items are posted on the IBHE website.

**e. Universities Civil Service Merit Board**

The State Universities Civil Service Merit Board has met once since the last NIU Board of Trustees meeting, on the same day meetings were held of the NIU Board's standing committees, May 13, 2021. Despite the scheduling conflict, NIU's representative to the Merit Board was able to participate by video conference. At the meeting, the Merit Board considered two discharges unrelated to NIU and several other matters. Included in these other matters were several routine reports and updates, including a report from the Human Resource Directors Advisory Committee, a report from the Employee Advisory Committee (EAC), a presentation on a proposal to create a new designation for civil service staff that support "Qualified Research Centers" (more on this below), a report on current audit activities, an update on efforts to migrate a number of procedures to Administrative Rules ("conversion of procedures to Administrative Rules"), and reports from the SUCSS Executive Director and Legal Counsel. Embedded in several information items were issues that may be of significant interest to the NIU Board and university leadership. The NIU Board will likely wish to continue monitoring the migration of procedures to Administrative Rules, including procedures related to exemption of Principal Administrative Appointments (PAA/APs) (what NIU refers to as Supportive Professional Staff), extra help/extra help extensions, and out-of-state recruitment/employment. Legal matters briefly mentioned include a "Charge Against a Labor Organization" filed with the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board (IELRB) (Case No. 2021-CA-0061-C) by a former employee at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The complaint identifies SUCSS as a "labor organization." The Illinois Attorney General's office is seeking to dismiss the matter in a motion filed with the IELRB investigator.

The Merit Board continues to consider the complex issues related to employees working for research and engagement programs. At the February 25, 2021 meeting, NIU's Merit Board representative asked the system office to structure some kind of detailed update for the Merit Board on the issue, including background information that might help Board members put into context proposals to permit some variation to standard civil service obligations and rights for certain grant-funded positions, and concerns that have been raised about conversions from PAA/PAs to civil service classifications. At the May 13th meeting, the Merit Board received a detailed presentation, facilitated by the Executive Director, that featured concerns of

University of Illinois faculty affiliated with a research center at that university. Discussion under the agenda item—titled “Qualified Research Centers”—made apparent a desire by presenters to revise Administrative Rules for a small group of civil service positions/employees, “a third, status-type appointment” that would in some way be protected from the civil service rules that allow employees in the same classification to “bump” into those positions from comparable employment elsewhere in the university. Examples of civil service staff working on critical grant-funded projects were shared, and presenters noted that the funding source of these positions vary over the time such research programs operate (“not always externally funded”). NIU’s Merit Board representative noted that this proposal sought to address a very narrow concern and the discussion was not, as far as he could deduce, intended to address the merits of the recent ideas concerning grant-funded positions, or whether positions were appropriately classified as civil service positions. Comments by the Chair of the EAC Chair included a numbered list of significant concerns (formed as questions) about the “Qualified Research Centers” proposal.

Finally, during the May 13th meeting, Executive Director Brownfield announced that he would be retiring effective July 1, 2021. The Merit Board appointed SUCSS Legal Counsel Gail Schiesser to serve as Acting Executive Director until such time as a new permanent Executive Director is appointed.

**f. Northern Illinois Research Foundation**

The Audit Committee and Board of Directors of the Northern Illinois Research Foundation held their quarterly meeting December 2, 2021. The Audit Committee discussed the NIRF and EIGERlab quarterly financial reports and NIRF insurance renewal. The Board of Directors discussed the disposition of EIGERlab and evolution of the Research Foundation to improve the focus on intellectual property, innovation, and entrepreneurship for the NIU community. The Board also received quarterly updates from the Audit Committee, EIGERlab staff, and the NIU Office of Innovation. The next NIRF Board of Directors quarterly meeting will be in September 2021.

**g. Northern Illinois University Alumni Association**

**Volunteer Management** – Volunteer engagement remains strong through the pandemic. We are up over last year at this time in total alumni volunteers (1,355 vs. 1,247) and unique alumni volunteer (1,007 vs. 884). Additionally, retention is hovering at 49.1%, with our goal being 50%.

**Advocacy** – NIU has replaced Jenna Mitchell with a new Director of State Relations, Katie Davison, who started on May 1. Liz McKee will meet with her to discuss a plan for advocacy as we exit the pandemic.

**Events** – we are ramping down virtual events for the summer. The first in-person event will be the NIUAA Golf Outing on June 28<sup>th</sup> at Cantigny Golf Course. This year we are partnering with athletics, who are not going to be doing their Novak outing. This event has sold out.

Beyond the golf outing, we will begin with in-person events that are small and low-risk, which can easily be planned or canceled. We are preparing for a football season which is a return to normal, with trips planned to the games against Georgia Tech (Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>) and Michigan (Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>), and a President’s Reception prior to the first home game against Wyoming on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Homecoming will be Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**NIUAA Board** – The board’s nomination committee has completed the selection of the slate of new directors for this year. Five spots were filled. The appointments will be made at the

June 5 board meeting. Board diversity continues to be strong, with more than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the board being people of color, and the increase of female directors by one after this slate.

**h. Northern Illinois University Foundation**

Catherine Squires, Vice President for Advancement and President & CEO of the NIU Foundation, will provide a verbal report.

## **REQUEST TO TRANSITION TENURE HOME**

**Summary:** NIU's Hospitality and Tourism Management program prepares students for careers in hotel operations, food service, event management and other such industries with an emphasis on understanding the industry's complex business environment. This program has a strong business component; to leverage existing expertise and industry connections, the program will transition to a new degree emphasis within the College of Business (COB). As part of this transition, a tenured faculty from this program within the School of Family and Consumer Sciences in the College of Health and Human Sciences will change her tenure home to the Department of Marketing in the College of Business.

**Background:** Dr. Eunha Myung, Professor in the School of Family and Consumer Sciences, to Professor with tenure in the Department of Marketing.

**Funding:** Dr. Myung will receive a small salary adjustment to reflect the salary differential between the two departments.

**Recommendation:** The Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request to change the tenure home of Dr. Myung as stated above.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FACULTY TENURE AND/OR  
PROMOTION EFFECTIVE 2021-2022**

<u>NAME</u>	<u>COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL</u>
<b><u>Promotion from Associate Professor to Professor</u></b>	
Scott Balcerzak	English
Meghann Cefaratti	Accountancy
Lara Crowley	English
Aleksandra Giza	Art and Design
Jennifer Gray	Health Studies
Janice Hamlet	Communication
Mitchell Irwin	Anthropology
Jeffrey Kidder	Sociology
Melanie Koss	Curriculum and Instruction
Michael Kushnick	Allied Health & Communicative Disorders
Michelle Lilly	Psychology
Shanthi Muthuswamy	Engineering Technology
Janet Olson	Allied Health & Communicative Disorders
David Paige (Short-Track)	Curriculum and Instruction
Nicholas Pohlman	Mechanical Engineering
Mark Riley	Accountancy
Diane Rodgers	Sociology
Alecia Santuzzi	Psychology
Kheang Un	Political Science
Stephen Vilaseca	World Languages and Cultures
Donna Werderich	Curriculum and Instruction
Corrine Wickens	Curriculum and Instruction
<b><u>Tenure and Promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor</u></b>	
Hamed Alhoori	Computer Science
Shannon Becker	World Languages and Cultures
Mandy Faretta-Stutenberg	World Languages and Cultures
Melissa Fickling	Counseling & Higher Education
Jeremy Floyd	Theatre and Dance
Benedito Fonseca, Jr.	Electrical Engineering
Allison Gladfelter	Allied Health & Communicative Disorders
Furkan Gur	Management
Andrea Guzman	Communication
Ryan Hibbett (Short-Track)	English
Jennifer Jacobs (Early)	Kinesiology & Physical Education
Lisa Liberty	Special & Early Education
Mark Mellon (Short-Track)	Accountancy
Matt Pickard (Short-Track)	Accountancy
Eunju Rho (Short-Track)	Public Administration
Iman Salehinia	Mechanical Engineering

**Tenure and Promotion from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor (cont.)**

Daniel Sibley	Family and Consumer Sciences
Matthew Smith	World Languages and Cultures
Shupei Yuan (Early)	Communication
Haiming Zhou	Statistics and Actuarial Science

**Tenure Only at the Rank of Associate Professor**

Daniel McConkie	Law
David Rosenfeld	Law

**Recommendation:** The Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Recommendations for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2021-2022.

## **RENEWAL OF BLACKBOARD LEARN SOFTWARE LICENSE**

**Summary:** Academic Affairs and the Division of Information Technology (DoIT) requests permission to extend the Blackboard, Inc. Learn Suite (Learn, Community System, Content System, and Collaborate,) and Training and Development Manager (TDM) for a one-year term (8/9/2021 – 8/8/2022).

The Blackboard Learn Platform is a virtual learning environment and course management system that allows distribution and receipt of class material by faculty and students, delivery of tests and surveys, capturing and reporting of grades, participation in synchronous and asynchronous discussions, and many other course-related activities. The Blackboard mobile apps enable access to NIU's Blackboard Learn system through mobile devices.

Blackboard Training and Development Manager (TDM) is a new Software as a Service (SaaS) product that NIU will be piloting this summer which will provide support for individuals who are seeking access to non-credit training and educational programming, as well as to non-matriculated students who are seeking access to for-credit offerings. These learners would be able to create their own accounts; browse the available offerings; register for a course, event, or training program; and pay a fee during registration.

**Background:** Blackboard is used campus wide at NIU and is the primary tool used to deliver course content and manage courses online. This software has become a critical enterprise system to NIU's faculty, staff, and students. Blackboard is used by over 1,500 faculty and teaching staff, and by nearly every NIU student taking traditional on-campus classes, blended, and/or online classes.

NIU is finishing the final year of a three-year contract with Blackboard, expiring August 8, 2021. The Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) and DoIT began coordinating a review of learning management systems (LMS) in the fall of 2020. The evaluation is broad in scope with input from faculty, staff, and students. This review includes in-depth feature comparison and demonstrations of the leading learning management systems used in higher education today.

The LMS review process is expected to be completed in time for the selected vendor and pricing to be presented at the June 2021 Board of Trustees meeting. This one-year purchase of Blackboard Learn licensing will allow NIU time to plan for and enact a seamless migration, should a new LMS vendor be selected.

This contract has been published and approved as a sole source on the Illinois Public Higher Education Procurement Bulletin. Approval was sought and granted by the state for this one-year extension in order to provide NIU sufficient time to migrate to a potential new LMS vendor.

**Funding:** Appropriated/Income Funds - \$410,005

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Renewal of Blackboard Learn Software License.

Amount Approved for FY21: \$348,874



## **SMART GUIDANCE**

**Summary:** Academic Affairs requests approval to purchase an additional module available within the Educational Advisory Board's (EAB) Navigate technology platform called Smart Guidance. Smart Guidance provides curated guidance, planning and onboarding tools directly to students via mobile and web applications, so they can make informed decisions and complete critical tasks at the most pivotal moments in their journey toward degree completion.

**Background:** At the December 5, 2019 Board of Trustees Meeting, the Board approved the University's purchase of a five-year term membership in EAB's Student Success Collaborative (SSC). The SSC membership includes access to a comprehensive student success management technology platform called Navigate, which is widely utilized across campus. The request today is to purchase an additional module available within the Navigate platform, called Smart Guidance.

Smart Guidance provides a mobile-native and web-based application offering self-service tools to students, which enables tailored support at scale to assist students along their journey. The key Smart Guidance features are comprised of two primary features: Milestone Guidance and Academic Planning. The Milestone Guidance features include tools designed to assist students with finding a major that fits their career goals, complete key institutional milestones, and monitor their own progress through graduation. The Academic Planning component includes an interactive, highly intuitive set of features for building optimized academic plans, adding courses to a best-fit schedule, registering for courses in real time, and collaborating with advisors – all within a single platform accessible on student's mobile devices.

The capabilities provided with Smart Guidance may enhance the student experience for both on-campus students as well as students learning remotely. These additional features expand the University's ability to provide the support each individual student needs to succeed. At the same time, these features streamline some often-time-consuming advisory tasks, which may enable advisors to refocus this capacity on efforts that drive student persistence and success.

This proposed purchase includes Smart Guidance for the term July 1, 2021 through December 11, 2024, aligned with the existing SSC/Navigate membership term. The anticipated cost is approximately \$80,000 annually, for a total anticipated cost of approximately \$280,000. Funding will be shared between federal relief grant funds and appropriated funds.

**Funding:** Grant and appropriated funds \$280,000

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for Smart Guidance.

## BEVERAGE PROGRAM (FISCAL YEAR 2022-FISCAL YEAR 2027 WITH OPTIONS)

**Summary:** Northern Illinois University wishes to enter into an exclusive Beverage Pouring Rights and Beverage Vending Agreement with Bottling Group, LLC, for fountain dispensing, vending, and retail beverage products for all NIU campuses. Bottling Group, LLC will also outfit all locations with vending machines that carry a variety of products satisfactory to the student, faculty, staff, and other populations they will serve. Bottling Group, LLC offers the University the best overall beverage program, inclusive of a wide range of beverage products that meet the needs of the entire University, at the most advantageous pricing structure.

To ensure the best-discount pricing and the most advantageous package offering from the awarded vendor, the initial proposed Agreement would be for a five-year period of coverage, from FY22 through FY27, with one additional five-year renewal term option through FY32. NIU Board of Trustees (BoT) approval is being sought only for the initial five-year term. In the event the University wishes to renew the Agreement beyond that time frame, additional BoT approval would be sought at that time.

**Background:** The request for proposal (RFP) process for exclusive pouring rights and beverage vending was conducted after previous attempts failed in 2019 and 2020. The current RFP, #JMT1220, has concluded and as a result, NIU would like to propose entering into an Agreement with Bottling Group, LLC. This is the same vendor that previously held the campus pouring rights from June 2010 through June 2020 and has honored the previous Agreement pricing while RFPs were under way. Based on the proposed new Agreement, NIU would agree to set pricing and cost increases over the term of the Agreement, and in return receive guaranteed payments based on volumes sold for commissions, annual sponsorship and marketing payments, and an allotment of free product for university use.

For the initial five-year period, the maximum anticipated spend is \$1,250,000.

Award of the RFP and Agreement are pending final approvals from the Board of Trustees and the Chief Procurement Officer, in accordance with NIU and State of Illinois policies and procedures. The RFP competitive selection award will be posted in the Illinois Public Higher Education Procurement Bulletin.

**Funding:** Institutional – Revenue Bond \$ 1,250,000

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Beverage Program (Fiscal Year 2022-Fiscal Year 2027 with Options).

## MUSIC BUILDING – PARTIAL ROOF REPLACEMENT CAPITAL PROJECT APPROVAL

**Summary:** The Music Building roof has been in need of replacement and was already prioritized for state funding under the Capital Renewal program. Unfortunately, the state-funded repair project may not occur until summer 2022 at the earliest, and conditions have deteriorated significantly. Numerous water infiltration problems have been disruptive to the building occupants during this spring's thaw period, and immediate action is necessary.

After multiple attempts at temporary repairs, it has been determined that a more extensive repair is required in advance of the larger state-funded repair project next year. The scope of this NIU-funded project will address areas with the most need (about 20% of the entire roof), leaving the remainder of the roof to be completed later under the state project, as required.

**Background:** The original built-up roof on the Music Building was installed in 1972. While portions of the roof system have been replaced in past years, approximately 75% or 55,000 square feet is original, well beyond its useful life and has only had patching and miscellaneous repair work performed to this point.

The scope of work for this project will include replacement of approximately 17,000 square feet of roofing on the east and south perimeter roofs of the main section of the Music Building. The work will include removal of all existing roofing materials down to the existing roof deck. New insulation will be installed with a new roof membrane system. The work will be completed by outside contractors under the coordination of a NIU project manager prior to the fall semester.

**Funding:** Institutional – Local funds - \$500,000

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of the request for the Music Building – Partial Roof Replacement Capital Project Approval.

## CONVOCATION CENTER – ARENA AND AUXILIARY GYM LIGHTING UPGRADE CAPITAL PROJECT APPROVAL

**Summary:** The Convocation Center arena and auxiliary gym lighting system is original to the 2002 building and has been vulnerable to unexpected outages due to the age of the lighting control technology. These outages can significantly affect the variety of university-wide activities, including commencement, various student fairs, sporting, and entertainment events, as well as community events by causing interruptions and creating a potential safety hazard for attendees. To minimize this vulnerability and provide enhanced energy conservation, this project will replace the existing lighting fixtures and provide a new control system. Leveraging LED technology, this project will reduce energy consumption and provide a savings pay back in under six years.

**Background:** The existing 230 high intensity discharge metal halide (HID) light fixtures within the arena will be replaced with approximately 84 LED fixtures to provide the same illumination levels. Fixtures in the auxiliary gym will be replaced one for one. The new LED technology should be five-times longer lasting than the previous HID type bulbs and provide higher reliability with the new wireless control system. The work will be completed prior to the fall semester by outside contractors and in-house workforces under the coordination of a NIU project manager.

**Funding:** Institutional - Local funds - \$316,000

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval of the request for the Convocation Center – Arena and Auxiliary Gym Lighting Upgrade Capital Project Approval.

## OUTBOUND TICKET SALES VENDOR AGREEMENT

**Summary:** Intercollegiate Athletics is requesting permission to execute a third-party vendor outbound ticket sales service agreement with TayMar Sales U., LLC. A short-term contract with the vendor was entered into from April 1, 2020-June 30, 2021, with the possibility of extending from June 30, 2021, through June 30, 2023, once the department (1) verified a need for continued services in light of COVID-19 impacts on sporting events and (2) assessed the performance of the current vendor.

The full contractual obligation extends from April 1, 2020, through June 30, 2023, for a not to exceed (NTE) amount of \$400,000.

This contract qualifies for a Procurement exemption, including a Business Enterprise Program (BEP) exemption, as payment for the vendor is generated by the services provided under the agreement. The award will be advertised in the *Illinois Procurement Bulletin* for FY21 for outbound ticket sales related to athletic and Convocation Center events.

**Background:** Intercollegiate athletics engages in multiple types of athletic and special event ticket sales. Many are inbound sales where the customer contacts members of the athletic department in the box office and makes requests, or customers are previous ticket buyers and are contacted by athletic department staff for renewals of previous single event or season ticket purchases.

