



Special Meeting
of the
Board of Trustees

February 10, 2022

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

1:15 p.m. – Thursday – February 10, 2022

This meeting is being conducted in person and through videoconferencing communications pursuant to Public Act 101-0640, enacted June 12, 2020, and section 7(e) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, allowing for virtual board meetings during a disaster declaration relating to public health concerns. As Chair of the Board, I have determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent because of the disaster. As such, trustees may attend today’s meeting by audio and visual conferencing and not by physical presence.

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 December 7, 2021](#)*Action*..... 1
- 5. Chair's Comments/Announcements
- 6. Public Comment*
- 7. President’s Report No. 157
 - a. [Appointment of Dean, Graduate School and Associate Vice President, International Affairs](#).....*Action*.....7
 - b. [Recommendation for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2022-2023](#).....*Action*.....8
 - c. [Fiscal Year 2023 Undergraduate Tuition Pricing Recommendation](#).....*Action*.....9
 - d. [Fiscal Year 2023 Graduate and Law Tuition Pricing Recommendation](#)*Action*.....11
 - e. [Fiscal Year 2023 Undergraduate, Graduate, and Law Student Fee Pricing Recommendation](#)*Action*.....15
 - f. [Fiscal Year 2023 Room and Board Fee Recommendation](#)*Action*.....19
 - g. [Fiscal Year 2023 Student Health Insurance](#).....*Action*.....21
 - h. [Relocation of Human Resource Services](#).....*Action*.....22
 - i. [Payment Card Processing](#).....*Action*.....23
 - j. [Honorary Doctorate Recommendation](#).....*Action*.....24
 - k. [Real Estate Property Sale – Sycamore Land](#).....*Action*.....25
 - l. [Request for Delegated Authority Regarding Purchase of High Performance Computing](#).....*Action*.....26
- 8. Other Matters

9. Next Meeting Date

10. Closed Session

11. 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.

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

Minutes of the
Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University
Regular Meeting
December 7, 2021

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Board Chair Eric Wasowicz in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall.

Recording Secretary Crystal Doyle conducted a roll call.

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

Also present: President Lisa Freeman; Vice President and General Counsel and Board Parliamentarian Bryan Perry; Chief of Staff and Board Liaison Matt Streb; Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer Sarah Chinniah; Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Charlie Fey; Vice President for Research and Innovation Partnerships Jerry Blazey; Vice President for Academic Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Vernese Edghill-Walden; Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences Lynda Ransdell; Vice President for University Advancement Catherine Squires; Associate Vice President John Heckmann; Dean of the College of Liberal and Arts Sciences Robert Brinkmann Director of Employee and Labor Relations Jesse Perez and University Advisory Council (UAC) Representatives Peter Chomentowski and Holly Nicholson.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

General Counsel Perry indicated that 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 Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

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

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

The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 18, 2021

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2021. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Absent

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Absent

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Wasowicz welcomed the members of the University Advisory Council who were present and asked if any of the UAC members had any comments.

UAC Representative Nicholson thanked President Freeman for her positive and encouraging response to some of the issues that have affected NIU. UAC Representative Nicholson showed appreciation for President Freeman's leadership.

Chair Wasowicz congratulated all the sports teams for their hard work and the football team who won the MAC Championship in Detroit. He also congratulated all the graduates who will be graduating this weekend.

Trustee Rita Athas joined the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Wasowicz introduced the public comment portion of the meeting. General Counsel Perry indicated that there were no registered public comments.

REPORTS OF THE BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS

Chair Wasowicz reminded everyone that the reports of the Board Committees and the Board Liaisons are information only.

Catherine Squires, Vice President for Advancement and President & CEO of the NIU Foundation, provided a verbal report for item 7.h.

The trustees thanked Vice President Squires for her report and all she has done over the year with alumni events, dinners, and fundraising.

Trustee John Butler joined the meeting at 9:34 a.m.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 156

Chair Wasowicz asked President Freeman to present the President's Report No. 156.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 8.a.1. Request to Merge the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences and the Department of Geography and Atmospheric Sciences into the Department of Earth, Atmosphere, and Environment

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.1. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.a.1. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.a.2. Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Request

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.2. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.a.2. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Vice Chair Rita Athas seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.a.3. Fiscal Year 2023 IBHE Capital Budget Request

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.a.3. for approval.

CFO Chinniah spoke about a mistake that was in the item when it was presented at the November 18, 2021 FACFO meeting. The tables on page 13 of the board report were referenced as FY22 IBHE Budget Submissions, but they should have been referenced as FY23 IBHE Budget Submissions. The lists are correct and do represent our FY23 priorities.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to amend the item to correct the tables to FY23. Trustee Herrero so moved, and Trustee Pritchard seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve amended item 8.a.3. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

President Freeman asked whether any Trustees wanted to revisit information items forwarded from the committees.

President Freeman continued to the items directly from the President.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 8.c.1. Collective Bargaining Agreement for the Metropolitan Alliance of Police #675 Police Telecommunicator

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.1. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 8.c.1. Trustee Butler so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

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

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

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 8.c.2. College of Health and Human Sciences Overview

President Freeman presented agenda item 8.c.2. Lynda Ransdell, Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences presented an overview of the College of Health and Human Sciences.

The trustees thanked Dean Ransdell for the presentation. The trustees are all very excited to see what Dean Ransdell will do with the College of Health and Human Sciences and are very happy to have her as a part of the Huskie family.

CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 100

Chair Wasowicz presented the Chair's report No. 100.

Agenda Item 9.a. 2021 Annual Performance Review of President Freeman

Chair Wasowicz presented agenda item 9.a.

Agenda Item 9.b. 2021 Presidential Evaluation Performance Incentive Pay

Chair Wasowicz presented agenda item 9.b. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.b. Trustee Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

The trustees all commented that they are very happy with how President Freeman has led NIU over the past year. President Freeman loves and cares about NIU and it shows in all that she does. All the trustees have enjoyed working with her and are looking forward to working with her more in the future.

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

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

The motion was approved.

President Freeman said she considers it a great honor and privilege to lead this amazing institution. She thanked the trustees and everyone on campus for helping to make NIU so successful.

Agenda Item 9.c. Closed Session Minutes Review and Release

Chair Wasowicz presented agenda item 9.c. for approval.

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to approve item 9.c. Trustee Gayles so moved, and Vice Chair Athas seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

OTHER MATTERS

There were no other matters.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chair Wasowicz announced that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held March 24, 2022, at 9 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Chair Wasowicz 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 Pritchard so moved, and Trustee Barsema seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The Board closed the public meeting at 10:57 a.m.

The meeting reconvened from closed session at 12:38 p.m.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Present

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Present

Trustee John Butler: Present

Trustee Montel Gayles: Present

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Present

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Present

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Present

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Wasowicz asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Trustee Barsema so moved, and Trustee Herrero seconded.

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

Vice Chair Rita Athas: Yes

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes

Trustee John Butler: Yes

Trustee Montel Gayles: Yes

Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes

Trustee Bob Pritchard: Yes

Trustee Jacob Sommer: Absent

Board Chair Eric Wasowicz: Yes

The motion was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 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.

APPOINTMENT OF DEAN, GRADUATE SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Summary: Following a national search, Dr. Kerry Wilks has accepted an offer to be the Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for International Affairs. Dr. Wilks is recommended for appointment at the rank of professor with tenure in the Department of World Languages and Cultures in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Background: Dr. Wilks has served in various leadership roles at Wichita State University, most recently as an Associate Dean in the Graduate School. In this position, she developed alternative credits (badges) for graduate study, established a graduate enrollment management plan, and focused on holistic services for graduate students. As a Professor of Spanish, her research focuses on Hispanic classical theater and she serves as a board member for the Association of Hispanic Classical Theater. She also serves on the executive committee for the Midwest Association of Graduate Schools. She has taught both graduate and undergraduate courses in Spanish literature and theater. Dr. Wilks received her Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 2004, her Master of Arts degree from Auburn University in 1996 and a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Rhodes College in 1991.

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval for the request that Dr. Kerry Wilks be appointed as Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for International Affairs, with the rank of professor with tenure in the Department of World Languages and Cultures effective March 1, 2022.

**RECOMMENDATION FOR FACULTY TENURE AND/OR
PROMOTION EFFECTIVE 2022-2023**

NAME

COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT/SCHOOL

Hired at the Rank of Associate Professor with Tenure

Bradley Wiles

University Libraries

Recommendation: The Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, and Personnel Committee recommends Board of Trustee approval for the request for Recommendation for Faculty Tenure and/or Promotion Effective 2022-2023.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 UNDERGRADUATE TUITION PRICING RECOMMENDATION

Summary: The following item presents the pricing recommendation that addresses Northern Illinois University's tuition rates for FY23. These recommendations were developed with the goals of addressing affordability concerns and maintaining fiscal responsibility by keeping the total cost of attendance for full-time students as low as possible. From FY16 to FY21 NIU held the base tuition flat. In FY22, tuition increased by 1.5%. This recommendation for FY23 is requesting a 1.9% increase in base tuition, and no change in undergraduate differential tuition rates.

Background: NIU has developed a refined set of tuition rates to reflect the multiple student populations. To bring clarity to this array of rates, first described is the rate structure and then the rates for FY22 and the rates proposed for FY23.

NIU sets tuition on a per-credit-hour basis. However, undergraduate students who enroll in 12 or more semester credit hours are charged at a flat tuition rate. Rates are set subject to the following considerations:

- Illinois "Truth-in-Tuition" law for undergraduates
- Differential tuition for select programs
- Residency considerations (e.g., out-of-state and international students)

Truth in Tuition

Tuition rates for Illinois residents seeking an undergraduate degree are subject to Illinois' Truth-in-Tuition law. Under the law, entering degree-seeking undergraduate students are guaranteed the same base tuition rate for four continuous years. NIU policy adds one additional semester to this four-year guarantee. After nine continuous semesters of enrollment, the guaranteed undergraduate tuition rate adjusts to the tuition rate paid by students who entered the university one fiscal year after the date of original entry for an additional three semesters.

In the event of a decrease in undergraduate tuition, it is anticipated that all continuing students will be charged the new rate if that rate is more favorable to them than the rate guaranteed to them by Truth-in-Tuition.

Hence, when NIU sets undergraduate tuition rates for FY23, those rates apply only to:

- incoming or re-entering students;
- non-degree-seeking students, including visiting students and post-baccalaureate students; and
- students whose continuous enrollment has exceeded the period outlined above.