This service agreement deals with the engagement and sales of previously unsolicited or non-recent purchasers for single and group ticket sales to athletic and special ticketed events. The vendor provides professional sales staff to make outbound calls, visits, and contacts to produce sales revenue and increase attendance through targeted engagements and activations. There are currently only three vendors in this industry who manage accounts with multiple National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division 1 institutions that sponsor Football Bowl Subdivision programming. TayMar Sales U, Inc., is the vendor that offers a business model most in line with the financial direction that Intercollegiate Athletics and the University operates and overall, best fits the University’s needs.

This agreement has weekly and quarterly reporting deliverables to share revenues produced and contacts made. The vendors will work collaboratively with our ticket sales and marketing teams to reach the regional market. Partnering with a vendor for outbound ticket sales allows Athletics’ internal full-time staff to focus on high levels of customer service, promote renewal customers and annual supporters of University engagement, and maximize box office operational efficiencies.

**Funding:** Institutional – Local Funds

TayMar Sales U., LLC..... NTE \$400,000

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Outbound Ticket Sales Vendor Agreement.

## AIR CHARTER SERVICES FOR NIU FOOTBALL TEAM

**Summary:** Intercollegiate Athletics wishes to enter into an exclusive agreement with a nationally known air charter service provider for booking and managing all necessary air travel carriers and services for the 2021-2023 NIU football seasons.

To ensure the continuous high level of customer service and the University's ability to secure the most advantageous pricing through the awarded vendor, the proposed Agreement would be for a three-year period of coverage, from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. Costs are not expected to exceed \$1.3M over the three years, based on historical use.

**Background:** Northern Illinois University would be granting an Air Charter broker company the rights to purchase and manage air travel services for the 2021, 2022, and 2023 NIU Football Teams. For 2021, the team will fly out of Rockford, IL, for games at: Georgia Tech University, Atlanta, Georgia, September 4; Kent State, Kent, Ohio, November 3; University of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY, November 17. The 2022 and 2023 football seasons will be released in the spring of those years and necessary flights secured through this agreement. Request for Proposal PSCMCHB03022021 was issued and advertised in the *Illinois Procurement Bulletin*.

**Funding:** Institutional – Local Funds

Air Planning ..... \$ 1,300,000

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for Air Charter Services for NIU Football Team.

## SECONDARY STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRACT RENEWAL

**Summary:** Intercollegiate Athletics requires annual secondary health insurance to meet the insurance coverage needs for student athlete accident claims for athletically related illnesses and injuries. The secondary insurance is required in addition to coverage that the student athletes may have through their own primary insurance. The secondary insurance product being purchased has been designed uniquely and specifically for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) members with the Master Policy form negotiated on behalf of the schools in accordance with NCAA regulations. Effective date of policy will be August 1, 2021.

**Background:** This FY22 approval amount is for the NCAA Group Basic Accident Medical Program Insurance Plan, administrative fees (approximately 18%), and aggregate deductible claims coverage for a two-year benefit period per student athlete accident, available through Relation Insurance Services (formerly Ascension Benefits & Insurance Solutions)/Mutual of Omaha Insurance Company as agent and third-party claims administration. This renewal is year eight of nine, one-year renewal options to be determined annually based on a Request for Proposal opened on July 16, 2013. The renewal award will be advertised in the *Illinois Procurement Bulletin*.

**Funding:** Local funds

Relation Insurance Services/Mutual of Omaha – Salt Lake City, UT..... \$535,000  
(Formerly Ascension Benefits & Insurance Solutions)

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Secondary Student Health Insurance Contract Renewal.

Amount Approved for FY21: \$325,000

**NIU FOUNDATION PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICES CONTRACT**

**Summary:** The Northern Illinois University Foundation, an independent organization, operates to support the mission of Northern Illinois University through fundraising, asset management, and related support activities. Among such activities, the Foundation coordinates and manages cultivation, solicitation, acknowledgment, and receipting of all gifts; administers, invests, and disburses funds; maintains all constituent records; manages and coordinates communications with constituents; and performs alumni relations activities. The FY22 contract amount assessed is \$743,600, which covers salaries and other expenses for designated employees as well as a portion of programmatic services in accordance with contract obligations.

**Background:** The University and the Foundation annually enter into a contract which serves to outline the fundraising services and activities to be provided by the Foundation on behalf of the University each year. This contractual agreement is in accordance with the Legislative Audit Commission Guidelines. The amount represents no change over FY21.

**Funding:** Appropriated/Income Funds

Northern Illinois University Foundation – DeKalb, IL.....\$743,600

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract.

Amount Approved for FY20: \$743,600

Amount Approved for FY21: \$743,600



**TALENT ACQUISITION/ADVERTISING CONSULTING FIRM  
AFFIRMATIVE ACTION/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY**

**Summary:** Northern Illinois University (NIU) is requesting approval to enter into a 4-year (FY22-FY25) contract with a recruitment and professional advertising consulting firm in support of Academic Diversity and Equity and Inclusion (ADEI) a process for advertising and job postings. As an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer, the University is committed to recruiting and retaining a qualified, diverse workforce. Affirmative Action is completing a request for proposal (RFP) to secure the contract with a vendor that possesses experience working with a large state University in the Chicago area. The awarded vendor will support NIU’s strategic advertising of faculty and staff employment vacancies. Typical positions advertised under this contract may include administrative and executive level titles, Faculty, Supportive Professional Staff, and Civil Service positions.

**Background:** In the past, the University has contracted with a third-party vendor to strictly advertise NIU’s vacant job openings in diverse publications throughout the world. This has resulted in some success in diversifying faculty and staff at NIU. However, it is anticipated the new vendor will enhance existing marketing, branding and social media outreach for all NIU employment vacancies.

**Funding:** Agency Funds

*Vendor to be determined.....\$400,000.00*

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Talent Acquisition/Advertising Consulting Firm Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity.

## CAMPUS PRINTER/COPIER PROGRAM CONTRACT RENEWAL

**Summary:** The Division of Information Technology (DoIT) is requesting permission to issue an order for renewal of the campus copier/printer program consisting of approximately 400 Canon multi-function devices (MFD) of various configurations and three Canon high-speed production devices. Last year’s quantity of campus-wide printed pages was approximately 9,500,000.

This program is provided under a rental agreement based on a flat rate per copy charge, which includes all equipment, toner, and maintenance. Devices are operated with a campus printer card controller system. Peripheral devices, such as fax boards and networking cards, are included in the contract. This is the final year of nine, one-year renewal options based on a bid opened December 2, 2011 under RFP#-WLC127824. The renewal award will be advertised in the Illinois Procurement Bulletin.

**Background:** Considering the reduction in print volume due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the total anticipated spend with the Gordon Flesch Co. in FY21 is \$650,000 and is comprised of the following two components:

1. Campus Fleet Printing: FY21 spending for Campus Fleet Printing is approximately 80% of the total spend. The negotiated rates with Gordon Flesch Co. are between 9% and 37% lower for monochrome printing, and 50% lower for color printing. This puts NIU on track for a cumulative savings in print of \$4M since May of 2016, despite seeing some increase year-over-year in print volume.
2. Campus Production Printing: FY21 spending for Campus Production Printing is approximately 20% of the total spend. Spending for FY22 is unpredictable due to uncertainty around when staff will return to Campus, thus driving high-volume prints through DoIT’s Integrated Media Technologies production operation.

**Funding:** Institutional/Local Funds

Gordon Flesch Co. – Geneva, IL.....	\$650,000
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**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Campus Printer/Copier Program Contract Renewal.

Amount Approved:

FY21: \$700,000  
 FY20: \$700,000  
 FY19: \$880,000

## CISCO HARDWARE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

**Summary:** The Division of Information Technology (DoIT) requests permission to purchase Cisco network and security maintenance for hardware, software, and 24 hour/7 days a week technical support for the university's campus-wide, Cisco-based enterprise network for FY22.

**Background:** To provide a robust, dependable, and stable network, the University's enterprise network infrastructure requires Cisco vendor maintenance support. This maintenance agreement, procured annually, via a one-year term, through an Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative (IPHEC) approved vendor, supports the entire campus-based network equipment infrastructure to assist DoIT in troubleshooting, break-fix repairs, and replacement of hardware in case of failure.

**Funding:** Institutional – Local Funds \$387,000

CDW Government, LLC, Vernon Hills, IL.....\$ 387,000

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Cisco Hardware Maintenance Contract.

Amount Approved for FY21: \$350,000

Amount Approved for FY20: \$400,000

## RENEWAL OF ONBASE SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE

**Summary:** The Division of Information Technology (DoIT) requests permission to renew a contract for Hyland (OnBase) Software Licensing, Support, and Maintenance Services for one year with two additional one-year renewal options. The maintenance services will provide for continued use and future growth of the OnBase workflow and imaging technology at NIU, supporting key administrative process enhancements as the campus continues to move towards electronic workflow modernization. The approval amount listed below covers the period August 1, 2021 - July 31, 2024. The intent is to award this contract as a sole source and will be advertised on the *Illinois Procurement Bulletin*.

**Background:** The OnBase application increases efficiency and reduces costs by helping to eliminate cumbersome and slow paper-based processing, replacing it with electronic documents and workflow that significantly reduces processing times and allows for a better allocation of resources. OnBase serves NIU by providing for enterprise content management, case management and business process management, document capture and enterprise application integration. It is available for use by all NIU students, faculty, and staff, and DoIT has built over 300 solutions that are used by 35 departments. NIU currently supports 200 user licenses to accommodate back office operations, and 100 concurrent user licenses that are used for more general tasks such as retrieving documents and submitting forms.

DoIT is focused on expanding the use of OnBase for document and workflow processing at NIU. OnBase maintenance and support services from Hyland Software allow the University to continue providing support, enhance our current implementation and allow for expansion of the enterprise document imaging and scanning services offered to the entire University. If able to offer additional concurrent licenses, OnBase capabilities could serve all campus.

**Funding:** Appropriated/Income Funds

Hyland Software – Westlake, OH.....\$ 460,000

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Renewal of OnBase Software Maintenance.

**ADOBE ENTERPRISE TERM LICENSE AGREEMENT (ETLA)**

**Summary:** The Division of Information Technology requests permission to enter into a three-year agreement with CDW-G for Adobe software suite during the license period August 21, 2021 – August 20, 2024. The suite of products included in the ETLA include Adobe Sign, which will be used in a trial to evaluate electronic signature methodologies at NIU, as part of ongoing electronic workflow modernization.

**Background:** The licensing under this agreement allows NIU to use Adobe’s Document Cloud, Creative Cloud and Adobe Sign application services. The Adobe Acrobat Document Cloud service is licensed for the use by faculty and staff and allows for PDF document creation, edit, fill and sign functionality. Adobe’s Creative Cloud is licensed for students and faculty in coursework that requires functionality like Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and more.

**Funding:** Appropriated

CDW-G..... \$510,000

**Recommendation:** The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval of the request for the Adobe Enterprise Term License Agreement (ETLA).

Amount Approved for FY21: \$161,000

## **ORAL ENGLISH PROFICIENCY ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020**

The governing boards of Illinois public institutions are required by Public Act 84-1434 (110 ILCS 685/30-70) to take appropriate steps to ensure the oral English language proficiency of all individuals who provide classroom instruction. In order to comply with this statute, universities are expected to implement policies and practices that verify oral English language proficiency in the delivery of classroom instruction. It is further required by NIU Board of Trustees Regulations, Section 1., F., that the university maintain a record of this compliance on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Northern Illinois University has taken a series of steps to make certain that classroom instruction is not affected by lack of English proficiency. Graduate teaching assistants whose native language is not English and who are engaged in oral instruction in the classroom must have achieved a score of at least 50 on the Speaking Proficiency English Assessment Kit (SPEAK), or its equivalent (unless the language of instruction is not English). The university offers assistance for instructors and faculty to improve their oral English proficiency beyond the minimum requirement. This is done through clinics in two departments: 1) the English as a Second Language (ESL) Clinic in the Department of English; and 2) the Speech, Language and Hearing Clinic in the Department of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders. These efforts have resulted in a decline in the number of student complaints related to oral English proficiency.

The oral English proficiency requirement of the State of Illinois is clearly communicated in several university publications, including the Student Handbook, the Undergraduate Catalog, and the Graduate Catalog. Included in these announcements of the policy is the procedure by which students can communicate any complaints.

All academic departments are asked annually to document student complaints regarding English proficiency and the corrective actions that were taken to remedy the problem. All student complaints are investigated and prompt action is taken as appropriate. No records of complaints were received during the previous academic year.

The departmental reports are kept on file in the Office of the Provost.

Northern Illinois University

**COMPLAINTS REGARDING ORAL ENGLISH COMMUNICATION  
OF INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL**

**Academic Year 2019-2020**

**No complaints were reported.**

<b>Complaint Number</b>	<b>Departmental Unit</b>	<b>Professional Status of Instructional Person</b>	<b>Resolution</b>

## **POLICE CHIEF SEARCH UPDATE**

At the December 10, 2020 Board meeting, the Board authorized the President to select executive search firms for the appointment of executive level positions. It was further recommended that the President periodically report back to the Board regarding selection and status of such searches. Further, provisions of Public Act 97-0814 and the Northern Illinois University policy on the use of external search firms approved by the Board of Trustees on May 23, 2013, allow the use of an external search firm for senior level positions when needed. Due to the recent retirement of the police chief, the president's office will be utilizing an executive search firm per the approval of the Board of Trustees as noted. The executive search firm will offer the University the ability to assist in identifying and recruiting diverse candidates, as well as, conducting in-depth research and background checks on potential candidates for the police chief position. The search firm's network of candidates and ability to maintain confidentiality, will be essential for this search.



## **LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM REVIEW**

Northern Illinois University (NIU) is in the final year of a three-year contract with Blackboard, the current Learning Management System (LMS) vendor. While faculty usage and overall satisfaction with Blackboard remains high, the university hasn't conducted a formal evaluation of other LMS systems in many years.

The university is conducting a LMS review during the 2020-2021 academic year. This evaluation is broad in scope with input from faculty, staff and students on not only their current satisfaction with NIU's current LMS but also what features are desired in a LMS moving forward. Through NIU's partnership with Internet2, the top three leading LMS platforms in Higher Education – Blackboard Learn, D2L Brightspace, and Instructure Canvas – are being reviewed to ensure that we select a platform that will serve the core interests of the university for years to come. The evaluation will supply the data to prepare a recommendation on whether an alternative LMS should be considered at this time. A website has been developed for the project with complete details, available at [www.niu.edu/lms-review](http://www.niu.edu/lms-review).

Executive Director of the Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) Jason Rhode and Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer Matthew Parks will present a summary of the review process to date.

**NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE PARTNERSHIP UPDATE**

Staff from Student Affairs, in collaboration with Intercollegiate Athletics, will provide an overview of NIU's partnership with Northwestern Medicine.

**PLANS FOR FALL 2021**

Executive Vice President and Provost Beth Ingram will speak about the university's plan for the Fall 2021 semester.

**STATE LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

Chief of Staff and Liaison to the Board of Trustees Dr. Matt Streb, will provide a verbal report.

**FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

This report covers the period of February through April 2021 and encompasses NIU equities across the federal government.

**U.S. Congress**

Committee assignments are finalized for the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress. Notably, Congresswoman Lauren Underwood (D-IL-14) now serves on the House Appropriations Committee where she is assigned to the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, and the Subcommittee on Homeland Security. First-term member Congresswoman Mary Miller (R-IL-15) serves on the Education and Labor Committee, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, and Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions, and the Agriculture Committee. First-term member Congresswoman Marie Newman (D-IL-3) serves on the Small Business Committee, and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

**COVID-19 Relief**

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act became law. The \$1.9 trillion bill passed both chambers on party-line votes, which required using the budget reconciliation process in the Senate. The bill provides \$39.58 billion for higher education. As with previous COVID-19 relief bills, these funds are distributed through a Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) structure. The bill does not include more funding specifically for the Governors Education Emergency Relief (GEER) fund. Table 1 summarizes the allocations for NIU and Illinois from the three COVID-19 relief bills. The U.S. Department of Education has not released the allocation for NIU so estimates from the American Council on Education (ACE) and Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) are shown.

The bill does include \$350 billion in direct aid to state and local governments. It also includes \$600 million for the National Science Foundation for grant extensions, scholarships, fellowships, and related expenses, and it makes public universities eligible for federal payroll tax credits for paid sick and family leave related to COVID-19.

<b>Legislation</b>	<b>Date enacted</b>	<b>NIU allocation: HEERF student aid</b>	<b>NIU allocation: HEERF institution aid</b>	<b>Illinois allocation: GEER Fund</b>
CARES Act	March 27, 2020	\$7.4 million	\$7.4 million	\$108.49 million
CRRSAA	December 27, 2020	\$7.4 million	\$16.3 million	\$47.9 million
American Rescue Plan Act	March 11, 2021	\$20.76 million (ACE Estimate)  \$21.34 million (APLU Estimate)	\$20.76 million (ACE Estimate)  \$21.1 million (APLU Estimate)	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$35.56 to 36.14 million</b>	<b>\$44.46 to 44.8 million</b>	<b>\$156.39 million</b>

Table 1. NIU and Illinois allocations from recent COVID-19 relief legislation.

The COVID-19 related conversation among policymakers now focuses on post-pandemic recovery. President Biden has released the outlines of a \$2 trillion infrastructure plan called the American Jobs Plan. Among the many proposed investment areas is \$50 billion for the National Science Foundation. The Biden Administration has said they will release another recovery proposal that includes more of a focus on education in the near future. While Senate Democrats have a path for using budget reconciliation again this year to advance pandemic recovery legislation, it is anticipated to be a heavy lift to get these proposals through both chambers.

### **Appropriations**

The Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) appropriations process is underway. President Biden has released a \$1.52 trillion budget blueprint. It provides a 16% year-on-year increase for nondefense agencies and a 1.7% year-on-year increase for defense. The request includes raising the maximum Pell grant award by \$400 while noting it is part of a plan to double Pell. The budget contains significant boosts to federal research agencies, including \$51 billion for the National Institute of Health (+\$9 billion) and \$10.2 billion for the National Science Foundation (+\$1.7 billion). The proposal invests heavily in climate science research and development across multiple federal science agencies. More details will be available when the full President's Budget Request is released in the coming weeks.

Congress has begun working on FY22 appropriations as well. Congress has not determined the top-line spending levels for FY22. The House of Representatives has agreed to reinstate congressionally directed spending, formerly known as earmarks, in a limited capacity. Community Project Funding (CPF) is limited to specific agencies and programs, includes a number of transparency and ethics guardrails, and each congressional office can submit only ten CPF requests. NIU has submitted three CPF proposals to members of the Illinois congressional delegation. As of this writing, the Senate has not reached an agreement on the return of congressionally directed spending.