Out-of-State and International Rates

NIU currently sets tuition for domestic, out-of-state students at the same rate as Illinois residents. The rate for international students is set at twice the in-state rate. The university may enter into agreements with international partners for cohort or pipeline programs. For such programs, the university may agree to lower tuition to no less than 1.5 times the FY23 in-state rate.

Tuition Recommendation

The recommended 1.9% base tuition increase represents a \$6.73 increase in the per credit hour rate and a \$91.27 increase in the full-time rate per semester. This modest increase is necessitated by NIU's commitment to support the academic success of its students. Research and analysis have

shown a need to enhance the structured experiences we offer to students to support their sense of belonging and their ability to create and build meaningful relationships with other students, faculty and staff. Doing so is imperative to respond to the on-going effect of the pandemic on students. The sum represented by this increase will be directed to an expansion of those services.

Fiscal Year 2022 Tuition

Base Domestic Tuition	Per Credit Hour Rate	Capped Tuition at
	1 – 11	12 or more Credit Hours
Undergraduate Tuition	\$354.07	\$4,803.79

Fiscal Year 2023 Tuition Recommendations

Base Domestic Tuition	Per Credit Hour Rate	Capped Tuition at
	1 – 11	12 or more Credit Hours
Undergraduate Tuition	\$360.80	\$4,895.06

Differential Tuition

For select programs, NIU charges a differential tuition. These differentials reflect the added value and added costs associated with those programs. The differential rate is added to the base and becomes the tuition rate charged for that program, subject to the policies previously listed. Differential rates are stated on a per-credit-hour basis. The maximum differential rate is capped at twelve times the per-credit-hour rate. Differential rates are re-validated annually.

Undergraduate Differential Tuition per Credit Hour Rates

Program	FY22 Differential	FY23 Differential
College of Engineering & Engineering Technology		
All programs	\$50	\$50
College of Health & Human Sciences		
Nursing (pre-licensure, not including pre-majors nor RN to BSN)	\$15	\$15
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences		
Computer Science (including pre-majors)	\$40	\$40

The Rationale for Differential Tuition

Differential tuition rates are reviewed annually to ensure that the rates are competitive and are not adversely impacting enrollments. This year, College of Engineering & Engineering Technology, Nursing, and Computer Science are maintaining their existing rates.

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval for the request of Fiscal Year 2023 Undergraduate Tuition Pricing Recommendation.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 GRADUATE AND LAW TUITION PRICING RECOMMENDATION

Summary: The following item presents the pricing recommendation that addresses Northern Illinois University's tuition rates for FY23. These recommendations were developed with the goals of addressing affordability concerns and maintaining fiscal responsibility by keeping the total cost of attendance for full-time students as low as possible. From FY16 to FY21 NIU held the base tuition flat. In FY22, tuition increased by 1.5% for graduate students and 0.79% for law students. This recommendation for FY23 is requesting a 1.9% increase in base tuition (\$6.88 per credit hour) for graduate students and a 1% increase in the base tuition (\$6.88 per credit hour) for law students. Also included are adjustments in three differential tuition rates.

Background: NIU has developed a refined set of tuition rates to reflect the multiple student populations. To bring clarity to this array of rates, first described is the rate structure and then the rates for FY22 and the rates proposed for FY23.

NIU sets tuition on a per-credit-hour basis. For the Juris Doctorate program and most graduate programs, students who enroll in 12 or more semester credit hours are billed at a maximum rate that is 12 times the per-credit-hour rate. The FY23 rates indicated below apply to both new and returning graduate students and law students. Rates are set separately for graduate students and law students, subject to the following considerations:

- Bundling tuition and fees for graduate and law students presented as a single charge on their bill that includes an instructional charge (tuition), and institutional charge (student fees and charges)
- Differential tuition for select programs
- Residency considerations (e.g., out-of-state and international students)

Out-of-State and International Rates

NIU currently sets tuition for domestic, out-of-state students at the same rate as Illinois residents. The rate for international students is set at twice the in-state rate, subject to the following considerations:

- Within the integrated charge for graduate and law students, the instructional charge is doubled for international students, but the institutional charge is not.
- International students appointed as graduate assistants or fellows are billed at the domestic law or graduate student rate.
- The university may enter into agreements with international partners for cohort or pipeline programs. For such programs, the university may agree to lower tuition (for undergraduates) or the instructional component (for graduate students) to no less than 1.5 times the FY22 in-state rate.

Differential Tuition

For select programs, NIU charges a differential tuition. These differentials reflect the added value and added costs associated with those programs. The differential rate is added to the base and becomes the tuition rate charged for that program, subject to the policies previously listed. Differential rates are stated on a per-credit-hour basis. The maximum differential rate is capped at 12 times the per-credit-hour rate. Differential rates are re-validated annually.

Tuition Recommendation

The recommended 1.9% base tuition increase for graduate students represents a \$6.88 increase in

the per credit hour rate and a \$82.56 increase in the 12 or more credit hour rate per semester. The recommended base tuition increase for law students represents a \$6.88 increase in the per credit hour rate and a \$82.56 increase in the maximum rate per semester. Overall, this represents an approximate 1% base tuition increase. This modest increase is necessitated by NIU's commitment to support the academic success of its students. Experience over the past year has demonstrated a need to provide additional services to students, including enhanced academic advising and financial counseling, to enable them to be retained and graduate. The sum represented by this increase will be directed to an expansion of those services.