### **The Administration**

Dr. Miguel Cardona was confirmed as Secretary of Education. His experience is primarily in K-12 education and his most recent position was Connecticut's state commissioner of education.

### **Federal Engagement with NIU**

On March 16, 2021, Professor Beth Gaillard virtually hosted Congresswoman Lauren Underwood and local high school students as part of the Congresswoman's STEM Academy. Professor Gaillard discussed her research and personal experience as a scientist.

Congressman Adam Kinzinger was the third virtual speaker in the CLAS Rebuilding Democracy Lecture Series on March 30, 2021. It was a wide-ranging conversation covering his work on Capitol Hill and his thoughts on democracy at home and abroad.

## SPONSORED PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION QUARTERLY REPORT

This report covers sponsored funding data for the first three quarters of fiscal year 2021 (FY21). As of March 31, 2021, NIU received 139 awards totaling \$45.2 million (Figure 1). This represents an 87% funding increase over this time last year. While COVID-19 relief funds account for a significant share of this increase, faculty and staff continue to remain competitive for sponsored awards despite the ongoing impacts of the pandemic.

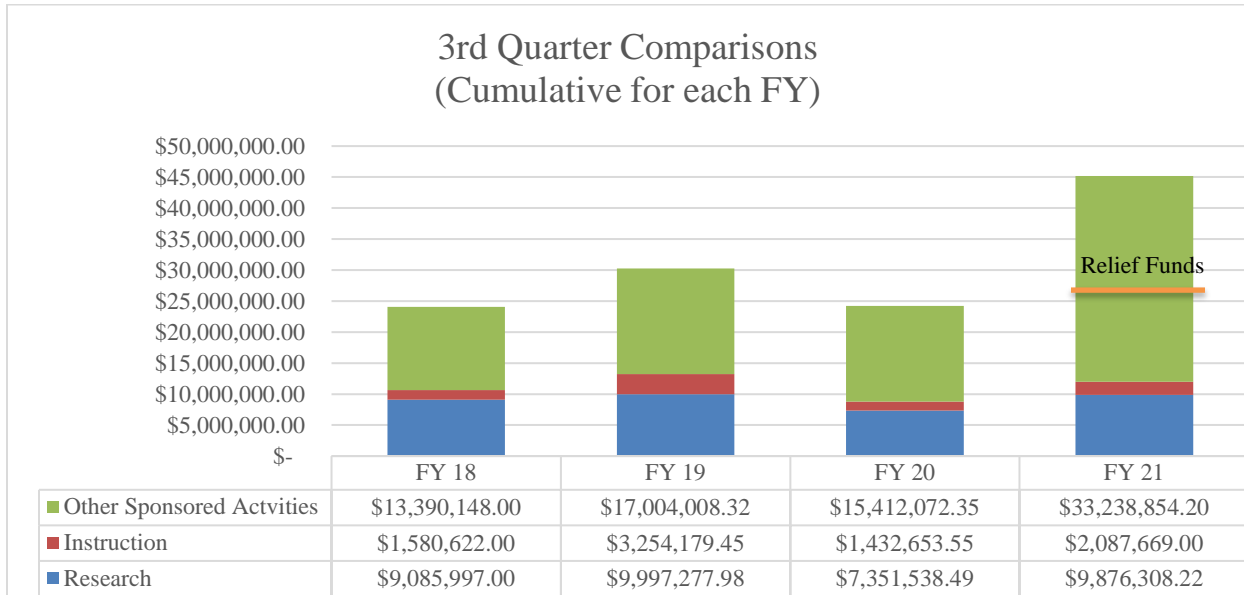


Figure 1

Funding from the U.S. Department of Education (USED) accounted for 64% of all funding for Other Sponsored Activities. See Figure 2. This includes Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA) funding and the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) grants awarded to NIU from the Illinois Board of

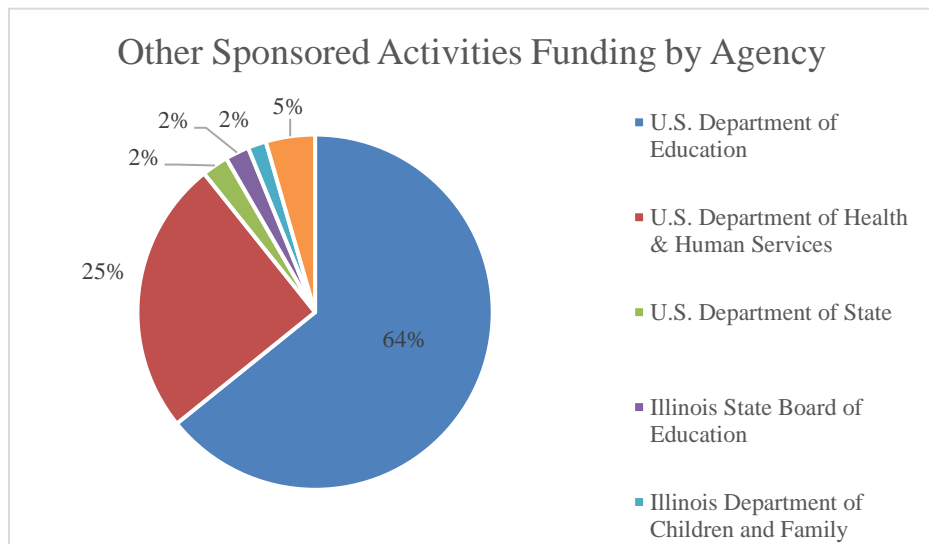


Figure 2 –Other Sponsored Activities includes public service and all other activities other than instruction and research.

Higher Education. Funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) includes contractual programs with State of Illinois agencies to support state and regional public service programs ranging from domestic violence intervention to child protective services.

Awards from the USED accounted for almost half of all funding for Instructional programs. See Figure 3. These USED awards are for student training programs. They do not include any federal COVID-19 relief support. One program is led by faculty in the Department of Psychology to train educators to manage bullying behaviors in K-12 settings. Faculty in the Special and Early Education Department oversee graduate programs

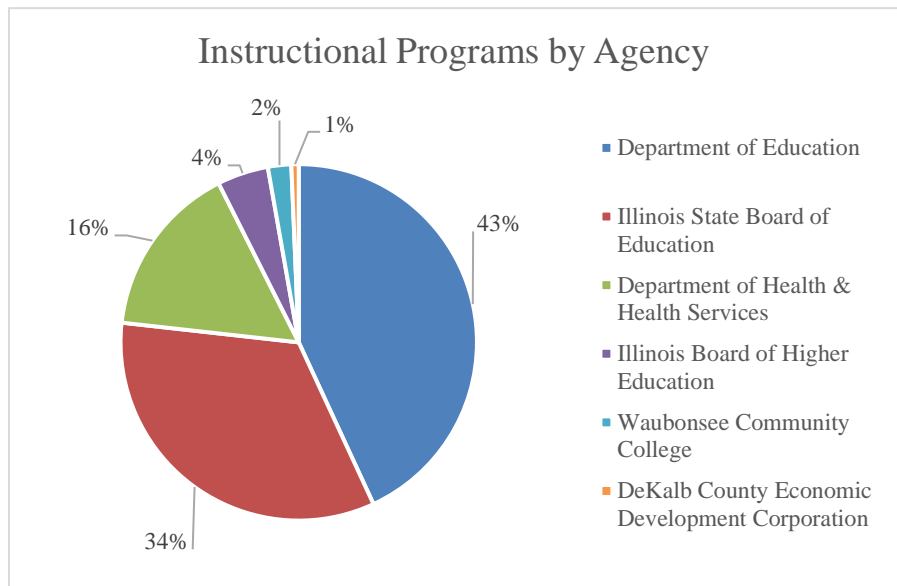


Figure 3

to prepare teachers to work with youth who are blind or visually impaired. Grants from the DeKalb County Economic Development Corporation and Waubonsee Community College provide essential funding for student internships.

Funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Department of Energy (DOE) continue

to account for half of NIU's research funding. See Figure 4. Agreements with Argonne National Laboratory and Fermilab for research and joint appointments remain the dominant source of DOE funds. Other sponsors for research include the University of Illinois for support of NIU's projects through the Illinois Innovation Network (IIN). IIN projects include STEM education to train Illinois' K-12 teachers and environmental sustainability efforts to

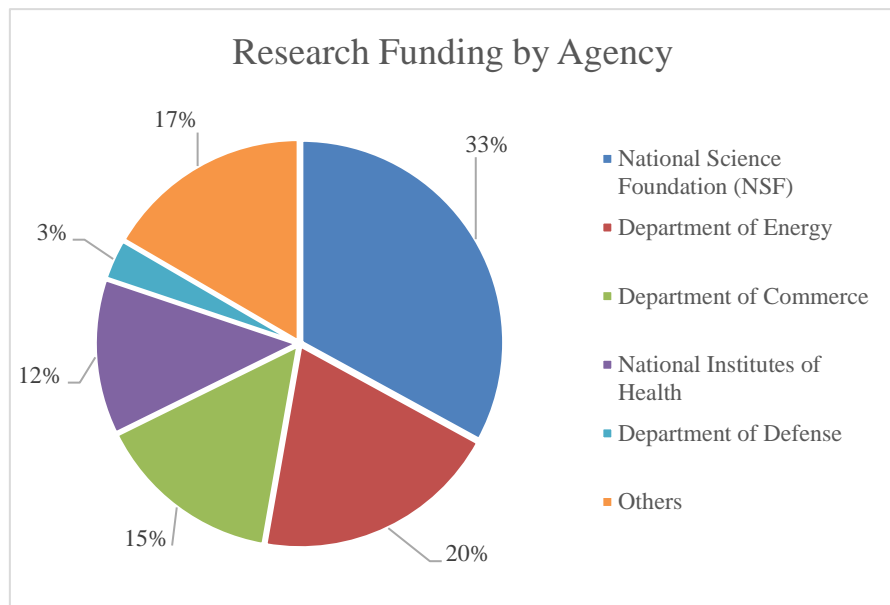


Figure 4

protect our water supply. Faculty in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology are also partnering with the University of Illinois on research and STEM education projects as part of their partnership with the Illinois Space Grant Consortium (ISGC).

### COVID-19

Table 1 provides the status of COVID-19 funding actions through SPA from March 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021. Awards reported in this table include funding received in both FY20 and FY21. The institutional portion of funding through the American Rescue Plan (ARP), estimated at \$20.7 million, is currently pending receipt from the USED. The student aid portion of relief funds are not included in this report.



Table 1: Total COVID-19 Relief Funding

COVID-19 Related Projects (as of March 31, 2021)		
Status	Total	# of Projects
<b>Awarded</b>	<b>\$27,657,374.35</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>CARES*</b>	\$23,803,408.00	3
<b>GEER</b>	\$3,402,142.09	2
<b>ARP**</b>	\$0.00	1
<b>Other</b>	\$451,824.26	4
<b>Pending</b>	<b>\$22,265,920.16</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>CARES*</b>	\$0	0
<b>GEER</b>	\$7,025.20	1
<b>CRRSAA*</b>	\$0	1
<b>ARP**</b>	\$20,700,000	1
<b>Other</b>	\$1,558,894.96	6
<b>Declined</b>	\$2,003,427.13	11
<b>Withdrawn</b>	\$3,839,859.00	2
<b>Total Funding Actions</b>	<b>\$55,766,580.64</b>	<b>32</b>

\* Figures do not include student aid portion of the CARES or CRRSAA funding. As noted in the August 2020 SPA report, financial aid will report these amounts.

\*\* Estimated institutional share through the American Rescue Plan (ARP).

SPA has recorded \$8.9 million in COVID-19 related expenses to grants with most of these expenses allocated to CARES and GEER awards. SPA has not been made aware of any significant disruptions or impacts on existing grants due to COVID-19.

Table 2 shows the distribution of funds across colleges and university units. Other university units hold a large share of funding due to the Division of Finance and Administration’s management of COVID-19 relief funding. In the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology, grants from the Illinois Space Grant Consortium, Fermilab, and private industry partners contribute to the large percentage increase.

Table 2: Funding distribution across colleges and units.

College/Division	Research	Inst.	Other	FY21	FY20	Change
<b>Business</b>	\$-	\$-	\$ -	\$-	\$ -	0%
<b>Education</b>	\$28,126	\$650,000	\$45,000	\$723,127	\$674,952	7%
<b>Engineering and Engineering Technology</b>	\$1,103,207	\$ -	\$ -	\$1,103,207	\$295,620	273%
<b>Health and Human Sciences</b>	\$816,536	\$1,032,619	\$421,473	\$2,270,628	\$1,427,606	59%
<b>Law</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
<b>Liberal Arts and Sciences</b>	\$6,361,424	\$263,905	\$9,439,124	\$16,054,453	\$13,631,674	18%
<b>Visual and Performing Arts</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$7,800	\$7,800	\$68,400	-89%
<b>Outreach and Engagement</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$3,265,515	\$3,265,515	\$5,639,143	-42%

<b>Other Academic Units</b>	\$1,567,014	\$141,145	\$666,234	\$2,374,393	\$2,458,869	-3%
<b>Other University Units</b>	\$ -	\$ -	\$19,393,707	\$19,393,708	\$ -	N/A
<b>Total</b>	\$9,876,308	\$2,087,669	\$33,239,854	\$45,202,831	\$24,196,264	87%

A detailed listing of awards follows.

## **ART MUSEUM**

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

Award: \$7,800.00.

October 16, 2020 - August 31, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

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

## **BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

*Bureau of Land Management/Department of the Interior for "Impacts of Historical Disturbance Regimes on Avian Conservation in Eastern Tallgrass Prairies." Holly Jones.*

Award: \$16,824.00.

August 1, 2020 - December 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

We aim to understand the impacts of bison reintroduction on bird communities in the three tallgrass prairies to which bison have been reintroduced in Illinois.

*Friends of Nachusa Grasslands for "Longitudinal Characterizing of Intestinal Microbial Ecology of Bison." Pallavi Singh.*

Award: \$2,000.00.

February 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

To perform a longitudinal study to assess the intestinal microbial population of the bison and its variation due to external factors including season, diet, water, and soil.

*Illinois Department of Natural Resources for "Illinois Blanding's Turtle Recovery Planning and Implementation." Richard B King.*

Award: \$259,047.60.

April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

To facilitate implementation of recovery actions by developing criteria by which Blanding's turtle recovery can be assessed, conducting research to further evaluate management strategies, and updating status assessments of less well-known populations.

## **CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF FAMILY VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT**

*Kansas State University for "Collection of Intimate Partner Violence Incident Data." Joel S Milner, Joe Ammar, Julie L Crouch.*

Award: \$75,000.00.

May 13, 2020 - September 30, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project will use an Automated Telephone Data Collection (ATDC) system collected from study participants to determine the extent to which new incidents of intimate partner violence (IPV) occur following an alleged incident of IPV.

*Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for "Domestic Violence Intervention Program FY21." Julie L Crouch, Matthew E Skarbek.*

Award: \$556,554.00.

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

NIU will coordinate and administer the Domestic Violence Intervention Program in conjunction with the DCFS Administrator of the program.

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

Award: \$40,000.00. Cumulative \$88,736.42.

October 1, 2020 - September 29, 2021. (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.

***Cherokee Nation Businesses for "Subcontract Relating to Air Force Family Advocacy Programs." Julie L Crouch, Joe A Ammar, Joel S Milner, Wendy J Travis.***

Award: \$417,000.33.

September 30, 2020 - September 29, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

NIU will assist with the evaluation and enhancement of the Air Force Family Advocacy Program and New Parent Support Program.

## **CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY**

***ChemNova Technologies, Inc. for "Nanocoatings for Multifunctional Applications." Chhiu-Tsu Lin.***

Award: \$10,000.00. Cumulative \$110,000.00.

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

The purpose of this project is to develop thermal conductive and cooling nanocomposites, NIR shielding and reflecting nanocomposites, and processes for large scale production of graphene.

***Argonne National Laboratory for "Investigating the Nano-catalyst with X-ray Technique." Tao Li.***

Award: \$22,918.14.

February 16, 2021 - September 30, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The objectives of this joint research activity include fundamental understanding of the relationship of the property and size and composition of the nano-catalyst and quantitative measurement of the size and composition of the catalysts.

## **CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY CENTER**

***Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies for "Child Care Restoration Grant." Amy S Lofthouse.***

Award: \$115,984.00. Cumulative \$259,915.00.

November 16, 2020 - December 31, 2020. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

These funds will provide supplemental revenue to assist the Child Development and Family Center, which has reduced capacity due to COVID-19 regulations.

## **COMPUTER SCIENCE**

***ProtonVDA Inc for "A Proton Tomography System for Optimization of Proton Therapy." Nicholas T Karonis, George B Coutrakon, Kirk L Duffin, John R Winans.***

Award: \$226,439.06. Cumulative \$475,044.06.

April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

NIU is part of a collaborative team with ProtonVDA and other institutions in joint research to

produce and test a fully functional prototype of a proton tomography system with all required clinical features.

## **CONTROLLER**

*Office of Postsecondary Education/Department of Education for "Northern Illinois University CARES Act Institutional Emergency Assistance Fund." Sarah E Chinniah, Shyree M Sanan.*

Award: \$16,315,819.00. Cumulative \$23,728,408.00.

May 11, 2020 – May 10, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.

CARES Act funding issued via Department of Education to provide emergency assistance funding for institutional costs related to COVID-19.

## **COUNSELING AND HIGHER EDUCATION**

*NASPA - Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education for "Flourishing in the Time of COVID-19: How Institutional Responses to COVID-19 Shape Students Well-Being." Gudrun Nyunt.*

Award: \$1,000.00.

September 17, 2020 - August 1, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The purpose of the study is to explore students' well-being during the fall 2020 semester, focusing particularly on the ways institutional responses to the Coronavirus pandemic are shaping students' well-being.

## **ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING**

*Hiwin Corporation for "Mechatronic System Sizing and Selection Tool." Hasan Ferdowsi.*

Award: \$34,999.17.

March 1, 2021 - January 15, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project will produce a web-interfaceable software platform for the sizing and selection of direct drive servos used in high performance motion control systems.

## **FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES**

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

Award: \$116,559.00. Cumulative \$800,180.00.

October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021. (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.

*Illinois Network of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies for "Gateways Early Childhood Education Credential Module Pilot." Melissa Cluca Walter, Florensia F Surjadi.*

Award: \$330,000.00.