Fiscal Year 2023 Tuition Recommendations

Graduate Domestic Tuition per Semester	FY22		FY23	
	Per Credit Hour 1-11	12 or more Credit Hours	Per Credit Hour 1-11	12 or more Credit Hours
Instructional Charge (Base)	\$362.36	\$4,348.32	\$369.24	\$4,430.88

College of Law Domestic Tuition per Semester	FY22		FY23	
	Per Credit Hour 1-11	12 or more Credit Hours	Per Credit Hour 1-11	12 or more Credit Hours
Instructional Charge (Base)	\$682.65	\$8,191.80	\$689.53	\$8,274.36

Graduate Differential Tuition

The per credit hour rates for FY22 and the proposed rates for FY23 are detailed below:

Program	FY22 Differential	FY23 Differential	Increase or (Decrease)
College of Business			
Graduate Certificate in Accountancy	\$325	\$325	\$0
Master of Accountancy	\$325	\$325	\$0
Master of Accounting Science	\$325	\$325	\$0
Master of Science in Taxation	\$325	\$325	\$0
Graduate Study in Enterprise Management Using SAP Analytics	\$200	\$200	\$0
Graduate Certificate in Data Analytics	\$200	\$200	\$0
Master of Science in Finance	\$400	\$400	\$0
Evening MBA	\$400	\$400	\$0
Global MBA	\$400	\$400	\$0
Graduate Certificate in Management Information Systems	\$200	\$200	\$0
Master of Management Information Systems	\$200	\$200	\$0
Master of Science in Digital Marketing	\$400	\$400	\$0
Foundations of Accountancy Certificate	\$325	\$325	\$0
Certificate of Graduate Study – Advanced Study in Accounting Analytics	\$325	\$325	\$0
Certificate of Graduate Study – Advanced Study in Accountancy	\$325	\$325	\$0
Master of Science in Data Analytics	\$400	\$400	\$0
Graduate Study in Data Science for Business	\$400	\$400	\$0
College of Education			
EdD in Curriculum & Instruction	\$65	\$65	\$0
EdD in Education Administration	\$65	\$65	\$0
PhD/EdD in Instructional Technology (face-to-face)	\$40	\$40	\$0
PhD/EdD in Instructional Technology (online)	\$40	\$40	\$0
MSED in Instructional Technology (face-to-face)	\$20	\$20	\$0
MSED in Instructional Technology (online)	\$25	\$25	\$0
EdD in Community College Leadership	\$70	\$80	\$10

EdS in Educational Administration, Superintendent Preparation (online)	\$0	\$25	\$25
MSED in Kinesiology & Physical Education	\$35	\$35	\$0
Master of Science in Athletic Training ¹	\$35	\$35	\$0
Master of Science in Sports Management	\$35	\$35	\$0
Executive EdD in Adult & Higher Ed Weekend Cohort (online)	\$70	\$80	\$10
College of Engineering & Engineering Technology			
All programs	\$50	\$50	\$0
College of Health & Human Sciences			
Master of Speech-Language Pathology	\$160	\$160	\$0
Doctor of Audiology	\$185	\$185	\$0
Doctor of Physical Therapy	\$225	\$225	\$0
Doctor of Health Sciences (online)	\$553	\$553	\$0
Graduate Certificate in Eating Disorders (online)	\$180	\$180	\$0
Doctor of Nursing Practice	\$240	\$240	\$0
Master of Public Health (online)	\$200	\$200	\$0
Master of Family Nurse Practitioner (online)	\$240	\$240	\$0
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences			
Master of Science in Computer Science	\$60	\$60	\$0
Master of Public Administration (online)	\$90	\$90	\$0
Graduate Certificate in Public Management	\$90	\$90	\$0

Rationale for Differential Tuition Rate Changes

Differential tuition rates are reviewed annually to ensure that the rates are competitive and are not adversely affecting enrollments. This year, most programs are maintaining their existing rates. A few adjustments are being made, and a new program is introducing a differential:

- In the *College of Education*, the differential for the online Executive EdD in Adult & Higher Ed Weekend Cohort and for the EdD in Community College Leadership are increasing by \$10 from \$70 to \$80. This fee covers additional administrative costs for the program, recruitment efforts, and competitive compensation for highly qualified instructors with significant expertise. The additional funding will fund dissertation support and coaching during summer session to keep students on track to complete their degrees in three years, as well as additional technology support, training, and equipment for the online course delivery components.
- In the *College of Education*, the EdS in Educational Administrative, Superintendent Preparation (online) is requesting a new differential fee of \$25 per credit hour. The Superintendent Preparation program at NIU is one of the leading and most popular programs in Illinois, with twenty percent of superintendents in the state being a NIU graduate. Fees generated by the differential tuition charge will be used for the purchase of specialized instructional supplies and services, information technology equipment for faculty, and other services that are important to maintaining the academic experience for our students. Fees will also be utilized to offer faculty development, compensation and training for the necessary time and expertise to create high-quality online modules and synchronous sessions. In addition to supporting online development and maintenance, faculty will also need professional development opportunities to acquire the expertise to transition current assessment protocols to the online environment.

¹ New program in Summer 2020.

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval for the request of Fiscal Year 2023 Graduate and Law Tuition Pricing Recommendation.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 UNDERGRADUATE, GRADUATE, AND LAW STUDENT FEE PRICING RECOMMENDATION

Summary: The following item presents a pricing recommendation that addresses Northern Illinois University's undergraduate, graduate, and law fees for FY23. These recommendations were developed with the goals of addressing affordability concerns and maintaining fiscal responsibility by keeping the total cost of attendance for full-time students as low as possible.

Background: The university has numerous student activities, programs, services, and operations that are supported to various degrees by the assessment of dedicated-use student charges. These charges are aggregated into a more manageable number of fees. This item describes the purpose of each charge, then provides a summary of the fee rates for FY22 and recommendations for FY23.

Undergraduate, Graduate, and Law Fee Categories

Student Support Services Fee is comprised of the following charges:

Student Activities and Services Charge supports the student government, student programming, campus wide programming initiatives (Welcome Days, Homecoming, Open Houses, etc.) and the activities of student recognized organizations. These charges are also allocated to departments to maintain and improve student services.

Undergrad – Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$5.10)

Grad – Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$2.60)

Law – Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$3.65)

Holmes Student Center Charge supports the operational costs of Holmes Student Center and student programs provided in the facility.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$11.80)

Health and Wellness Charge allows students to use Health Services with little to no direct cost to students and helps fund programming that promotes wellness and healthy lifestyle choices and related state and federally mandated education and awareness campaigns.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$7.90)

Grants-in-Aid Charge supports an institutional merit-based scholarship program, as well as supporting a needs-based Financial Aid fund for students, by which state institutions are eligible for matching funds from the State of Illinois per statutory requirements.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$1.40)

Campus Recreation Charge is used for financing, constructing, maintaining, and improving new and existing recreational sports facilities and programs, including the sport club operations.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$8.00)

Northern Star is the student-run newspaper and provides free access to the campus community.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$0.27)

Arts and Culture Fee enhances the University's arts culture and provides students with a means to enjoy the School of Music and School of Theater and Dance productions without direct cost to the student.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$0.80)

Cultural Diversity Programming Fee is used to develop and support cultural programming resources for students by NIU's diversity resource centers. Programming addresses the intersecting identities of students, including race, ethnicity, gender identity, class, nationality, sexual orientation, social justice, and others and may include high-impact speakers, films, lecture series, exhibits, Heritage Month Celebrations, and more.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$0.80)

University Advancement Fee is comprised of the following charges:

Capital Improvement Charge provides funding for educational and support facilities for students, faculty, and staff in a manner that maximizes the effectiveness of the capital investments, maximizes the use of existing facilities, and promotes orderly, planned campus development. Support for debt service of previously approved projects including west campus improvements, and the living and learning initiatives are also included in this charge.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$14.90)

Transportation Access Charge funds the Huskie Bus System, the Huskie Line, parking lot lights, security and maintenance, and the creation of additional parking and transportation services. This charge also supports the University's Huskie Line bus and Freedom Mobile paratransit services. All fee-paying students are eligible to utilize Huskie buses without being charged fares. A decrease in costs allows for a decrease in the fee.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$7.00)

Athletic Fee is comprised of the following charges:

Athletic Program Charge supplements the University's diverse athletic programs and provides students with a means to enjoy the athletic events without direct cost to the student.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$22.29)

Convocation Center Charge helps fund the operational costs of the Convocation Center and supports student events held in the athletic space utilized by students.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$8.20)

Huskie Stadium Charge helps fund the operational costs of Huskie Stadium and provides support for student activities and programs that are held in the stadium.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$2.40)

Graduate Program Support contains the following charges:

Graduate Colloquium Charge supports the Graduate Colloquium program, which brings scholars, artists, professionals, and public figures to lecture or perform at NIU.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$2.00)

Career/Professional Development Charge supports career/professional development workshops, seminars, and coursework for graduate students.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$4.00)

Graduate Outreach Charge is assessed to support infrastructure provided by the Division of Outreach, Engagement & Regional Development that is needed to deliver regional courses (e.g., operations of NIU regional centers, rental of non-NIU facilities).

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$18.00)

Law Program Support contains the following charges:

Law Student Bar Charge supports the Student Bar Association and student organization activities at the College of Law.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$2.35)

Law Excellence Charge provides enhancements to College of Law course offerings and experiential learning opportunities such as clinics, mock trials, and moot court.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$120.00)

Academic Program Enhancement and Instructional Surcharge is assessed in order to meet the ever-emerging demands for cutting edge academic programs and services for NIU students. Critical areas for funding include technology upgrades as well as support for identified academic strategic planning initiatives designed to strengthen, direct, and further improve academic programs, research, and the academic experience of students.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$22.00 per credit hour)

Regional Delivery Fee is assessed to undergraduates to support the delivery of off-campus courses by the Division of Academic Affairs.

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$50.00 non-School of Nursing courses)

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$100.00 School of Nursing courses)

Outreach Fee is assessed to support infrastructure provided by the Division of Outreach, Engagement & Regional Development that is needed to deliver regional courses (e.g., operations of NIU regional centers, rental of non-NIU facilities).