February 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

NIU will pilot online Gateways ECE modules within existing courses during the Spring and Fall 2021 semesters and to non-degree seeking professionals who are looking to advance their ECE credential level.

## **GEOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC SCIENCES**

*National Science Foundation/NSF for "Collaborative Research: Advancing our Understanding of Intraseasonal U.S. Severe Convective Storm Variability." Victor Gensini.*

Award: \$474,682.00.

April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2024. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The core focus of our proposed work is to advance our community understanding of the physical mechanisms that drive intraseasonal variability in severe convective storms.

## **GEOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GEOSCIENCES**

*University of Illinois System for "Forever Chemicals: PFAS Detection, Fate, and Transport in Illinois." Melissa E Lenczewski, Kevin Tucker.*

Award: \$30,000.00.

January 21, 2021 - January 20, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

To increase the capabilities for detection of these compounds in soil and water at both institutions while examining fate and transport of PFAS in sediments found throughout the state of Illinois using laboratory experiments.

*National Science Foundation/NSF for "Collaborative Research: REU Site: Water Resources and Quality in the Riviera Maya, Mexico." Melissa E Lenczewski.*

Award: \$135,299.40. Cumulative \$414,283.00.

August 3, 2020 - August 31, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

To provide an opportunity for STEM undergraduate students interested in water sciences to carry out laboratory and field research under the supervision of faculty mentors from NIU, Northeastern Illinois University, and CICY.

*University of Illinois System for "Building a Sustainable Geo-STEM Learning Ecosystem for Illinois Teachers." Nicole D LaDue.*

Award: \$29,993.20.

June 1, 2021 - May 31, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This capacity-building project will establish collaborations between Illinois universities, science agencies, and teacher agencies to seed a state-wide GeoSTEM learning ecosystem.

## **GRADUATE SCHOOL**

*National Science Foundation/NSF for "NSF GRFP Del Valle." Bradley G Bond, Holly Jones.*

Award: \$46,000.00.

July 22, 2020 - June 30, 2023. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

To determine the impacts that reintroduced bison have on grassland breeding birds at varying spatial scales throughout the three preserves that support wild bison in eastern tallgrass prairies.

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

Award: \$46,000.00. Cumulative \$138,000.00.

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (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.

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

Award: \$13,365.00. Cumulative \$93,603.60.

September 8, 2020 - May 15, 2021. (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).

## **INDUSTRIAL AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING**

*Swenson Spreader LLC for "Process Improvements for Swenson Spreader LLC." Niechen Chen.*

Award: \$31,174.92.

March 15, 2021 - March 14, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The main objective of this project is to implement solutions that will enhance Swenson Spreader's capability to continuously deliver high-quality products and keep up with the growing demand.

*Triangle Package Machinery Company for "Process Improvement at Triangle Packaging Machinery Company." Purushothaman Damodaran.*

Award: \$86,999.00.

February 15, 2021 - February 14, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The project objective is to identify improvement opportunities and implement solutions in the areas of machine shop, stockroom and assembly. By improving the production of each area Triangle Packaging will be able to keep up with customer demand.

## **MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

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

Award: \$9,639.00. Cumulative \$51,578.00.

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021. (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.

*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign for "Expanding the Pipeline and Enhancing Education of Students Pursuing Careers in Space." John T Shelton.*

Award: \$141,297.70.

September 15, 2020 - September 14, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The overall goal of this project is to increase the number of students and enhance the education of students pursuing careers in space.

## **NORTHERN PUBLIC RADIO**

*Illinois State Library for "Northern Illinois Radio Information Service (NIRIS) FY21." Staci Hoste.*

Award: \$28,273.00.

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Other.

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.

## **PHYSICS**

*Argonne National Laboratory for "NIU to Argonne Joint Appointment: Dr. Andreas Glatz. FY21." Andreas Glatz.*

Award: \$2,781.86. Cumulative \$98,065.58.

August 16, 2020 - May 15, 2021. (Organized Research) IPA or Joint Appointment.

Funds are being used to support a joint appointment between NIU and Argonne National Laboratory for Dr. Andreas Glatz.

*Office of Science/Department of Energy for "Detector R&D: 5-D Dual-Readout Calorimetry for the Next Generation of HEP Experiments." Corrado Gatto, Jerry Blazey, Michael Syphers,*

***Vishnu V Zutshi.***

Award: \$100,000.00. Cumulative \$200,000.00.

May 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The purpose of this proposal is the development of a novel 5-D calorimetric that will allow significant improvements in particle identification and tractability of high-density particle environments.

***Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory for "Development of the MU2E Preliminary Design." David R Hedin.***

Award: \$122,075.10. Cumulative \$263,899.00.

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The purpose of this project is to support NIU's role in developing the Muon Beamstop, SiPM Characterization, and design of the Upstream Extinction Monitor.

***National Science Foundation/NSF for "Searches for New Phenomena at the Energy Frontier." Dhiman Chakraborty, Jahred A Adelman.***

Award: \$350,000.00. Cumulative \$900,000.00.

August 1, 2020 - July 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funds are requested to search for physics beyond the Standard Model using the ATLAS detector at the Large Hadron Collider.

***State University of New York at Stony Brook for "US ATLAS Operations." Dhiman Chakraborty.***

Award: \$72,516.57. Cumulative \$1,076,566.00.

February 1, 2020 - January 31, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funds are requested to develop and maintain the ATLAS calibration database and related software.

***State University of New York at Stony Brook for "US ATLAS Operations." Dhiman Chakraborty.***

Award: \$139,115.34. Cumulative \$1,076,566.00.

February 1, 2021 - January 31, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funds are requested to develop and maintain the ATLAS calibration database and related software.

***Argonne National Laboratory for "Synthesis and Characterization of Superconducting Pnictide Materials." Omar H Chmaissem.***

Award: \$54,520.20. Cumulative \$119,274.00.

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Diffuse scattering studies will be performed at the Advanced Photon Source at Argonne National Laboratory and utilizing the novel diffuse scattering instrument Corelli at the Spallation Neutron Source at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

***Argonne National Laboratory for "Structural Investigations of Advanced Functional Materials using Neutron and X-ray Scattering." Omar H Chmaissem.***

Award: \$43,659.00. Cumulative \$246,609.16.

April 1, 2021 - March 31, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project supports the research and supervision activities of NIU's Professor Omar Chmaissem within the Neutron and X-ray Scattering (NXRS) Group of the Materials Science Division at Argonne National Laboratory.

***Department of Energy for "High-Current Electron Sources for Superconducting Radiofrequency Injectors." Philippe Piot, Venumadhav R Korampally, Iman Salehinia.***

Award: \$59,999.94. Cumulative \$332,001.00.

September 25, 2020 - September 24, 2021. (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 "Application of Machine Learning to Particle-Accelerator Control." Philippe Piot.***

Award: \$38,000.34.

January 15, 2021 - January 14, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funding is requested for GRA to work on the Application of Machine Learning to Particle-Accelerator Control.

***Department of Energy for "Beam Dynamics Performances of a Superconducting Reentrant-Cavity Photoinjector with Applications to Free-Electron Lasers and Relativistic Ultra-fast Electron Nanoprobes." Philippe Piot.***

Award: \$65,000.48. Cumulative \$130,000.00.

May 1, 2021 - April 30, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

Funds are requested to develop a high-repetition-rate source of bright electrons.

***Argonne National Laboratory for "Xiao Joint Appointment NIU-ANL FY 21." Zhili Xiao.***

Award: \$117.02. Cumulative \$121,899.80.

August 16, 2020 - May 15, 2021. (Organized Research) IPA or Joint Appointment.

Funds are being used to support a joint appointment between NIU and Argonne National Laboratory for Dr. Zhili Xiao.

## **PRECOLLEGIATE-UPWARD BOUND**

***Office of Postsecondary Education/Department of Education for "Upward Bound Program." Felicia R Bohanon.***

Award: \$564,041.00. Cumulative \$2,245,323.00.

June 1, 2020 - May 31, 2021. (Other Sponsored Activities) Public Service.

Funds will be used to identify, select and serve 120 low-income, potential first-generation college students who lack the adequate preparation to successfully pursue a postsecondary education and need academic support.

## **PSYCHOLOGY**

***University of Michigan for "Teacher Learning to Facilitate Communication and Reasoning Through Inquiry with History and Social Science Sources." Anne Britt, Amanda M Durik.***

Award: \$14,303.00. Cumulative \$160,120.00.

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Basic Research.

This project will develop measures and devise scoring procedures to assess teachers' beliefs, conduct case studies, analyze, summarize, and interpret data relevant to teachers' beliefs.

***Illinois Department of Children and Family Services for "Integrated Assessment Program FY21." Laura D Pittman, Matthew E Skarbek.***

Award: \$6,817,267.00.

July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021. (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.

***National Institute of Mental Health/NIH/DHHS for "Mitigating Risk from Macroeconomic***



***Stress on Child Mental Health (Re-submission)." Liz Shelleby.***

Award: \$197,094.18.

January 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project will examine the potential for ParentCorps, a school-based preventive intervention found to promote positive parenting and child mental health, to buffer the effects of macroeconomic shock on children's mental health and family adjustment.

***Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services/Department of Education for "Project Prevent and Address Bullying Behavior at All Tiers (PPABB)." Michelle Demaray.***

Award: \$250,000.00.

October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021. (Instructional Programs) Instructional Programs.

This project will recruit, train, and graduate 12 school psychology and 12 special educator scholars with specialized interdisciplinary training in addressing bullying with expertise in applied behavior analysis.

## **SCHOOL OF INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH PROFESSIONS**

***Illinois Department of Public Health for "County Wide BRFSS." Kathryn D Mazurek.***

Award: \$315,000.00. Cumulative \$2,981,000.00.

January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

The purpose of this project is for data collection, data management, reporting and technical support on the Illinois County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveys.

## **SCHOOL OF HEALTH STUDIES**

***University of Illinois System for "Development and Identification of Predictors of a Novel Cancer Mortality Index in Illinois: Discovering Opportunities for Public Health Intervention." Courtney Hughes, Mahdi Vaezi.***

Award: \$30,000.00.

May 16, 2021 - May 15, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This study will develop a novel cancer mortality index based on the four common cancers in IL and investigate associations between the mortality index and cancer predictors.

***University of Illinois System for "Sustainable Water Supply System in Illinois using Innovative Electrochemical Treatment Technology." Tomoyuki Shibata, Kyu Taek Cho.***

Award: \$19,769.00.

February 15, 2021 - February 14, 2022. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

This project will investigate innovative improvements to the conventional centralized public water system in Illinois.

## **VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS**

***Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center for "IMEC Five Year Master Agreement." Jerry Blazey.***

Award: \$1,475,014.00.

October 1, 2020 - September 30, 2021. (Organized Research) Applied Research.

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

**OPEN ACCESS PRESENTATION**

Dean of University Libraries, Fred Barnhart, will provide a verbal presentation.

**FACULTY PRESENTATION**

Professor of Meteorology, Climatology, Hazards, and GIS, Dr. Walker Ashley, will provide a verbal presentation.

## QUARTERLY FINANCIAL SUMMARY FISCAL YEAR 2021 THIRD QUARTER AS OF MARCH 31, 2021

**Background:** To promote fiscal transparency within the NIU campus community and to provide the Board of Trustees opportunity to formally review the University's fiscal stewardship, a regular quarterly financial summary is presented here that summarizes activity through March 31, 2021 and projects expected full-year results based on currently available data and information.

The full-year projection presented today incorporates an all-funds deficit of \$19.7M based on projected revenues of \$376.6M and projected expenditures of \$396.3M. These full-year expectations reflect current revenues and expenses, but not future activity, associated with the second and third federal relief programs (Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund II and III) authorized in December 2020 and March 2021, respectively.

Through the third quarter of FY21, the University received \$52.6M more revenue (\$357.3M) than was spent (\$304.6M), producing a net revenue 31.9% (\$12.7M) better than a year ago (third quarter, FY20). Tuition and Student Fee revenue decreased 0.9%, or \$1.4M. Overall, revenue lagged the third quarter of FY20 by \$8.3M, mostly due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on housing, sales, and other revenue sources. Including relief funds received through the end of the quarter, overall revenues trailed budget by \$5.9M (1.6%).

On the expense side, overall spending relative to FY20 decreased by 6.4% (\$21M), including lower overall Personnel Services expenses by 6.49% (\$11.3M) and lower Contractual Services expenses by 17.1% (\$10.1M). Scholarship spending increased 24.1% (\$12.5M) from the prior year. This increase was partially driven by federal COVID relief funding and the AIM High scholarship program. Overall, expenses through the third quarter of FY21 are \$17.8M below budget, reflecting cost containment efforts implemented throughout the NIU community. Based on current projections, expenses are trending 5.8% under budget for the full year (\$24.4M); however, revenues also are trending below budget by \$12M, or 3.1%.

At this time, the university expects to utilize approximately \$20M of federal relief funds to offset lost revenue and expenses incurred due to the pandemic. Those funds will be applied prior to end of year, allowing the university to end FY21 with revenues approximately equal to expenditures.

As this report reflects activity and trends through the first three quarters of the fiscal year, unexpected changes in the operating environment or spending patterns in the coming months may have a significant impact on expected results for the full fiscal year. There exist opportunities for revenues to improve over this full-year projection, particularly in the Sales and Rental & Room Income categories. On the expense side, spending patterns will be closely monitored for changes from the current trajectory, especially those in Contractual Services (currently 24.5% below budget), Personnel Services (currently 4.7% below budget), and Commodities (65.1% below budget).

### Revenues

- 1. Tuition and Student 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. **Commodities:** Includes purchased items of a low cost that typically are consumed in a single year. Examples include paper for printing, lab supplies, napkins, and cleaning supplies.
5. **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.
6. **Automotive:** Includes the cost to rent cars, vans, and busses from the University transportation department.
7. **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).
8. **Telecommunications:** Includes the cost of providing phone, internet, and other digital services to the University.
9. **Equipment & Library Books:** 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.
10. **Capital Repairs:** Includes the cost of centralized capital repair activities.
11. **Debt Service:** Includes debt service payment on bonds, certificates of participation, and performance contracts.

**12. Miscellaneous Expense:** Includes refunds issued for on-campus external programming, deposit refunds, and other expenses not classified elsewhere. This category also includes miscellaneous year-end accrual and other adjustments.

Following is a financial summary of the University's operations as of the end of the third quarter of FY21 compared to the previous fiscal year and the FY21 budget.

**Northern Illinois University**  
**as of March 31, 2021**  
*(\$ in thousands)*

	<u>Current Year FY21</u>			<u>Prior Year FY20</u>		<u>Current Year FY21</u>		
	<u>Third Quarter</u>			<u>Third Quarter</u>		<u>Annual</u>		
	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>Variance</u>	<u>YTD Forecast</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<b>Revenue</b>								
Tuition & Student Fees	\$ 164,758	\$ 168,248	\$ (3,489)	\$ 166,232	\$ (1,474)	\$ 167,264	\$ 168,734	\$ (1,470)
Gifts, Grants, & Contracts	65,694	43,618	22,076	49,293	16,401	75,252	57,476	17,776
Other Fees and Fines	2,652	4,798	(2,146)	5,652	(3,000)	2,987	5,303	(2,316)
Sales	14,954	26,836	(11,882)	24,837	(9,883)	16,799	28,711	(11,912)
Rental & Room Income	17,477	29,337	(11,860)	25,411	(7,934)	17,851	29,116	(11,265)
Gate Receipts & Commissions	301	1,702	(1,401)	3,046	(2,745)	365	1,757	(1,392)
Miscellaneous & Investment Income	5,477	1,902	3,575	4,288	1,188	8,336	9,788	(1,452)
State of Illinois	86,034	86,887	(853)	86,907	(873)	87,804	87,804	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 357,347</b>	<b>\$ 363,328</b>	<b>\$ (5,981)</b>	<b>\$ 365,666</b>	<b>\$ (8,319)</b>	<b>\$ 376,657</b>	<b>\$ 388,689</b>	<b>\$ (12,032)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>								
Cost of Sales	\$ 1,832	\$ 3,907	\$ (2,075)	\$ 4,229	\$ (2,397)	\$ 1,959	\$ 4,108	\$ (2,149)
Personnel Services	163,923	171,992	(8,069)	175,298	(11,376)	214,735	222,932	(8,197)
Contractual Services	49,040	64,930	(15,890)	59,192	(10,152)	71,865	86,565	(14,700)
Commodities	2,610	7,487	(4,877)	4,339	(1,729)	5,420	8,409	(2,990)
Travel	643	3,996	(3,352)	3,459	(2,815)	981	4,090	(3,108)
Automotive	561	1,068	(507)	943	(381)	670	1,188	(518)
Scholarships	64,429	49,414	15,015	51,915	12,515	67,255	55,632	11,623
Telecommunications	386	352	34	152	234	662	590	72
Equipment & Library Materials	5,241	6,132	(892)	5,598	(357)	7,593	7,495	98
Capital Repairs	380	2,544	(2,164)	1,521	(1,140)	385	2,977	(2,591)
Debt Service	13,373	14,018	(645)	15,961	(2,588)	24,500	24,672	(172)
Miscellaneous Expense	2,237	2,680	(443)	3,129	(892)	335	2,175	(1,840)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 304,656</b>	<b>\$ 328,522</b>	<b>\$ (23,866)</b>	<b>\$ 325,735</b>	<b>\$ (21,079)</b>	<b>\$ 396,360</b>	<b>\$ 420,833</b>	<b>\$ (24,473)</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 52,690</b>	<b>\$ 34,806</b>	<b>\$ 17,885</b>	<b>\$ 39,931</b>	<b>\$ 12,760</b>	<b>\$ (19,703)</b>	<b>\$ (32,144)</b>	<b>\$ 12,441</b>

**PERIODIC REPORT ON INVESTMENTS  
FOR PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2021**

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 March 31, 2021
- Investment Earnings for the quarter ending March 31, 2021

The *Cash and Investment Holdings Summary* at March 31, 2021 shows NIU's total holdings at just over \$135M. Of the total holdings balance, approximately \$83M is available for daily operations providing more than 60 days cash on hand. The remaining balance is restricted per collateralization requirements and contractual obligations. The total holdings balance is \$19M lower than the balance at March 31, 2020. The decrease is a result of lower cash receipts over the same period of the previous fiscal year and the use of cash reserves to cover operating deficits.