Fee remains constant at FY22 level (\$56.00)

FY21 Rates and Recommendations for FY22 Rates - Summary

Undergraduate, Graduate, and College of Law Fees	Per Credit Hour Rate (12 Hours Max. Rate)								
	Undergraduate			Graduate			Law		
	FY22	FY23	Difference	FY22	FY23	Difference	FY22	FY23	Difference
Athletic	\$ 32.89	\$ 32.89	\$ -	\$ 32.89	\$ 32.89	\$ -	\$ 32.89	\$ 32.89	\$ -
Student Support Services	36.07	36.07	-	33.57	33.57	-	34.62	34.62	-
University Advancement	21.90	21.90	-	21.90	21.90	-	21.90	21.90	-
Graduate Program Support	-	-	-	24.00	24.00	-	-	-	-
Law Program Support	-	-	-	-	-	-	122.35	122.35	-
Grad/Law Technology Surcharge	-	-	-	22.00	22.00	-	22.00	22.00	-
TOTAL	\$ 90.86	\$ 90.86	\$ -	\$ 134.36	\$ 134.36	\$ -	\$ 233.76	\$ 233.76	\$ -
Academic Program Enhancement Support*	250.00	250.00	-						
Regional Delivery**	50.00	50.00	-						
Outreach***	56.00	56.00	-						

*Charged as a flat fee of \$125 per semester for students enrolled for six or fewer credit hours; and a flat fee of \$250 for students enrolled for seven or more credit hours.

**Assessed to undergraduates for off campus courses. Regional delivery fee for courses in the School of Nursing is \$100.

***Assessed to support infrastructure provided by the Division of Outreach, Engagement, & Regional Development.

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval for the request of Fiscal Year 2023 Undergraduate, Graduate, and Law Student Fee Pricing Recommendation.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 ROOM AND BOARD FEE RECOMMENDATION

Summary: The university is presenting a pricing recommendation to establish Northern Illinois University's room and board fees for FY23. The collection of room and board fees from students living in university residence halls and Northern View Community apartments supports Housing and Residential Services, Campus Dining Services, and related Revenue Bond obligations. These recommendations were developed to address the goal of student affordability and keeping costs for students as low as possible, while also acknowledging increasing costs of operations.

The university is recommending that room and board rates increase no more than 3% for FY23 for Neptune Hall, Gilbert Hall, Grant Towers, and Stevenson Towers, at an average of approximately \$170/semester. The university is recommending that room and board rates do not increase for New Hall and Northern View Apartments (room only).

The university is recommending that the residential meal plan upgrades are reduced from \$175 to \$100 and \$275 to \$200 for the Block 15 and Block 19 meal plan upgrades, respectively.

Background: Room rate recommendations typically address service contract costs, software support, indirect costs, contractual services, general operating expenses, and debt service payments related to renovations to the residence halls and dining locations. This year, the fee increase will address increases in food costs, minimum wage, and utility costs. This item describes the proposed room and board rates, and provides a summary of the original fee rates for FY22 and recommendations for FY23.

FY22		FY23		
LOCATION	RATE	LOCATION	RATE	VARIANCE
NEPTUNE HALL		NEPTUNE HALL		
Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,053	Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,204	3.0%
GILBERT HALL		GILBERT HALL		
Single-Occupancy	\$ 6,449	Single-Occupancy	\$ 6,640	3.0%
Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,549	Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,710	2.9%
GRANT TOWERS		GRANT TOWERS		
Single-Occupancy	\$ 6,449	Single-Occupancy	\$ 6,640	3.0%
Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,549	Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,710	2.9%
STEVENSON TOWERS		STEVENSON TOWERS		
Single-Occupancy	\$ 6,404	Single-Occupancy	\$ 6,586	2.8%
Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,512	Double-Occupancy	\$ 5,674	2.9%
Suite, with bathroom	\$ 5,549	Suite, with bathroom	\$ 5,710	2.9%
NEW HALL		NEW HALL		
Single-Occupancy	\$ 7,108	Single-Occupancy	\$ 7,108	0.0%
NORTHERN VIEW		NORTHERN VIEW		
2 Bedroom unit	\$ 3,937	2 Bedroom unit	\$ 3,937	0.0%
3 Bedroom unit	\$ 3,798	3 Bedroom unit	\$ 3,798	0.0%
Single unit	\$ 4,590	Single unit	\$ 4,590	0.0%
2 Bedroom buyout	\$ 7,936	2 Bedroom buyout	\$ 7,936	0.0%

Other Mandatory Residential Fees

ResNet Access/Support Charge	\$92/semester
Residence Hall Surcharge	\$50/Semester
Living-Learning Communities	\$50/semester
Double Room Buyout Charge	\$1,100/Semester

All prices are in addition to the students applicable base Room and Board Fee

Proposed Residential Meal Plan Upgrades (Dining Dollars)	Rate
Block 12 per week with \$100 dining dollars per term	Included with room and board
Block 15 per week with \$100 dining dollars per term	\$100
Block 19 per week with \$100 dining dollars per term	\$200

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval for the request of Fiscal Year 2023 Room and Board Fee Recommendation.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 STUDENT HEALTH INSURANCE

Summary: The university offers group health insurance to students, funded solely by student health insurance fees. For participating students, their fees are collected and submitted to the broker or insurer as a “pass through” expense by the university. Students may waive their participation in this plan if they have proof of other, comparable health insurance. As a participating institution of the Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative (IPHEC), the university used the selected insurance broker to source and secure a student health insurance plan and program for FY23.

Background: Total premiums collected by NIU on behalf of students is on target to increase from FY21 to FY22 for the first time in several fiscal years. Premiums previously decreased over time due to fewer student participants and continuous overall management of the program; however, FY22 is experiencing an increase in program enrollment most likely due to COVID-19 factors. Underwriting for insurance providers is very difficult in the current COVID-19 environment, and the market continues to present challenges both in terms of premium cost and program offerings. Final plan and premium negotiations are ongoing, and any additional savings that are identified in the Spring will be passed along to students in Fall 2022. The FY23 plan and program coverages, terms, and conditions will remain comparable with FY22.

	Health Insurance Provider	Original Purchase Order Requested Amount	Actual Amount Paid to Insurance Provider	Number of Students Enrolled in Student Health Insurance Fall Semester*	Semester Premium
FY23	Aetna	\$ 8,500,000			\$ 1,329.50
FY22	Aetna	\$ 6,500,000	\$ 4,452,305**	3,638	\$ 1,224
FY21	Aetna	\$ 7,250,000	\$ 5,070,098	1,629	\$ 1,114
FY20	Aetna	\$ 7,750,000	\$ 5,114,001	2,894	\$ 1,179
FY19	Aetna	\$ 8,000,000	\$ 6,012,792	3,334	\$ 1,179

* Students are charged separately for Fall and Spring terms.

** Number is reflective of Fall 2021 only. Other FY numbers are full FY.

Funding: Agency Funds

Marsh and McLennan Companies – New York, NY.....\$8,500,000

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval for the request of Fiscal Year 2023 Student Health Insurance.

RELOCATION OF HUMAN RESOURCE SERVICES

Summary: To address some synergistic university goals, this project proposes to relocate the Human Resource Services (HRS) operation from its current location to Neptune North. By leveraging an underutilized facility, this relocation will allow HRS to be more centrally located and accessible to a larger population of campus faculty and staff. Subsequently, the current HRS building will be used to foster support for and development of research and innovation partnerships which will also spur more interest and development of the western campus.

The scope of work for this project will include renovations, limited demolition, accessibility improvements, and air conditioning enhancements to accommodate the various HRS functions in Neptune North. Renovation work is planned for summer of 2022 to support a fall transition for HRS operations, with an estimated project total of \$750,000.

Background: Prior to the onset of the pandemic, an assessment reviewing HRS processes was conducted which resulted in recommendations including an identified need to address the physical isolation of the department from central campus and its customers. As a critical unit to supporting NIU's mission, vision, and values, a more connected HRS location will offer greater opportunity for collaboration and partnership with both academic and administrative units.

While other relocation options were evaluated, the cost effectiveness for Neptune North to provide a contiguous space for the HRS operation was a key determinant for this location. Except for occasional pandemic-related residential student isolation cases, the north building is largely unused for residential purposes since renovating the east and west wings of the complex.

Additionally, HRS vacating its current space will aid in the comprehensive build out of West Campus, allowing the opportunity to enhance and strengthen NIU's partnerships with industry and serve as a catalyst for the Northern Illinois Center for Community Sustainability (NICCS) development. The space and location provide the needed flexibility to permit colocation of industry partners and perform critical research and lab work, which will further promote, concentrate, and accelerate innovation activities. Renovation costs for the current HR facilities are envisaged to be minimal and are anticipated to be funded by partners.

Funding: Institutional Funds – \$750,000

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval for the request of Relocation of Human Resource Services.

PAYMENT CARD PROCESSING

Summary: Treasury Operations requests permission to enter into a contract with First Data Merchant Services LLC to provide payment card processing services to the University. The approval amount listed below is estimated to cover a five-year period. The actual costs will depend on transaction volume processed by the payment processor.

Background: The University accepts credit and debit card payments online and in-person across campus for various goods and services offered by the University. The University originally contracted with Bank of America Merchant Services, a joint venture between Bank of America and First Data, to act as its primary payment processor. However, the joint venture was dissolved as of June 30, 2020 and the contract was assumed by First Data and honored as originally negotiated. The intent is to award this contract as a sole source and will be posted to the *Illinois Procurement Bulletin*. The university has approximately 50 merchants across campus, which utilize various payment terminal equipment and that are integrated with other systems on campus. A transition to a new payment processor would likely require substantive personnel engagement and additional financial resources.

Funding: Institutional Funds – \$2,500,000 (Approximately \$500,000 per annum)

Recommendation: The Finance, Audit, Compliance, Facilities and Operations Committee recommends Board of Trustees approval for the request of Payment Card Processing.

HONORARY DOCTORATE RECOMMENDATION

Summary: The Honorary Degree Committee met to consider the candidacy of three nominees. One candidate is being forwarded for consideration by the Board. The recommended candidate is Mr. Jesse White. The university recommends that Mr. White be awarded an honorary doctorate in humane letters.

Jesse White is Illinois' 37th Secretary of State. White was first elected to the office in 1998 and was reelected to a record-breaking sixth term. White became Illinois' longest serving Secretary of State on May 30, 2014. The Illinois Secretary of State's office is the largest and most diverse office of its kind in the nation, providing more direct services to the people of Illinois than any other public agency. As State Librarian, Secretary White oversees the State Library and literacy programs, and as State Archivist, he maintains records of legal or historic value.

Prior to his election as Secretary of State, White served as Cook County Recorder of Deeds – a job to which he was first elected in 1992 and reelected in 1996. Before that, he served 16 years in the Illinois General Assembly, representing the most culturally, economically and racially diverse district in Illinois.