The *Investment Earnings* report shows income of \$43,039 and an overall annualized rate of return of .12% for the 3rd quarter. The lower return this quarter over prior quarters resulted from lower interest rates and cash balances and the maturing of a higher yield investment during the quarter. Most 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 third quarter of FY21.

At March 31, 2021, the university had vouchered the State of Illinois \$86M for FY21 general appropriations. As of this date, approximately \$58M has been received. The State continues to release payments to the University in a timely fashion during the pandemic.

In March, the U.S. economic forecast shifted from a slow, steady recovery by early next year to a more prosperous outlook by midyear. This change is driven by lower COVID-19 cases, increased vaccine distribution, and the passage of the American Rescue Plan. Despite the positive outlook this quarter, the federal funds rate is expected to remain unchanged at near zero. Management continues to monitor cash flow activity and terms of federal stimulus funds and align fiscal policy with operating capacity in support of University priorities.

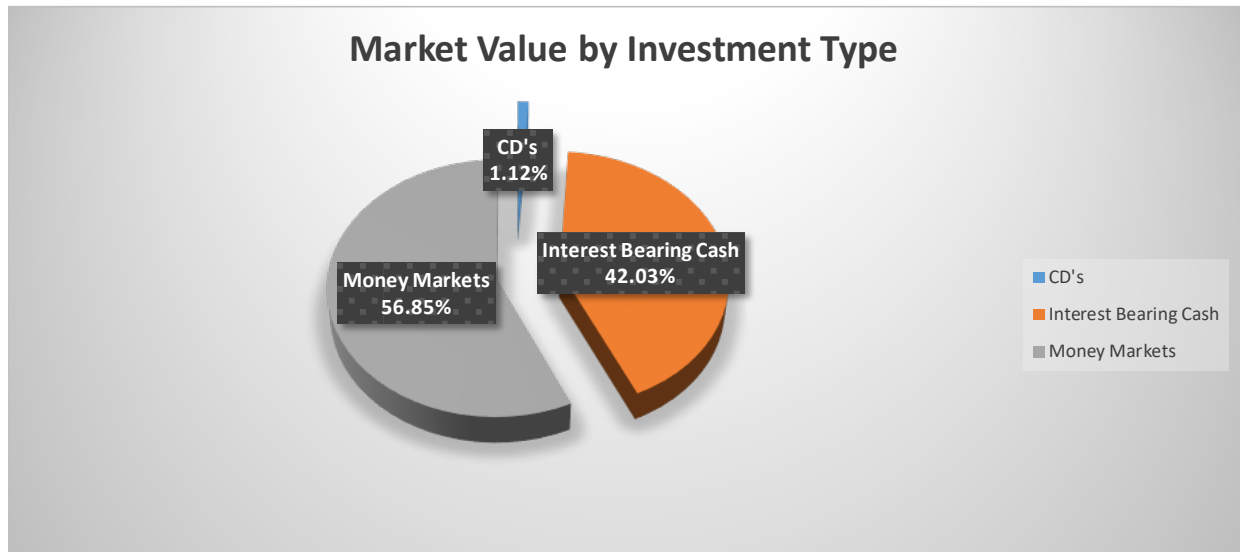


**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
**CASH and INVESTMENT HOLDINGS SUMMARY**

March 31, 2021

For Fiscal Year 2021

Investment Type	Purch Price/ Ending Bal *	Book Value **	Market Value ***
<b>CD's:</b>			
Local Funds	\$ 1,514,814	\$ 1,514,814	\$ 1,514,814
<b>Federal Agency Notes:</b>			
Local Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Interest Bearing Cash Accounts:</b>			
Local Funds	\$ 56,853,425	\$ 56,853,425	\$ 56,853,425
<b>Money Markets:</b>			
Contributory Trust	\$ 9,839,000	\$ 9,839,000	\$ 9,839,000
Local Funds	66,659,444	66,659,444	66,659,444
Project Funds	394,199	394,199	394,199
	<u>\$ 76,892,643</u>	<u>\$ 76,892,643</u>	<u>\$ 76,892,643</u>
<b>US Treasury Notes/Bills:</b>			
Local Funds	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT HOLDINGS</b>	<b>\$ 135,260,882</b>	<b>\$ 135,260,882</b>	<b>\$ 135,260,882</b>
Non-interest Bearing Cash	\$ 324,667	\$ 324,667	\$ 324,667
<b>TOTAL CASH &amp; INVESTMENT HOLDINGS</b>	<b>\$ 135,585,549</b>	<b>\$ 135,585,549</b>	<b>\$ 135,585,549</b>
<b>TOTAL REPORTED FOR 3/31/2020</b>	<b>\$ 154,361,260</b>	<b>\$ 154,453,188</b>	<b>\$ 154,600,260</b>



\* 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 2021  
July 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

	March 31 Ending Balance	Qtr 3 Average Daily Balance	Percent of Portfolio	Qtr 3 Income Earned	Annualized Rates of Return				
					FY2021			FY 2020	
					3rd Qtr	2nd Qtr	1st Qtr	4th Qtr	
<b>Short-Term Investment Accounts</b>									
Illinois Funds	\$ 66,659,444	\$ 57,799,928	40.56%	\$ 10,401	0.073%	0.095%	0.177%	0.713%	
Investment Accounts - Financial Institutions	\$ 56,853,425	\$ 67,883,249	47.65%	\$ 27,906	0.167%	0.185%	0.287%	0.856%	
Contributory Trust	\$ 9,839,000	\$ 9,838,923	6.90%	\$ 746	0.031%	0.023%	0.085%	0.437%	
Investment Accounts - Project Funds	\$ 394,199	\$ 417,325	0.29%	\$ 6	0.006%	0.006%	0.003%	0.424%	
CD's	\$ 1,514,814	\$ 1,514,356	1.06%	\$ 281	0.075%	0.080%	0.058%	0.186%	
<b>ST Investment Accounts Total</b>	<b>\$ 135,260,882</b>	<b>\$ 137,453,781</b>	<b>96.46%</b>	<b>\$ 39,340</b>	<b>0.116%</b>	<b>0.132%</b>	<b>0.217%</b>	<b>0.741%</b>	
<b>Fixed Income Securities</b>									
Local Funds	\$ -	\$ 5,048,438	3.54%	\$ 3,699	0.297%	0.873%	1.210%	2.025%	
<b>Fixed Income Securities Total</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 5,048,438</b>	<b>3.54%</b>	<b>\$ 3,699</b>	<b>0.297%</b>	<b>0.873%</b>	<b>1.210%</b>	<b>2.025%</b>	
<b>Non-interest Bearing Cash</b>	<b>\$ 324,667</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>COMBINED TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 135,585,549</b>	<b>\$ 142,502,219</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>\$ 43,039</b>	<b>0.12%</b>	<b>0.16%</b>	<b>0.35%</b>	<b>1.05%</b>	

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

## **SERIES 2011 CHF BOND REFINANCING WITH SERIES 2021 AFS BOND UPDATE**

### **Background on 2011 CHF financing**

In 2011, in order to accelerate the construction of new residence hall facilities on campus, Northern Illinois University collaborated with Collegiate Housing Foundation (CHF) to privately finance and construct New Hall, and then leased it back to the University through the bonds' maturity in FY44. As part of this private, tax-exempt financing, a similar private financing completed with CHF in 2006 for the Northern View Apartments was also refinanced at that time.

An amount of \$121.9M is currently outstanding on these Series 2011 tax-exempt CHF Bonds (the "2011 CHF Bonds") for which CHF is the underlying Obligor. The rate on the 2011 CHF Bonds for NIU's project is very high at 6.86%.

While both New Hall and the Northern View Apartments are owned by CHF, NIU manages both facilities. The bond documents allow for the University to purchase the facilities by paying off the outstanding tax-exempt 2011 CHF Bonds and paying any accrued management fees. For NIU, the first opportunity to close such a refinancing, and simultaneously effect the purchase of the buildings and expansion of the Auxiliary Facilities System (AFS), will be on or after July 1, 2021.

In addition to a reduction in payments owing to a lower rate, the Series 2021 AFS Bonds refinancing will provide a number of operational flexibilities and economic efficiencies. These include the ability for NIU to set its own room rates for the two residence halls and avoid restrictive occupancy and "first fill" requirements, as well as cumbersome site-specific profitability requirements.

University leadership has adopted the following guiding principles for this refinancing:

- The Series 2021 AFS Bonds will not include any monies for new projects;
- The new debt payments will not extend beyond FY44, the fiscal year of the final maturity date of the Series 2011 CHF Bonds; and
- The refinancing will be structured to maximize savings in FY22-FY25 to mitigate budgetary impact of closing the structural budget gap.

### **March 18, 2021 Board Action**

At its March 18, 2021 meeting, the Board passed a resolution that, among other things:

- Authorized the issuance of NIU's AFS Revenue Bonds Series 2021 to finance the purchase of New Hall and the Northern View Apartments from CHF. The bond issuance was authorized subject to meeting certain maximum yield, price and final maturity thresholds in the financing, as laid out in the resolution. The Series 2021 Bonds will be issued on parity with the Series 2020A and 2020B AFS Revenue Bonds.
- Authorized Designated Officers to execute and deliver instruments and documents on behalf of the Board in connection with closing the financing.

## **Results of Refinancing and Closing Schedule**

On April 27, 2021, the University's Series \$99,035,000 Series 2021 AFS Revenue Bonds were sold by a five-firm syndicate of underwriters led by Piper Sandler. The sale was very successful, with the issue attracting \$1.59B in orders. This 16.0X level of oversubscription allowed rates to be lowered vs. pre-pricing levels between 10 and 18 basis points, depending on the maturity. The new Series 2021 AFS Bonds will fully satisfy the outstanding balance of the 2011 CHF Bonds.

Interestingly, while this issue was two-thirds the size of last year's it attracted many additional investors. Among the orders were \$85M in from socially conscious Environmental, Social and Corporate Governance (ESG) investors who bid orders after viewing NIU's disclosure about its social impact in the region.

The strong levels of interest from investors allowed the university to achieve:

- A rate of 2.70% -- more than 4% below the 6.86% rate on the 2011 CHF Bonds being refinanced. It was also about 0.05% below the rate achieved on the university's fixed rate Series 2020B Bonds.
- Approximately \$76.8M of total savings without extending the maturity. Of this about \$26.5M in savings will be realized between FY22 and FY25.
- A final maturity of October 1, 2043 – the same as that of the refinanced bonds.
- All of this was achieved while still meeting the university's goal of 20% or better participation by minority underwriting firms within the financing team.

It is also useful to look at what the two refinancing's that NIU has completed over the past 15 months have achieved in total. Together, the Series 2020A & B and the Series 2021 AFS issues have:

- Saved the university almost \$129M over the life of the prior issues. This level of savings was achieved without extending the final maturities of the refinanced debt.
- Frontloaded a portion of savings in the early years to enable the transition to multi-year planning and budgeting, including a total of \$53.7M in savings between FY20 and FY25.
- Provide average annual savings after FY25 of about \$4.85M per year.
- Exceeded the 20% BEP goal set for underwriter/placement agent fees in total. BEP partners earned 22.3% of total fees for the Series 2020A&B, and will earn 20% of total fees for the Series 2021 issues at closing.
- Achieved all of this in parallel with modernizing the university's Bond Resolution, acquiring New Hall and Northern View, and modernizing financial covenants to provide financial flexibility in the future.

A table summarizing the financing is provided on the following page.

The Series 2021 bond issue remains on track for a July 7, 2021 closing.

**NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
**Series 2020 and Series 2021 Refinancing's**  
**Final Pricing and Savings Metrics**

NIU Bond Financing Summary - Series 2020 A & B and Series 2021			
METRIC	SERIES 2020A & B (1)	SERIES 2021 (Final Pricing)	TOTAL
Size of Issue(s)	\$30,000,000 (Ser A - Variable) \$126,435,000 (Ser B - Fixed)		
	\$156,000,000	\$99,035,000	\$255,035,000
Interest Rate - True Interest Cost	2.75% (Ser B Only)	2.70%	n/a
Annual Savings - 2020 - 2025			
FY 2020	\$5,001,307	n/a	\$5,001,307
FY 2021	\$6,003,915	n/a	\$6,003,915
FY 2022	\$6,004,182	\$7,668,837	\$13,673,019
FY 2023	\$6,002,973	\$6,529,595	\$12,532,568
FY 2024	\$1,731,188	\$6,529,444	\$8,260,632
FY 2025	<u>\$1,734,371</u>	<u>\$6,523,595</u>	<u>\$8,257,966</u>
Subtotal - Ann. Savings (2020 - 2025)	\$26,477,936	\$27,251,470	\$53,729,406
Average Annual Savings after Frontloaded Saving years	\$1.679 M / year	\$3.170 M / year	\$4.849 M / year
Total Aggregate Savings over the Life of the Refinancings	\$52,130,545	\$76,792,989	\$128,923,534
Present Value of Total Savings (2)	\$43,101,463	\$65,500,965	\$108,602,428
Present Value of Savings as a % of Debt Refianced	24.55%	53.72%	n/a
Maximum Annual Debt Service (as of FY2021)	\$24,645,360 (S. 2020A& B and S. 2011 CHF)	\$19,642,754 (S. 2020A& B and S. 2021)	n/a
<p>(1) The Series 2020A Bonds are variable rate bonds. All metrics that include the Series 2020A Bonds assume a rate of 3.00% for the life of this issue.</p> <p>(2) Present valued at each financings True Interest Cost (TIC) rate, to the respective financing's issue date.</p>			

## **FISCAL YEAR 2022 UNIVERSITY BUDGET PRELIMINARY SUMMARY**

In planning for the FY20 internal budget, a multi-year strategy took shape with the goal of producing a balanced University budget in FY23 and by FY24, a structurally balanced budget in which ongoing revenues support ongoing expenses. Using a series of levers including the controlled spend-down of cash reserves, incentivizing sound financial strategies, and investing in mission-aligned efforts with an expected positive return-on-investment, senior University leaders sought to create an opportunity for the careful planning, at a divisional level, of multi-year strategies to meet the overarching goal of financial stability.

In support of this effort, the Office of Budget & Financial Planning prepared a new approach to internal budget development for FY21 and beyond that would emphasize target-setting and planning while de-emphasizing the technical processes associated with the internal budget. The revised approach was communicated to University leaders in February 2020, including presentations at the President's Leadership Team meetings and at a regular convening of university budget and financial leaders. With an expected launch on April 1, 2020, the process anticipated a full, three months of formal budget development work—at least twice the time that was provided in prior years. This intentional emphasis on planning over technical matters meant the Board of Trustees could review high-level FY21 budget information at its May meeting of the Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations (FACFO) Committee and, consistent with tradition and past practice, adopt a final spending plan in June.

The March 2020 pronouncement of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent emphasis of University leadership on student, faculty, and staff safety preempted those FY21 budget development plans. The change in approach to FY21 provided much needed operational and planning flexibility to navigate the very uncertain pandemic environment. As the university emerges from the operational and economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, leadership is proposing a planful return to the multi-year, structurally balanced view of the University budget embedded in those original FY20 plans. This approach utilizes the coming fiscal year, FY22, as a transition back to a formal, structured multi-year planning and budgeting framework.

As such, much of the proposed FY22 budget development process is borrowed from FY21, including June Board of Trustees consideration of an initial fiscal year budget. Like the FY21 budget process, the technical aspects of recording the spending plans of individual campus units will not be complete prior to the July 1 start of the new fiscal year; however, an overall University spending plan will be available for Board consideration at its June 17, 2021 meeting. This plan will include information on major strategic investments and university-wide policy decisions included in the FY22 budget. Should this preliminary internal budget be adopted at that time, the overall revenues and expenditures represented in June Board materials will be honored, however, the distribution of resources across revenue and expense categories may evolve as unit-level budgets are written and recorded throughout July. The university will continue to present quarterly budget updates to the FACFO Committee during the February, November, and May meetings in FY22 noting quarterly budget performance, summarizing variances, and providing year-to-date forecasts.

To support this effort, the campus community estimated and recorded expected FY22 revenues in February 2021, generally assuming a return to normal campus density and operations. State of Illinois appropriations to the University are assumed at the same level as FY21, \$87.8M. In total, revenues of \$394.7M are expected. In order to provide transitional funding in advance of multi-

year planning and budgeting, an all-funds budget deficit of \$10M is expected during FY22, after accounting for both the recently completed bond refinancing and the pending draws against approved pandemic relief funding. Consistent with the intent to move to a multi-year budget framework, financial performance in FY22 relative to budget will inform the FY23 budget process and level of flexibility. To wit, a better-than-budget FY22 financial performance will create additional operating flexibility for the University as it enters a multi-year budget framework. This framework will ensure, even in this transitional fiscal year, that fiscal stewardship remains a shared priority of campus unity that will benefit the long-term priorities of the institution. Seizing on the expected momentum of a mid-July completion of the technical FY22 budget development process, university leadership is committed to a summer launch of a formal transition to multi-year planning and budgeting.