In 1959, White founded the internationally known Jesse White Tumbling Team to serve as a positive alternative for at-risk children residing in public housing in and around the Chicago area. Since its inception, more than 18,500 young men and women have performed with the team. White has spent 61 years working as a volunteer with the team to help kids make positive choices. In 2014, the Chicago Park District opened the Jesse White Community Center and Field House in honor of White's lifelong contributions to the community. In addition, a school in Hazel Crest, Illinois, was recently named the Jesse C. White Learning Academy, and Division Street in Chicago was designated Jesse White Way in honor of White.

White served our country as a paratrooper in the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division and as a member of the Illinois National Guard and Reserve. He played professional baseball for seven seasons with the Chicago Cubs organization. In August 2021, in honor of his professional baseball career and lifetime of public service, the Chicago Cubs signed White to an honorary Major League Baseball contract. After he hung up his spikes, White enjoyed a 33-year career with the Chicago Public Schools as a teacher and an administrator.

Born in Alton, Illinois, Jesse White earned his Bachelor of Science from Alabama State College (now Alabama State University) in 1957, where he was a two-sport athlete earning all-conference honors in baseball and basketball.

Recommendation: The University requests Board of Trustees approval of the recommendation to award an honorary doctorate in humane letters to Mr. Jesse White.

REAL ESTATE PROPERTY SALE – SYCAMORE LAND

Summary: In September 2019, the Board previously determined the eleven acres of land located near the City of Sycamore's (City's) wastewater plant as surplus to the university needs and authorized the property to be sold under the updated provisions of the Illinois Property Control Act (30 ILCS 605/). The City of Sycamore (City) has indicated a willingness to purchase the property under the provisions of the lease established in 1998 and City Council approval will follow this authorization. To provide clarity for the process, this action is to provide clear authorization for President Freeman, collectively with Treasurer Chinniah and Secretary Edghill-Walden, to sign all related sale documents on behalf of the Board of Trustees in accordance with board regulations section VI, subsection A. 3.

Background: Located on North Cross Street immediately south of the City's wastewater treatment plant, the property was originally part of 34-acre site for the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology which eventually moved to the main campus in 1995 with the construction of the Engineering building.

Under the terms of the 1998 lease, the City has constructed a 31,930 SF building on the site which houses their Public Works Department's Street and sanitary sewer functions including offices, maintenance shop, sign shop, vehicle storage, equipment storage and road salt storage. The lease was constructed with a provision to allow the City to purchase the land at a pre-determined price adjusted for inflation.

The estimated net proceeds from selling this property to the City is expected to be approximately \$150K and will be placed in a cost center specifically to be used for campus deferred maintenance or emergency repair requirements in accordance with the Illinois Property Control Act.

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

Recommendation: The University requests Board of Trustees approval. Updates on the sale process will be provided at future Board meetings.

REQUEST FOR DELEGATED AUTHORITY REGARDING PURCHASE OF HIGH PERFORMANCE COMPUTING

Summary: On February 10, 2019, the Board of Trustees authorized purchase of a computing facility for the Center for Research Computing and Data (CRCDD). The authorization was delegated to the President for final approval of a contract. New high-performance computing will replace obsolete equipment and serve as key instrumentation for advancing university research and faculty and student recruitment and retention. Since 2019, computing costs have increased and the University requests Board of Trustees re-authorization to purchase.

Background: The Center for Research Computing and Data (CRCDD), supported and overseen by the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships (RIPS), was established in 2015 with a mission “to strengthen the role of computation and data at NIU to promote excellence and engagement in teaching and learning, and scholarship and research.” The CRCDD cornerstone computing facility, named GAEA, first came online in 2012 supported by two externally funded projects and comprises a 60-node CPU/GPU hybrid cluster. NIU has seen excellent productivity related to high performance computing as measured by publications, grant activity, and student engagement. Furthermore, CRCDD resources are used to promote collaborations between faculty and scientists at NIU with scientists, engineers, doctors, and faculty at institutions around the world, including the national laboratories.

Academic literature indicates that research universities with high performance computing facilities see associated increases in external funding and publications, but with a rapid depreciation in returns. The depreciation is reflected in the standard three-year replacement cycle for computing. Having been in service for three times the industry standard for high performance computing, the current NIU facility has become obsolete. Nodes are failing with replacements unavailable and modern software cannot be accommodated.

In 2018, RIPS commissioned and convened a committee to review the performance of the CRCDD and recommend actions for improvement. Members were from Northwestern University, the University of Chicago, Argonne National Laboratory, and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory, with one member from NIU. With respect to hardware, the committee advised: “replace GAEA with a next generation machine properly sized to meet the needs of this growing community and put NIU on track to be an R1 University in the future.” Following the review, RIPS charged a CRCDD task force to design a next generation facility to maintain forefront NIU scholarship and education by considering the University’s research and scholarship portfolio, past and projected high performance computing usage, and user input on past and prospective facilities. The CRCDD taskforce recommendations for a new facility that balance requirements and costs were presented to the Research Computing and Data Advisory Committee (RCDAC) and accepted by RIPS.

Because of delays related to a proposal for external funding and pandemic supply chain issues, the cost of the HPC exceeds previous authorization. The price increase occurs for both hardware and software but maintains the recommended scope. Financing has been identified to distribute costs across several fiscal years.

Funding: Total costs for a new high performance computing facility are anticipated to be \$1.2M.

Recommendation: The University requests Board of Trustees authorization to purchase a new high performance computing facility. The authorization shall be delegated to the President for final approval of the contract, and the President shall report to the Board upon execution of the contract.