**QUARTERLY SUMMARY REPORT OF TRANSACTIONS IN EXCESS OF  
\$100,000 FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2021 TO MARCH 31, 2021**

<b>Purchase Amount</b>	<b>No. of Transactions</b>	<b>Appropriated*</b>	<b>Non-Appropriated</b>	<b>Total</b>
Over \$100,000	11	\$787,375	\$1,097,329	\$1,884,704

TRANSACTIONS DETAIL:

Purchases:

1. Housing and Residential Services requested permission to renew their membership to the Collegiate Housing Foundation – DeKalb IL, LLC Project for FY21. This order was exempt from advertising per (30 ILCS 500/1-13(b)(1)) (Collegiate Housing Foundation, Fairhope, AL) 128,074
2. Human Resources requested permission to issue an open order for background checks for the period March 1, 2021 through June 30, 2023. This is an IPHEC and was therefore exempt from advertising. (Hire Right, Irvine, CA) 120,000
3. Athletics requested permission to issue a purchase order for basketball officials for men’s and women’s home games for the period through June 30, 2021. This order was exempt from advertising per (30 ILCS 500/1-13(b)(4)) (Mid-American Conference, Cleveland, OH) 117,480
4. The Division of Information Technology requested permission to issue an FY21 open order for Illinois Century Network for 10 Gig NIU Internet connectivity during the period through June 30, 2021. This is a government entity and was therefore exempt from advertising. (Dept. of Innovation & Technology, Sterling, IL) 180,300



**Capital Improvement Projects:**

1. Structural inspections to fire escapes on eight buildings (Altgeld Hall, Davis Hall, Engineering Building, Still Gym, Still Hall, Williston Hall, Grant Residence Hall Complex and Stevenson Residence Hall Complex) have indicated a need for repairs and corrosion prevention to ensure the egress features are properly functional in an emergency. In general, the scope of work included corrosion and flaking paint removal, repainting, foundation repairs to base columns at Grant and Stevenson Towers and other miscellaneous items. Total cost of this project is \$129,050; with 55% (\$71,000) being paid from appropriated funds. 129,050\*\*
2. The scope of work for this project addresses general heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) system updates and repairs in various buildings around campus. The work is being performed to ensure the building HVAC systems are functioning correctly, types of work involved include cleaning of outside air intakes/grills, repairing dampers and linkages, replacing shives, steam cleaning of coils and some repairs to ductwork. In addition, system adjustments where possible to increase outside air percentages are being made. A portion of this work is already in process or complete, this project consolidates all associated work together for COVID-19 costs tracking purposes. 238,150\*
3. The scope of work in this project includes replacing an isolation valve at Gabel Hall, rerouting a steam line at West Plant to maintain steam to New Hall during the planned boiler expansion project, relocation of a steam condensate meter at the Recreation Center, exercising valves, packing expansion joints, maintaining pumps and repairing insulation, as well as running a portable boiler while the work was being performed for one week in order to avoid a disruption of steam supply to Student Housing facilities. Total cost of this project is \$173,300; with 50% (\$86,650)\*\* being funded by appropriated funds. 173,300\*\*
4. The scope of work included in this project includes replacing an expansion joint, exercising valves, packing expansion joints, maintaining pumps, replacing all gaskets and replacing insulation in the Holmes Student Center main mechanical room steam piping, as well as running a portable boiler while the work is being performed for one week in order to avoid a disruption to steam supply for the Holmes Student Center. Total cost of this project is \$153,550; with 50% (\$76,775) being funded by appropriated funds. 153,550\*\*
5. This project will replace the elevator controls for the two passenger elevators located at the north east corner of the Parking Garage. These elevators are the sole means of ADA accessibility to the upper-level decks of the Parking Garage. The scope of work will include upgrading the elevator controls to a non-proprietary system, installation of new/upgraded door and cab operators, car and hallway fixtures, cab wiring, machine room wiring as well as replacement of the associated oil pump equipment. 230,000

6. The Monat Building dating back to circa 1927 in downtown DeKalb has a roof that has not had any major repair work done within the last 20 years. The building has experienced water infiltration in many areas over the past several years mostly concentrated under the flat roof areas. The scope of necessary repairs for this project will include a recoat of the existing flat roof which will include a 12-year warranty, as well as other miscellaneous repairs and the addition of some necessary roof access safety modifications. It is anticipated that this work will be completed over the summer of 2021 beginning in July. 246,800\*
7. The scope of work for this project involves work at both the Chick Evans Fieldhouse and the Telephone Security building which have been experiencing numerous recent active roof leaks. Several temporary repairs have been made at both locations over the past several years, however the leaks are now such that more significant repairs are necessary to stop and prevent further water damage to the interior of these buildings. The scope of work at Telephone Security will be a complete roof membrane and insulation replacement including the addition of safety tie-offs. Records show that the existing membrane was installed in 1970 and therefore is well beyond its useful life. The scope of work at Chick Evans Fieldhouse will be repairing and modifying the base of the barrel vault roof along the west side where it transitions to the flat roof to allow water to drain more quickly away and prolong the life of the existing roof. Total cost of this project is \$168,000; with 40% (\$68,000) being funded by appropriated funds. 168,000\*\*

\* Appropriated/Income Funds

\*\* Multiple Funding, including Appropriated Funds

## SEMI-ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF ACTIVE CAPITAL PROJECTS WITH A BUDGET OVER \$100,000

All projects listed herein were previously approved/pending approval by the Board of Trustees or the President. The Authorization Date is identified for all NIU-funded projects; the fiscal year is identified for all state-funded projects. Status reports are provided on any project, regardless of initiation date, until all work has been completed and all payments have been made.

### A. CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD PROJECTS

#### I. Projects in the Planning Phase

##### 1. New Construction - Health Informatics and Technology Center Building

**Total Project Budget:** \$77,000,000

**Funding Sources:** FY20 Capital State Appropriation

**Authorization Date:** January 2020 (for \$7.7M)

**Status:** In late 2020 discussions with CDB restarted and funding confirmed for beginning the selection process for a planning/design consultant. The solicitation was posted by CDB in March 2021 and selection anticipated by summer 2021. Concurrent to this process, an internal planning committee is developing recommendations for key building features to enhance academic operations.

##### 2. New Construction - Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability

**Total Project Budget:** \$20,000,000

**Funding Sources:** Grant Funding & NIU Local Funds

**Authorization Date:** December 2018

**Status:** Funds have not yet been released. Following release, NIU will be working with CDB to define the scope of work, develop a tentative schedule, and solicit proposals for design firms to work on this project.

##### 3. Swen Parson Hall – Roof Replacement and Masonry Repairs

**Total Project Budget:** \$5,138,200

**Founding Sources:** FY21 Capital Renewal State Appropriation

**Authorization Date:** April 2021

**Status:** The University was notified by CDB in early 2021 that release of funds from the Comptroller's office were anticipated soon. NIU has since worked with CDB to prepare the advertisement for solicitation of proposals for design services from consultant firms to work on the project. In early April NIU was notified that funds have been released and CDB is preparing the design consultant procurement schedule.

##### 4. Art Building - Structural Repairs and Exterior Building Improvements

**Total Project Budget:** \$3,753,600

**Founding Sources:** FY21 Capital Renewal State Appropriation

**Authorization Date:** April 2021

**Status:** The University was notified by CDB in early 2021 that release of funds from the Comptroller's office are anticipated soon. NIU has since worked with CDB to prepare the advertisement for solicitation of proposals for design services from consultant firms to work on the project. In early April NIU was notified that funds have been released and CDB is preparing the design consultant procurement schedule.

## 5. Anderson Hall - Structural Repairs

**Total Project Budget:** \$4,657,000

**Funding Sources:** Capital Renewal State Appropriation

**Authorization Date:** Pending

**Status:** This project is the next prioritized deferred maintenance project in line for the University's allocated capital renewal state funding from the annual IBHE submission.

## II. Projects in the Design Phase

### 1. DeKalb Campus – Repair Steam Tunnel Distribution

**Total Project Budget:** \$5,024,000

**Funding Sources:** FY19 Capital Renewal State Appropriation

**Authorization Date:** September 2018

**Status:** The consultant engineering firm is approximately 75% complete and construction award is anticipated for the fall. Project completion by summer of 2022 is anticipated.

### 2. DeKalb Campus – West Heating Plant and Boiler Replacement Phase I

**Total Project Budget:** \$16,000,000

**Funding Sources:** Institutional – Auxiliary Reserves & FY19 Capital Renewal State Appropriation

**Authorization Date:** August 2017

**Status:** Initial CDB design-build selection process failed due to affordability of proposals. After modifying the RFP, CDB is reissuing the solicitation in April 2021. It is anticipated that the design/build contract will be awarded by the end of 2021 with construction activities to following in 2022 and 2023.

## III. Projects in the Construction Phase

### 1. Stevens Building – Addition & Renovation

**Total Project Budget:** \$37,300,135

**Funding Source:** FY10 – CDB Amended FY17 & FY17 – NIU Appropriated Funds

**Status:** Construction work was completed and building reoccupied in May 2018. Building HVAC refinements were completed in 2020. The remaining open item is a State of Illinois commissioned artwork to be arranged by CDB.

## B. NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY PROJECTS

### I. Projects in the Planning Phase

#### 1. Music Building – Partial Roof Replacement

**Total Project Budget:** \$500,000

**Funding Sources:** Appropriated/Income Funds

**Authorization Date:** Pending Board of Trustee approval

**Status:** Project scope is being finalized and submitted for Board of Trustees approval at this meeting, work is tentatively planned for summer of 2021.

#### 2. Convocation Center – Arena and Auxiliary Gym LED Lighting Upgrades

**Total Project Budget:** \$290,000

**Funding Sources:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserves

**Authorization Date:** Pending Board of Trustee approval

**Status:** Project scope is being finalized and submitted for Board of Trustees approved at this meeting, work is tentatively planned for summer of 2021.

### **3. Art Building – South Entrance – Exterior Stair Repairs**

**Total Project Budget:** \$100,000

**Funding Sources:** Appropriated Income Funds

**Authorization Date:** Pending approvals

**Status:** Project scope is being finalized to address severe freeze/thaw damage from past winter season. Work is tentatively planned for summer of 2021.

### **4. DeKalb Campus – FY21 Parking Lot Repairs**

**Total Project Budget:** \$245,000

**Funding Sources:** Institutional Local Funds

**Authorization Date:** Pending approvals

**Status:** Campus parking lots and their associated condition are continually evaluated for prioritization for repairs. Lots having high visibility and student use are targeted in this effort. Work is tentatively planned for completion in summer 2021.

## **II. Projects in the Design Phase**

### **1. Monat Building Roof Repairs**

**Total Project Budget:** \$246,800

**Funding Source:** Appropriated/Income Funds

**Authorization Date:** March 2021

**Status:** Construction documents have been completed and solicitation of contractor pricing is in process. Work is anticipated to be completed over the summer months in early FY22.

### **2. Recreation Center – Changing Room Remodel**

**Total Project Budget:** \$1,100,000

**Funding Source:** Institutional - Auxiliary Reserves

**Authorization Date:** September 2019

**Status:** Design development was completed March of 2020. Request for approval to proceed with construction was put on hold at the beginning of the pandemic and remains on hold.

### **3. Stevenson and Grant Residence Halls - Building Envelope Repairs**

**Total Project Budget:** \$525,000

**Funding Source:** Institutional - Auxiliary Reserves

**Authorization Date:** December 2016

**Status:** Progress was previously limited due to past year budget uncertainties and the current pandemic. Completion of a scoping assessment is planned to begin in early FY22 with construction work to be planned as budget constraints allow.

### **4. Holmes Student Center Hotel Tower - Building Envelope Repairs**

**Total Project Budget:** \$250,000

**Funding Source:** Institutional - Auxiliary Reserves

**Authorization Date:** December 2016

**Status:** Progress was previously limited due to past year budget uncertainties and the current pandemic. Completion of a scoping assessment is planned to begin in FY22 with construction work to be planned as budget constraints allow.

## **III. Projects in the Construction Phase**

### **1. DeKalb Campus – FY2021 Roof Repairs**

**Total Project Budget:** \$168,000

**Funding Source:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserve Funds & Appropriated Income Funds

**Authorization Date:** March 2021

**Status:** Scope of work has been finalized to include repairs to Chick Evans Fieldhouse and Telephone/Security roof which have both had significant active roof leaks over the winter. Contractor pricing is in process and work is planned to be completed before the end of the fiscal year.

**2. Parking Garage – Passenger Elevator – Controls Upgrade**

**Total Project Budget:** \$230,000

**Funding Source:** Bond Series 2010 Project

**Authorization Date:** March 2020

**Status:** Procurement efforts are in process and work is planned to be completed spring/summer 2021.

**3. West Campus – 2021 Steam Outage Repairs**

**Total Project Budget:** \$173,300

**Funding Source:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserve Funds & Appropriated Income Funds

**Authorization Date:** March 2021

**Status:** Contractor pricing is being finalized and work will be scheduled around the scheduled steam shutdown in May.

**4. East Campus 2021 Steam Outage Repairs**

**Total Project Budget:** \$153,550

**Funding Source:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserve Funds & Appropriated Income Funds

**Authorization Date:** March 2021

**Status:** Contractor pricing is being finalized and work will be scheduled around the scheduled steam shutdown in May.

**5. DeKalb Campus - Central Campus Roadway Improvements**

**Total Project Budget:** \$357,600

**Funding Source:** Institutional Local Funds & Federal Grant Funds

**Authorization Date:** January 2021

**Status:** A consultant engineering firm is preparing design and construction documents required for IDOT letting (contractor bidding) in June. Construction work is anticipated to be completed over the summer prior to the beginning of the fall semester.

**6. DeKalb Campus – Fire Escape Repairs**

**Total Project Budget:** \$129,050

**Funding Source:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserve Funds & Appropriated Income Funds

**Authorization Date:** January 2021

**Status:** Contractor pricing is being finalized and in-house labor scheduling being confirmed. Work is anticipated to be completed spring/summer of 2021.

**7. General Revenue Buildings – COVID-19 HVAC Updates and Repairs**

**Total Project Budget:** \$238,150

**Funding Source:** Appropriated Income Funds

**Authorization Date:** January 2021

**Status:** Work is in progress and is approximately 70% complete.

**8. Wirtz Hall – Roof Drain and Insulation Replacement**

**Total Project Budget:** \$194,350

**Funding Source:** Appropriated Income Funds

**Authorization Date:** November 2020

**Status:** Work was started late last fall, but was halted due to cold weather, with approximately 10% completed. Work is restarting in April and anticipated to be completed by end of May 2021.

**9. West Plant – 2020/2021 Winter Repairs – Chillers**

**Total Project Budget:** \$184,350

**Funding Source:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserve Funds & Appropriated Income Funds

**Authorization Date:** November 2020

**Status:** Work is in progress and is approximately 95% complete.

**10. West Plant – 2020/2021 Winter Repairs – Boilers**

**Total Project Budget:** \$165,050

**Funding Source:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserve Funds & Appropriated Income Funds

**Authorization Date:** November 2020

**Status:** Work is in progress and is approximately 95% complete.

**11. Chilled Water Plant – 2020/2021 Winter Repairs**

**Total Project Budget:** \$132,050

**Funding Source:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserve Funds & Appropriated Income Funds

**Authorization Date:** November 2020

**Status:** Work is in progress and is approximately 90% complete.

**12. Stevenson Complex – Domestic Hot Water Booster Pumps**

**Total Project Budget:** \$118,900

**Funding Source:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserve Funds

**Authorization Date:** September 2020

**Status:** New domestic hot water pumps were installed in December of 2020. Final payments are in process and punch list items are being completed. This will be the last report for this project.

**13. East Plant-Summer Repairs 2020**

**Total Project Budget:** \$201,700

**Funding Source:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserve Funds & Appropriated Income Funds

**Authorization Date:** June 2020

**Status:** Work on this project is completed and final payments are in process. This will be the last report on this project.

**14. Neptune Complex – Security Camera Upgrade**

**Total Project Budget:** \$120,000

**Funding Source:** Bond Series 2010 Project

**Authorization Date:** May 2020

**Status:** Work on this DoIT led project is complete and final payments have been made. The project has been closed and this will be the last report for this project.

**15. East Campus-2020 Steam Outage Repairs**

**Total Project Budget:** \$132,050  
**Funding Source:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserve Funds & Appropriated  
Income Funds  
**Authorization Date:** May 2020

**Status:** Work on this project was completed by end of 2020, all payments have been made and the project is closed. This is the final report on this project.

**16. West Campus-2020 Steam Outage Repairs**

**Total Project Budget:** \$176,750  
**Funding Source:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserve Funds & Appropriated  
Income Funds  
**Authorization Date:** May 2020

**Status:** Work on this project was completed by end of 2020, all payments have been made and the project is closed. This is the final report on this project.

**17. Holmes Student Center Tower Elevator - Controls Upgrade**

**Total Project Budget:** \$1,500,000  
**Funding Source:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserve Funds  
**Authorization Date:** December 2019

**Status:** Equipment orders were put on hold due to the pandemic budget uncertainties. Work is being considered for execution in FY22.

**18. Stevenson Towers A, B, C & D – Roof Replacement**

**Total Project Budget:** \$1,400,000  
**Funding Source:** Institutional Auxiliary Reserve Funds  
**Authorization Date:** March 2020

**Status:** Previously placed on hold due to pandemic budget uncertainties, construction work is now scheduled for summer of 2021 for two towers and tentatively summer of 2022 for the remaining two towers.



## PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE UNIVERSITY CONSTITUTION – ARTICLE 6.1.1 DEFINITIONS OF UNIVERSITY FACULTY

**Background:** Definitions of various research and teaching employees at NIU are not consistently articulated in the University Constitution, NIU Bylaws, and BOT Bylaws and Regulations. This clarifies and defines the five categories, providing a foundation for the use of these terms in NIU Bylaws and Faculty Senate Bylaws, and provides guidance for colleges and departments. A copy of the proposed amendment to the University Constitution is attached to this item.

Article 10 (Amendment Procedures) of the University Constitution provides:

Amendment of the constitution shall be accomplished by the following sequence of procedures:

**10.1** Written notice of a proposed amendment may be presented at any regular meeting of the University Council by any voting or nonvoting member, but no final action shall be taken on a proposed amendment until at least the next regular meeting of the University Council.

**10.2** Approval of the proposed amendment by a two-thirds vote of the University Council members voting.

**10.3** Approval of the proposed amendment in a faculty referendum in which a majority of those voting concur. For voting eligibility, see Article 6, Section 6.1.1.

**10.4** Approval of the proposed amendment by the Board of Trustees pursuant to the Board of Trustees Governance Documents.

**Proposed Action:** At its March 31, 2021 meeting, the University Council approved the below proposed constitutional amendment. Subsequently, this proposed amendment was approved by a majority of those voting in a faculty referendum. The University recommends the Board of Trustees approve the proposed amendments.

**Recommendation:** The University recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the proposed amendments to the University Constitution, as generally described in this item and as specifically identified in the attachment to this item. Board approval of the proposed amendment to the University Constitution will clarify and define the five categories of research and teaching employees at NIU, providing a foundation for the use of these terms in NIU Bylaws and Faculty Senate Bylaws, and provides guidance for colleges and departments.

## NIU CONSTITUTION – ARTICLE 6

### Faculties, Standing Committees, Councils and Boards of the Faculty and Administration

#### 6.1 The University

##### 6.1.1 Definitions of University Faculty

The university faculty shall consist of all full-time staff members holding the ranks of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, instructor, or clinical faculty.

The instructional and research core of the university shall consist of five categories of members hereinafter referred to as: 1) tenure track faculty, 2) instructional faculty, 3) clinical faculty, 4) research faculty, and 5) limited term faculty. The definitions of each category below serves to inform shared governance rights and responsibilities.

##### 6.1.1.1 Tenure Track Faculty

The tenure track faculty of the university includes the tenure/tenure eligible faculty of the university who have appointments as professor, associate professor, assistant professor, departmental chairpersons and professional librarians other than the dean of the University Libraries. Also included are part-time faculty who hold positions at Northern Illinois University in conjunction with positions at an external affiliate institution as approved by the provost.

##### 6.1.1.2 Instructional Faculty

The instructional faculty of the university includes instructors, adjuncts, lecturers, associate lecturers, and assistant lecturers. This would also include faculty with a limited contractual relationship with the university, including part-time and non-compensatory faculty.

##### 6.1.1.3 Clinical Faculty

The clinical faculty of the university includes all persons with appointments as clinical professor, associate clinical professor, assistant clinical professor and clinical instructor. The primary responsibilities of faculty in this category are clinical supervision or clinical instruction, oversight or delivery of professional services to individual patients or clients.

##### 6.1.1.4 Research Faculty

The research faculty of the university will include all persons with appointments as research professor, associate research professor, and assistant research professor and include other appointments that are focused on research, scholarly, and technical activities.

##### 6.1.1.5 Limited-Term Faculty

Other faculty positions include those that have limited-term appointments, including adjuncts, visiting faculty, post-doctoral fellows and other affiliated faculty. These positions may be engaged in the research, teaching or engagement missions of the university, but with time-limited association with the university and minimal roles and privileges.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2022 UNIVERSITY INTERNAL BUDGET**

**Background:** Annually, the University seeks the Board's approval of the internal budget for the next fiscal year. The FY22 recommended internal budget presented for Board consideration includes \$418.4M in expenses against \$408.4M in anticipated revenues, including a State appropriation of \$87.8M. Utilizing the most recent information available, Leadership presents this budget with the following notable revenue assumptions and parameters:

- A return to more normal activities and density on campus.
- Utilization of available pandemic relief funding from federal and state programs, including the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF II and HEERF III).
- Stable enrollment compared to FY21.
- Tuition and fee rates as previously approved by the NIU Board of Trustees.
- A return of spectators for athletics events, though not at full capacity.

Expense projections are based on known rates for items like debt service and represent the aggregate FY22 expense budget capacities of all University divisions. These requests were guided by the following assumptions and parameters:

- Revised debt service schedules reflecting the results of both the 2020 AFS bond refinancing and the 2021 AFS bond refinancing.
- Personnel adjustments including support of an increment to non-represented staff and faculty.
- Planned commitments are maintained for financial aid and scholarships for students, including AIM High.
- Support for ongoing COVID-19 testing and research activities.
- Resources to support NIU's High Performance Computing project.
- Non-general revenue fund expenses are generally limited to revenue expectations.

While the total expense budget capacity of the university is currently known, specific budget plans are under development within the divisions and local units. The Divisional Leaders and Deans remain committed to managing expenses in FY22. These divisional and collegiate spending plans will be recorded according to established process, with an expected completion date in late June/early July. Because these specific plans are pending, the following table represents a categorical budget based on recent NIU expense history.

An updated table that reflects categorical expense budgets will be provided with the first quarter financial summary document at the November 2021 Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee (FACFO) meeting. The university will continue to present quarterly budget updates to FACFO throughout FY22 noting budget performance, summarizing variances, and providing year-to-date forecasts.

The university has resumed planning efforts for future fiscal years, including a revision of the multiyear framework with an initial focus on FY23-FY25. Additional information will be presented during the Committee meetings in November.

## Revenues

**Tuition and Student Fees:** All tuition, including differential tuition, course and materials fees, athletics fees, bus fees, and health service fees.

1. **Gifts, Grants, & Contracts:** Includes on-campus scholarships, research grants and associated indirect cost pools, Pell grants, and sub-contract fees for research.
2. **Other Fees & Fines:** Includes parking, residential living-learning community fees, parking fines, and transcript and commencement fees.
3. **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).
4. **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.
5. **Gate Receipts & Commissions:** Includes athletic ticket sales, performing arts ticket sales, commissions, and concert/event revenues from the Convocation Center.
6. **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.
7. **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. **Commodities:** Includes purchased items of a low cost that typically are consumed in a single year. Examples include paper for printing, lab supplies, napkins, and cleaning supplies.
5. **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.
6. **Automotive:** Includes the cost to rent cars, vans, and busses from the University transportation department.
7. **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).
8. **Telecommunications:** Includes the cost of providing phone, internet, and other digital services to the University.

- 9. Equipment & Library Books:** 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.
- 10. Capital Repairs:** Includes the cost of centralized capital repair activities.
- 11. Debt Service:** Includes debt service payment on bonds, certificates of participation, and performance contracts.
- 12. Miscellaneous Expense:** Includes refunds issued for on-campus external programming, deposit refunds, and other expenses not classified elsewhere. This category also includes miscellaneous year-end accrual and other adjustments.

<b>FY22 INTERNAL BUDGET SUMMARY BY LINE ITEM</b>					
(\$ in Thousands)					
	<b>FY19 Actuals</b>	<b>FY20 Actuals</b>	<b>FY21 Projected</b>	<b>FY22 Proposed Budget</b>	<b>Variance FY22 - FY21</b>
<b>SOURCES OF OPERATING REVENUE</b>					
Tuition & Student Fees	\$ 172,481	\$ 166,713	\$ 167,264	\$ 168,228	\$ 964
Gifts, Grants, & Contracts	57,580	64,953	94,955	74,538	\$ (20,417)
Other Fees and Fines	8,009	6,246	2,987	3,999	\$ 1,012
Sales	32,218	26,572	16,799	29,863	\$ 13,064
Rental & Room Income	31,198	25,220	17,851	33,018	\$ 15,168
Gate Receipts & Commissions	4,392	3,145	365	3,535	\$ 3,170
Miscellaneous & Investment Income	19,336	22,068	8,336	7,463	\$ (873)
State of Illinois	83,647	87,825	87,804	87,804	\$ -
<b>TOTAL, OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 408,861</b>	<b>\$ 402,742</b>	<b>\$ 396,360</b>	<b>\$ 408,449</b>	<b>\$ 12,089</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES BY LINE ITEM</b>					
Cost of Sales	\$ 5,012	\$ 4,447	\$ 1,959	\$ 4,028	\$ 2,069
Personnel Services	217,088	227,218	214,735	232,479	\$ 17,744
Contractual Services	83,134	78,914	71,865	82,513	\$ 10,648
Commodities	6,251	4,874	5,420	5,836	\$ 416
Travel	4,622	3,540	981	3,225	\$ 2,244
Automotive	1,220	1,048	670	1,037	\$ 367
Scholarships	51,179	58,447	67,255	62,395	\$ (4,860)
Telecommunications	623	255	662	543	\$ (119)
Equipment & Library Books	8,095	6,842	7,593	7,948	\$ 355
Capital Repairs	1,347	1,779	385	1,238	\$ 853
Debt Service	25,788	28,091	24,500	16,829	\$ (7,671)
Miscellaneous Expenses	3,861	2,539	335	378	\$ 43
<b>TOTAL, OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 408,218</b>	<b>\$ 417,994</b>	<b>\$ 396,360</b>	<b>\$ 418,449</b>	<b>\$ 22,089</b>
<b>NET INCOME/(LOSS)</b>	<b>\$ 644</b>	<b>\$ (15,252)</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$ (10,000)</b>	<b>\$ (10,000)</b>

Note: FY21 projected actuals updated through March 31, 2021, as presented in the Q3 Financial Summary.

Note: For FY19 "Capital Repairs", "Debt Service", and "Misc. Expenses" were grouped into a single expense category. FY19 numbers in this table are disaggregated to match the current menu of categories.

**Recommendation:** The University recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the Fiscal Year 2022 University Internal Budget.

## **BLACKBOARD LEARN SOFTWARE LICENSE**

**Summary:** Academic Affairs and the Division of Information Technology request permission to enter into a contract with Blackboard, Inc. Learn Suite (Learn, Community System, Content System, and Collaborate.), Blackboard Ally and Training and Development Manager (TDM) for a five-year term (8/9/2021 – 8/8/2026).

The Blackboard Learn Platform is a virtual learning environment and course management system that allows distribution and receipt of class material by faculty and students, delivery of tests and surveys, capturing and reporting of grades, participation in synchronous and asynchronous discussions, and many other course-related activities. The Blackboard mobile apps enable access to NIU's Blackboard Learn system through mobile devices.

Blackboard Ally is being licensed to enhance, track and report on the overall accessibility of NIU's digital course content. Additionally, Blackboard Training and Development Manager (TDM) is a new product that NIU will be piloting this summer to set up a course catalog marketplace and registration with payment gateway for non-credit courses and modules being offered through Blackboard Learn. With this added capability, non-matriculated students would be able to create their own accounts within Blackboard; browse the available non-credit offerings; register for a course, event, or training program; and pay a fee during registration.

**Background:** Blackboard is used campus wide at NIU and is the primary tool used to deliver course content and manage courses online. This software has become a critical enterprise system to NIU's faculty, staff, and students. Blackboard is used by over 1,500 faculty and teaching staff, and by nearly every NIU student taking traditional on-campus classes, blended, and/or online classes.

NIU is finishing the final year of a three-year contract with Blackboard, expiring 8/8/21. The Center for Innovative Teaching and Learning (CITL) and the Division of Information Technology (DOIT) began coordinating a review of learning management systems (LMS) in the fall of 2020. The evaluation was broad in scope with multiple opportunities for input from faculty, staff, and students. The review included in-depth feature comparison and demonstrations of the leading learning management systems used in higher education today. The LMS review process concluded in May of 2021, and Blackboard Learn was selected as NIU's future LMS.

This contract will be published and submitted as a sole source on the Illinois Public Higher Education Procurement Bulletin.

**Funding:** Appropriated/Income Funds - \$2,200,000

**Recommendation:** The University recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the Blackboard Learn Software License.

Amount Approved for FY21: \$348,874

## APPOINTMENT OF DEAN FOR THE COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

**Summary:** Following a national search, Dr. Lynda B. Ransdell has accepted an offer to be the Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences. Dr. Ransdell is recommended for appointment at the rank of professor with tenure in the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders.

**Background:** Dr. Ransdell has served as an administrator for 12 of her 25 years in higher education. Dr. Ransdell has served in a variety of roles including Department Chair, University Ombudsperson, Associate Dean, and most recently as Dean of the College of Health and Human Services at Northern Arizona University. She is currently a Professor in the Department of Health Sciences at NAU, working in the Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) and with the Southwest Health Equity Research Collaborative (SHERC), a \$21 million dollar NIH/NIMHD effort to increase basic biomedical, clinical, and behavioral research at NAU to address health disparities among diverse populations of the Southwestern United States. Her research interests include faculty development, mentoring, enhancing sports performance of female athletes, and physical activity and public health.

Dr. Ransdell graduated from Eastern Kentucky University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education. She earned a Master of Science in Exercise and Sport Studies at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts and a Ph.D. in Exercise and Wellness Education from Arizona State University.

**Funding:** There is no additional funding needed for this appointment.

**Recommendation:** The University recommends that the Board of Trustees approve Professor Lynda Ransdell's appointment as Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences with the rank of professor with tenure in the School of Allied Health and Communicative Disorders, effective July 1, 2021.



## **ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR STUDENT AFFAIRS AND APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM TO POSITION**

**Summary:** NIU seeks to reinstate the position of Vice President for Student Affairs and to pursue an interim appointment to this position.

**Background:** NIU is firmly committed to serving students from diverse backgrounds and lived experiences, to provide educational opportunities to students at all stages of their educational journey, and to serve the workforce needs of our region and state. The Division of Student Affairs is a critical partner in responding to the needs of the NIU student body and to supporting the success of all students. As we look to the future, the university envisions a Division that builds inclusive communities, engages students in active and engaged learning, and works collaboratively to integrate learning experiences both inside and outside of the classroom. In response to the changes occurring in higher education and lessons learned due to the pandemic, the scope of responsibility for the leader of this Division must expand and change. This elevated scope of responsibility necessitates the reinstatement of the position of Vice President for Student Affairs, for which the university is seeking Board approval.

Furthermore, pursuant to the Board Regulations, the university seeks Board approval to appoint an Interim Vice President for Student Affairs while the university performs a search for the permanent position. The Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost intends to utilize Collegiate Enterprise Solutions, LLC dba Registry for College and University Presidents (“The Registry”) to seek an Interim Vice President for Student Affairs. The Registry is a membership organization that places veteran executives into interim senior leadership positions in higher education. The Registry is an approved vendor for interim executive placement services through the Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative (IPHEC) which NIU is a member institution. As noted by The Registry, “Registry Interim Senior Student Affairs Officers are charged with leading and developing a student-focused, culturally-inclusive environment that supports the overall mission of the institution. Registry Interim VPSAs have comprehensive skill-sets related to student enrollment, retention, and graduation rates; student activities, advocacy, safety, discipline, and health; athletics; housing; and Title IX and related compliance challenges.” As the university re-imagines the scope of this position, it will be invaluable to have the advice and counsel of a seasoned, experienced Interim Vice President for Student Affairs whose background aligns with NIU’s mission, vision and values. In addition to leading the Division of Student Affairs, the university will ask that the Interim work collaboratively within the Division and across the university to develop a vision for a more robust student affairs function at NIU. The university seeks approval to appoint an independent contractor as Interim Vice President for Student Affairs through Collegiate Enterprise Solutions, LLC dba Registry for College and University Presidents.

At the December 10, 2020, Board meeting, the Board authorized the President to select executive search firms for the appointment of executive level positions. It was further recommended that the President periodically report back to the Board regarding selection and status of such searches. Further, provisions of Public Act 97-0814 and the Northern Illinois University policy on the use of external search firms approved by the Board of Trustees on May 23, 2013, allow the use of an external search firm for senior level positions when needed.

The university expects to begin the search for a permanent Vice President for Student Affairs in late fall or early spring. The university will be utilizing an executive search firm per the approval of the Board of Trustees as noted. Due to the critical roles and functions that this position fulfills at the university, there is a justifiable need to use search firms for such positions, per paragraph

(2) of the university's policy. The executive search firm will enable NIU to recruit a diverse and experience pool of candidates. In cases where the Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative list has prequalified firms with the appropriate expertise, the list may be used to select the firm. In some cases, there may be additional expertise needed and an RFP for services may be done through the Procurement Office, following the appropriate process and procedure.

**Recommendation:** The University recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the request to reinstate the position of Vice President for Student Affairs and to seek an Interim Vice President for Student Affairs through Collegiate Enterprise Solutions, LLC dba Registry for College and University Presidents. Such approval would include delegated authority to the Executive Vice President and Provost to select and appoint an appropriate recommended candidate from The Registry as an independent contractor to the position of Interim Vice President of Student Affairs. Further, the University seeks to inform the Board of Trustees that it will use an executive search firm to recruit a permanent Vice President of Student Affairs.

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN  
OFFERED BY THE STATE UNIVERSITIES RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
AND EMPLOYER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

**Summary:** Effective September 1, 2020, the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) established a Deferred Compensation Plan (DCP), as a tax-favored retirement savings mechanism that can supplement the core retirement benefits provided under the SURS Traditional Pension Plan, Portable Pension Plan and Retirement Savings Plan. The SURS DCP is authorized under Illinois State law (Section 15-202 of the Illinois Pension Code) and receives tax-favorable treatment as an “eligible deferred compensation plan” under Section 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code.

SURS is requiring all eligible employers, including Northern Illinois University, to adopt the SURS DCP and memorialize the approval by completing the Resolution to Adopt Plan and the Employer Participation Agreement. Copies of the Resolution to Adopt Plan and Employer Participation Agreement are attached. SURS has set the plan adoption deadline as June 30, 2021.

Once adopted by NIU and approved by SURS, all active SURS-eligible employees will be able to participate in the SURS DCP and elect to defer pre-tax contributions and/or Roth contributions to the DCP in either flat dollar amounts or percentages per pay period, pursuant to the terms of the DCP Plan and applicable legal standards.

Northern Illinois University currently maintains deferred compensation plans for its participating employees, and has an established Retirement Plan Committee, with delegated administrative and investment duties and authority over the plans offered by the University. In addition, NIU employees have access to a separate 457(b) plan administered by the State of Illinois/Central Management Services (CMS). While the University is being required by SURS to also adopt the SURS DCP Plan, the administration and investment duties and authority of the DCP Plan are handled by SURS. Still, the University will be asked by SURS to carry out administrative and technical functions to enable NIU employees to enroll in the SURS DCP, process elective deferrals and contributions, and monitor contribution limits, as outlined in the Employer Participation Agreement.

Therefore, it is necessary to approve adoption of the SURS DCP and set appropriate delegated authority for the Committee (and thereby to the Benefits Office in Human Resource Services) to carry out the administrative and technical functions that SURS will ask NIU to perform in relation to the SURS DCP. Since it is a plan that is administered by and invested pursuant to SURS, any employees who have questions about the SURS DCP Plan can contact a SURS defined contribution account representative at 1-800-613-9543 for assistance.

**For Approval:** The Board of Trustees is asked to approve the adoption of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) Deferred Compensation Plan (DCP) as described above and to delegate authority to the Northern Illinois University Retirement Plan Committee (Committee) to carry out all necessary administrative and/or technical functions to process employee participation in the SURS DCP, including execution of the Employer Participation Agreement required by SURS.

If approved by the Board, the Chair of the Committee shall sign and date the Resolution to Adopt Plan and the Employer Participation Agreement, as the duly authorized representative of the employer. Furthermore, the Committee shall be delegated authority to determine, at any appropriate time, whether the University will participate in discretionary matching contributions

or discretionary nonelective contributions in the SURS DCP, unless such determination would require approval of the Board under the Board Regulations.

**STATE UNIVERSITIES RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN**

**RESOLUTION TO ADOPT PLAN**

WHEREAS, the State Universities Retirement System Deferred Compensation Plan ("Plan") is an eligible deferred compensation plan under Section 457(b) of the Internal Revenue ("Code") established and is administered by the State Universities Retirement System ("System") pursuant to Section 15-202 of the Illinois Pension Code, 40 ILCS 5 et seq.;

WHEREAS, the Plan is funded by elective deferrals, and if elected by the Employer in the Employer Participation Agreement, discretionary employer contributions;

WHEREAS, contributions to the Plan are held in Trust by SURS as Trustee pursuant to the State Universities Retirement System Master Trust Agreement ("Trust Agreement") and are invested in investment options selected and monitored by SURS;

WHEREAS, SURS has contracted with certain service providers ("Service Providers") to administer the Plan in accordance with its written terms and applicable law;

WHEREAS, Section 15-202 of the Illinois Pension Code, 40 ILCS 5, et seq., and Section 2.02(v) of the Plan provide that an employer that is subject to Article 15 of the Illinois Pension Code and that is an eligible employer within the meaning of Code Section 457(e)(1)(A) offer the Plan to its eligible employees;

WHEREAS, the Employer is an employer subject to Article 15 of the Illinois Pension Code, and is an eligible employer within the meaning of Code Section 457(e)(1)(A); and

WHEREAS, the Employer has reviewed the Plan, is authorized by law to adopt this Resolution, and is concurrently executing an Employer Participation Agreement for the Plan, which shall constitute a part of the written terms of the Plan.

NOW THEREFORE the governing body of the Employer hereby resolves:

Section 1. The Employer adopts the Plan for the benefit of its eligible employees, including the Employer Participation Agreement which is attached hereto and made a part of this Resolution.

Section 2. The Employer agrees to abide by the terms of the Plan and the Trust Agreement, including amendments to the Plan and the Trust Agreement, and all applicable provisions of the Code, the Illinois Pension Code, and other applicable law.

Section 3. The Employer agrees to enroll only those individuals who are employees, as defined in Section 15-107 of the Illinois Pension Code, of the Employer. An employee does not include an individual who is a leased employee under Code Section 414(n)(2).

Section 4. The Employer acknowledges that all assets held in connection with the Plan, including all contributions to the Plan, all property and rights acquired or purchased with such amounts and all income attributable to such amounts, property or rights shall be held in the Trust for the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries under the Plan. No part of

the assets and income of the Plan shall be used for, or diverted to, purposes other than for the exclusive benefit of participants and their beneficiaries and for defraying reasonable expenses of the Plan. All contributions to the Plan shall be held, managed, invested and distributed as part of the Trust in accordance with the provisions of the Plan. All benefits under the Plan shall be distributed solely from the Trust pursuant to the terms of the Plan.

Section 5. This Resolution and an Employer Participation Agreement shall be submitted to SURS. SURS shall determine whether the Resolution and the Employer Participation Agreement comply with the Plan, and, if they do, shall provide appropriate forms to the Employer to implement employee participation in the Plan. SURS may refuse to approve a Resolution and/or an Employer Participation Agreement from an employer that does not have state statutory authority to participate in the Plan. The Employer hereby acknowledges that it is responsible for assuring that this Resolution and the Employer Participation Agreement are adopted and executed in accordance with the requirements of applicable law.

Adopted by the Employer as of the date set forth below in accordance with applicable law.

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE UNIVERSITIES RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN**

**EMPLOYER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT**

The undersigned employer ("Employer") and the State Universities Retirement System ("SURS") agree to the participation of the Employer in the State Universities Retirement System Deferred Compensation Plan ("Plan"). The Plan is sponsored and administered by SURS and is intended to qualify as an eligible deferred compensation plan under Section 457(b) of the Internal Revenue Code ("Code") that is a governmental plan under Code Section 414(d) and Section 3(33) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA").

Complete this Participation Agreement only if the Employer is both an employer subject to Article 15 of the Illinois Pension Code and an eligible employer within the meaning of Code Section 457(e)(1)(A).

**A. EMPLOYER INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tax ID Number: \_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**B. TYPE OF ADOPTION AND EFFECTIVE DATE**

The Employer's Plan document shall consist of this Employer Participation Agreement ("Agreement") and the Plan document, as amended from time to time. All capitalized terms in this Agreement shall have the meaning set forth in the Plan document.

It is very important that this Employer Participation Agreement be completed accurately to ensure consistency between the Plan and actual plan operation. The Employer may prospectively change the terms of its participation in the Plan at any time by completing a new Employer Participation Agreement with SURS.

This Agreement is for the following purpose (*check and complete one only*):

1.  This is a new 457(b) deferred compensation plan adopted by the Employer for its Employees effective \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert effective date of this Agreement*).
2.  This is an amendment to be effective as of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert effective date of this amendment*) to the current Agreement previously adopted by the Employer, which was originally effective \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (*insert effective date of the original Agreement*).
3.  This is an amendment and restatement of another 457(b) deferred compensation plan maintained by the Employer, effective \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (insert effective date of this Agreement).  
This Employer's prior plan was originally effective \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ (insert effective date of the prior plan). The Employer understands  
that it is the Employer's responsibility to ensure that the prior plan met all  
applicable state and federal requirements.

- C. **CUSTODY OF ASSETS.** Code Section 457(g) shall be satisfied by setting aside Plan assets for the exclusive benefit of Participants and Beneficiaries in a Trust pursuant to the terms of the Plan.
- D. **PARTICIPATION.** An Employee may become a Participant in the Plan for purposes of Elective Deferrals and Discretionary Employer Contributions immediately upon commencement of employment with the Employer. "Employee" means an individual who is an employee, as defined in Section 15-107 of the Illinois Pension Code, of an Employer. An Employee does not include an individual who is a leased employee under Code Section 414(n)(2).
- E. **ELECTIVE DEFERRALS.** All Employees of the Employer shall be permitted to make Elective Deferrals to the Plan. Elective Deferrals include Pre-Tax Contributions and Roth Contributions. A Participant shall be 100% Vested in his or her Elective Deferrals at all times.
- F. **DISCRETIONARY MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.**

- 1. The Employer shall (check and complete one only):
  - a.  not make Discretionary Matching Contributions.
  - b.  match \_\_\_\_\_% of Elective Deferrals of up to \_\_\_\_\_% of Compensation  each pay period  annually.
  - c.  match \_\_\_\_\_% of the first \$\_\_\_\_\_ of Elective Deferrals  each pay period  annually.
  - d.  match the percentage or amount of Elective Deferrals that the Employer determines in its discretion for the Plan Year. **The Employer agrees to submit to SURS a resolution or policy duly adopting the percentage or amount and frequency of matching contributions prior to July 1st of the applicable Plan Year(s).**
- Check this box if the Discretionary Matching Contributions match elective deferrals made to another plan, and enter the name of the plan:  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Any Discretionary Matching Contribution will reduce, dollar for dollar, the Elective Deferrals that a Participant can contribute.**

- 2. The Employer shall make Discretionary Matching Contributions for the following Employees (complete only if Discretionary Matching Contributions will be made to the Plan; check and complete as many as applicable):



- a.  any full-time Employee, defined as an Employee who has \_\_\_\_\_ or more Hours of Service per week.
- b.  any permanent part-time Employee, defined as an Employee who is not a full-time Employee and who has \_\_\_\_\_ or more Hours of Service per week.
- c.  any Employee in the following class(es) of Employees:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Any changes to the class of employees eligible for Discretionary Matching Contributions will require an updated Employer Participation Agreement**

- 3. A Participant shall be 100% Vested in his or her Discretionary Matching Contributions at all times; provided, however, that if SURS enacts an Eligible Automatic Enrollment Arrangement under Section 4.2(e) of the Plan, Discretionary Matching Contributions related to a withdrawal of Automatic Pre-Tax Contributions in accordance with Section 4.2(e)(4) will be placed in a forfeiture account and used first to reduce the Employer's Discretionary Matching Contributions, if any, and then to reduce the Employer's Discretionary Nonelective Contributions, if any.

**G. DISCRETIONARY NONELECTIVE CONTRIBUTIONS.**

- 1. The Employer shall (*check and complete one only*):
  - b.  not make Discretionary Nonelective Contributions.
  - c.  contribute \_\_\_\_\_% of Compensation on behalf of each Participant  each pay period  annually.
  - d.  contribute \$\_\_\_\_\_ on behalf of each Participant  each pay period  annually.
  - e.  contribute the percentage or amount that the Employer determines in its discretion for the Plan Year. **The Employer agrees to submit to SURS a resolution or policy duly adopting the percentage or amount and frequency of nonelective contributions prior to July 1st of the applicable Plan Year(s).**

**NOTE: Any Discretionary Nonelective Contribution will reduce, dollar for dollar, the amount a Participant can contribute.**

- 2. The Employer shall make Discretionary Nonelective Contributions for the following Employees (*complete only if Discretionary Nonelective Contributions will be made to the Plan; check and complete as many as applicable*):

- a. [ ] any full-time Employee, defined as an Employee who has \_\_\_\_\_ or more Hours of Service per week.
- b. [ ] any permanent part-time Employee, defined as an Employee who is not a full-time Employee and who has \_\_\_\_\_ or more Hours of Service per week.
- c. [ ] any Employee in the following class(es) of Employees:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: Any changes to the class of employees eligible for Discretionary Non-Elective Contributions, will require an updated Employer Participation Agreement**

- 3. A Participant shall be 100% Vested in his or her Discretionary Nonelective Contributions at all times.

**H. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION.**

In executing this Employer Participation Agreement, the Employer agrees:

- that it is eligible to adopt the Plan, and that its governing body has adopted a resolution to approve the adoption of the Plan for its eligible employees, which resolution has been provided to SURS or its designee;
- to be bound by all terms of the Plan document, as applicable, the terms of this Employer Participation Agreement, and the rules and regulations of SURS, all as may be amended from time to time, and that no oral understanding not incorporated into this Agreement is binding on any party;
- to provide any information reasonably requested by SURS or a service provider from time to time to properly administer the Plan in accordance with its terms and applicable law;
- to allow SURS and/or the service providers reasonable access to eligible employees to assist with enrollment in and administration of the Plan;
- to be solely responsible for the correction of any operational or compliance errors resulting from the Employer's failure to perform its responsibilities or provide accurate information to SURS or a service provider;
- that all contributions to the Plan will be deposited in the State Universities Retirement System Master Trust for the exclusive benefit of participants and beneficiaries, and that the Employer shall have no right to Trust assets;
- that participants in the Plan have the right to direct the investment of their accounts by choosing among the investment options selected by SURS and offered under the Plan,

and that any participant who does not provide timely investment direction will be deemed to have elected the Plan's default investment, as selected by SURS;

- that participants will be charged fees for the investment and administration services provided by SURS and the service providers, which will be offset against investment returns or deducted from participant accounts periodically; and
- that the Employer has consulted, to the extent necessary, with its own legal and tax advisors.

The Employer further agrees that it is responsible for the following areas of compliance:

- determining and monitoring employee eligibility in accordance with the terms of the Plan and the Employer Participation Agreement;
- entering into salary reduction agreements with Employees and timely remitting all Elective Deferrals and Discretionary Employer Contributions, if any, to the Plan; and
- complying and monitoring the applicable contribution limits under the Code as such limits apply to the Plan and any other Code Section 457(b) plan offered by the Employer in which Employer's employees participate, including the elective deferral limit under Code Sections 457(b)(2), 457(b)(3), 457(c), and 457(e)(18).

This Employer Participation Agreement is duly executed on behalf of the Employer by the undersigned authorized signatories and shall be effective as indicated in Section B.

**EMPLOYER'S AUTHORIZED SIGNATORIES:**

By: _____	By: _____
Print: _____	Print: _____
Title: _____	Title: _____
Date: _____	Date: _____

**ACCEPTANCE OF EMPLOYER'S PARTICIPATION IN THE STATE UNIVERSITIES  
RETIREMENT SYSTEM DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLAN:**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Suzanne Mayer, Interim Executive Director

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPENDIX A**

**AUTHORIZED CONTACT FORM**

All official communications from the Employer to SURS shall be directed to the attention of the following person:

State Universities Retirement System  
Attention: Executive Director and General Counsel  
1901 Fox Drive  
Champaign, Illinois 61820  
Telephone Number: 217-378-8800  
Facsimile Number: 217-378-9801  
Email: [Executive\\_Director@surs.org](mailto:Executive_Director@surs.org)  
[General\\_Counsel@surs.org](mailto:General_Counsel@surs.org)

All official communications from SURS to the Employer shall be directed to the attention of the following person:

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attention: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The following individuals are authorized to represent and act on behalf of the Employer for all purposes related to the Employer's participation in the State Universities Retirement System Deferred Compensation Plan.

Contact Name _____	Title _____
Phone No. ( ) _____	E-Mail Address _____
Signature _____	Date ____/____/____
Contact Name _____	Title _____
Phone No. ( ) _____	E-Mail Address _____
Signature _____	Date ____/____/____
Contact Name _____	Title _____
Phone No. ( ) _____	E-Mail Address _____
Signature _____	Date ____/____/____
Contact Name _____	Title _____
Phone No. ( ) _____	E-Mail Address _____
Signature _____	Date ____/____/____

The Employer agrees that SURS is entitled to rely on this Appendix A, and shall be held harmless in doing so, until such time that the Employer submits a revised Appendix A to SURS.

**The undersigned represents that he or she is an authorized representative of the Employer with authority to sign the Agreement and this Appendix A on the Employer's behalf.**

By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

## FISCAL YEAR 2022 NON-REPRESENTED STAFF SALARY INCREMENT ALLOCATION GUIDELINES

**Summary:** Offering competitive salaries remains a continuing high priority of the President and the Board of Trustees. Accordingly, the university has developed an internally funded plan to provide increments for FY22 that recognizes the importance of salary increases in a resource constrained environment.

**Background:** In accordance with Board Regulation II.C.2.a, annual salary increment guidelines are approved by the Board of Trustees. The approval of annual salary increment guidelines authorizes the university's distribution of fiscal year increments to eligible employees. Following completion of the fiscal year salary adjustment process, increment totals are verified and provided to the Board of Trustees in summary form.

The recommended salary increment guideline for non-negotiated staff is a 3% increment to be implemented on and effective July 1, 2021.

Non-negotiated faculty and staff on regular contracts/appointments employed by the university on or before December 31, 2020, and who remain employed on the effective date of the increment program will be eligible for the increment subject to university procedures. Non-represented employees also include temporary contracts/appointments who have been continually reappointed for three or more years. Graduate students who hold graduate assistantships and are reappointed during FY22 are eligible to receive salary increases associated with their reappointment.

Those employees who are represented by a union or other legally recognized collective bargaining representative will receive a negotiated increment pursuant to the specific provisions of applicable, existing collective bargaining or other future negotiated agreements.

**Recommendation:** The University recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Non-Represented Staff Salary Increment Allocation Guidelines.

**APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND  
ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Summary:** Dr. Bradley Bond is stepping down from the position of Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for International Affairs effective June 30, 2021. This necessitates that NIU appoint an interim dean/associate vice president to this position while a search for a permanent candidate is conducted.

**Background:** Dr. Purush Damodaran has served as Chair of the Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology since 2012. Dr. Damodaran brings expertise in both the graduate and international affairs arenas. He has served as Graduate Program Director in his department and has extensive experience in recruiting and supporting graduate and international students. He has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2018 Outstanding Department Contribution to International Education Award, the 2020 International Educator of the Year Award and the 2021 Presidential Teaching Professorship Award. Dr. Damodaran has an extensive publication record with over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles. He shows his commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion through his service on NIU's faculty diversity recruitment and retention committee and his service in advising student leaders in the NIU chapters of the Society for Women Engineers and the National Society of Black Engineers. Dr. Damodaran received his Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering from Texas A&M University, a master's degree in Industrial Engineering from NIU, and a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Madras in India.

**Recommendation:** The University recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the request to appoint Dr. Purush Damodaran as the Interim Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for International Affairs effective July 1, 2021.

**DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATE VICE  
PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SEARCH UPDATE**

At the December 10, 2020, Board meeting, the Board authorized the President to select executive search firms for the appointment of executive level positions. It was further recommended that the President periodically report back to the Board regarding selection and status of such searches. Further, provisions of Public Act 97-0814 and the Northern Illinois University policy on the use of external search firms approved by the Board of Trustees on May 23, 2013, allow the use of an external search firm for senior level positions when needed.

Due to the stepping down of the Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for International Affairs, the Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost will be utilizing an executive search firm per the approval of the Board of Trustees as noted. Due to the critical roles and functions that this position fulfills at the university and the further expansion of the dean and associate vice president role in fundraising, student success and enrollment management, there is a justifiable need to use search firms for such positions, per paragraph (2) of the university's policy. The executive search firm will enable NIU to recruit a diverse and experienced pool of candidates. In cases where the Illinois Procurement Higher Education Consortium list has prequalified firms with the appropriate expertise, the list will be used to select the firm. In some cases, there may be additional expertise needed and an RFP for services may be done through the Procurement Office, following the appropriate process and procedure.



**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES OVERVIEW**

Dean Robert Brinkmann will present an overview of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

**FISCAL YEAR 2022 ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS AND  
CIVIL SERVICE MERIT BOARD REPRESENTATIVE**

The Board of Trustees will hold its election of officers for Fiscal Year 2022. The results will be tallied and announced by Board Parliamentarian and General Counsel Bryan Perry.

**RESOLUTION  
AIDAN SHIELDS  
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

**WHEREAS**, Aidan Shields has faithfully served as a student member of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to his appointment as Student Trustee, Aidan Shields served as the Director of Athletics and Recreation in the NIU Student Government Association; and, in that role, served on a variety of committees working to promote NIU Athletics and improve the wellness of individuals within the university, including the Athletic Board and the Health and Wellness Steering Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, as a member of the Board of Trustees, Aidan Shields contributed valuable insight and information regarding the student perspective, serving as a member of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee; the Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee; and the Research and Innovation, Legal and Legislative Affairs Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Aidan Shields served in the role of Student Trustee during the global coronavirus pandemic, an exigency that required urgent and unprecedented institutional planning and the facilitation of such activity remotely – a unique and challenging situation for campus leadership and university governance; and

**WHEREAS**, Aidan Shields is also a proud member of the Phi Sigma Kappa fraternity and served that organization as Recruitment Chairman (2018), New Member Educator (2018-2019), Vice President (2019), and President (2020); was active in that organization's Tugs team (in 2021); and sought to advance Greek life at NIU through these and other leadership endeavors; and

**WHEREAS**, during his experience as a student at Northern Illinois University, Aidan Shields completed a Bachelor of Science in Marketing with a Certificate in Digital Marketing; and

**WHEREAS**, we, as his colleagues on the Board of Trustees, want to express our appreciation for Aidan's service to the NIU students and community, congratulate him on his achievement of his undergraduate degree, and wish him continued success in his professional career.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University in formal meeting herein assembled extends its grateful appreciation to Aidan Shields for his distinguished service to Northern Illinois University.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution be presented to Aidan Shields and a copy of this document be placed in the official files of the Board of Trustees as part of the permanent record of the University and the great State of Illinois and as a lasting tribute to the accomplishments of Aidan Shields.

Adopted in a meeting assembled this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2021.

**Board of Trustees of  
Northern Illinois University**

Dennis L. Barsema  
Board Chair

Robert W. Pritchard  
Board Secretary

