CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robert Boey at 10:17 a.m. in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Sharon Banks-Wilkins conducted a roll call of Trustees. Members present were Trustees John Butler, Manuel Sanchez, Myron Siegel, Barbara Giorgi Vella, BOT Chair Cherilyn Murer and Committee Chair Boey. Also present were Committee Liaison Eddie Williams, President John Peters and Board Parliamentarian Kenneth Davidson. With a quorum present, the meeting proceeded.

VERIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Confirmation of Open Meetings Act notification compliance was given by Board Parliamentarian Ken Davidson.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Murer made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Murer and seconded by Trustee Sanchez to approve the minutes of August 28, 2008. The motion was approved.

CHAIR’S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The March meeting is always one of the most active meetings of our committee, Chair Boey said, and we have over 20 action items on our agenda. Today’s agenda includes items of particular importance to the students and the university community as a whole. Action items include recommendations for student fees and room and board rates for the upcoming year. These recommendations have been developed through a consultative process involving students and staff. These proposed fees and rates reflect the budget challenges that the university faces in Fiscal Year 2009-10. Among the other action items are spending authorizations for energy infrastructure Phase IX performance contract, athletic sports camps housing and meals, International Program Division expenditures, Huskie Stadium turf replacement, amendment to 2009 student accident and sickness insurance contract; 2010 contract renewals for student accident and sickness insurance, copier and controller system, copy paper for Document Services and Materials Management, Northern Star printing, Materials Management commodities, mass transit, Public Safety security services, radiation oncology physician services; authorization of a collective bargaining agreement, authorizations regarding three capital projects including temporary construction easement for the Memorial Garden, Grant Towers renovation-Phase I, Martin Luther King Commons redesign and restoration. Today’s information items include NIU supplementary retirement plan, Fiscal Year 2010 budget update, quarterly summary report of transactions in excess of $100,000, and periodic report on investments.

Chair Boey welcomed newly appointed University Advisory Committee representatives Dr. Clersida Garcia, a professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education.
PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair asked Board Parliamentarian Kenneth Davidson if any members of the public had registered a written request to address the Board in accordance with state law and the Board of Trustees Bylaws. Mr. Davidson noted that no timely request for public comment had been received.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda Item 7.a. – Fiscal Year 2010 Student Fee Recommendations

We are pleased to present requests on behalf of the President and the university for Finance, Facilities and Operations, Dr. Williams said. Our procedure for establishing student fee recommendations has been through representative committees that include our students in the evaluation of each fee area. These recommendations are made to the President, who then meets with student leaders to review the aggregate package and makes recommendations to the Board. This year, pursuant to the President’s guidelines to keep all costs to a minimum, we are pleased to bring you an aggregate of less than five percent for all fee areas. Less than five percent in the current environment is a very positive achievement, Dr. Williams said, and I commend each of the fee committees. I received an e-mail from Student Trustee Smith, who is out of town on responsibilities associated with his program, Chair Boey said, but he sent an e-mail stating that he has been in touch with the student leaders regarding all of these recommendations and is in full support of them.

I would like to make a comment for the record, Trustee Sanchez said. The community needs to know that in this economic environment, we are very reticent to increase anything. Just two or three years ago, we were forced to implement almost double-digit increases. The Board is very sensitized to the horrible economic situation facing the parents and students who have to deal with these fees and tuition. I am proud of the effort that has been put forth to keep the increases as low as possible. This is one of the most sensitive items we deal with annually as a Board. It is a very challenging time, and if we had our druthers, we would not raise them a nickel, but everyone is also aware of the financing challenges we face in Springfield. I do not know how the President, Dr. Williams and others have managed to bring us through the way they have without any apparent decrease in the quality of the education effort that is put forth here, but they are to be commended.

In response to a query from Trustee Butler regarding the slightly higher increases in bond revenue fees for the Holmes Student Center and the convocation center, Dr. Williams stated that the university has to deal with the regular issues of increases, which include utility increases and the cost of minimum wage increases primarily for student employees. Also included is the issue of deferred maintenance, and in the case of the Holmes Student Center, being assertive in design to make it attractive so that people will want to utilize its services. The convocation center has essentially the same issue, he said. Note that on the bond revenue fee for West Campus Activities there is a $0.10 reduction per credit hour, and that is due to the way the West Campus, which included the convocation center, was financed. Our commitment then to the students and to the Board was that we would have an amortization schedule that would actually reduce costs as we proceeded, and those earmarks have been met. It is critical we have bond indentures that require us to maintain bond facilities at the highest possible operational efficiency. Pursuant to that, we must invest the funds necessary to make sure that these facilities are kept in operational condition.

I feel it is important to reinforce the statements made by Trustee Sanchez and by Chair Boey, Trustee Murer said. The e-mail we received from the Student Trustee gave us all solace that the students support this fee change. Of course, they do not want to pay more money nor do the parents, but I think they show maturity in the realization of what the financial situation is for the university.

This goes through a rigorous vetting process, Trustee Vella said, and I appreciate all the work done in all the committees that work on this with Dr. Williams. But we have to remain a viable university, and we have to live within our means and be very responsible in how we project our needs. We have to do the best we can and not let our students, faculty and support staff down. This increase reflects that, and I support it.
I appreciate everything that has been said by the Trustees, President Peters said, because we are all feeling the need to be as efficient as we can and to focus all of our resources, particularly any marginal new resources, toward the core of the university, which is the quality education of our students. That being said, every year I marvel at this process because it is intensive and it is a pyramid, with me at the end. What happens in that process is truly amazing. Every one of these activities have meetings where students are involved and requests are put together, where jawboning takes place, where consensus is built as it rolls up. What I try to do is minimize the overall rate of increase. The process culminates in me meeting with Dr. Williams, Dr. Hemphill, our Student Trustee, the president of our SA and others. It is an intensive meeting, and I am continually amazed at how much knowledge the students have about a fee and why we need more for it. I always come away with two feelings. One is, I feel good about the recommendation because the students support it. The other is that this is an educational institution, and what a wonderful real world experience this is for these young people to actually be part of a rather complex budgeting process where they are involved and begin to understand cost and fee structures. It is not perfect, but I do not know any other university that involves their students at the level we do. I wish we could roll back fees, because we need to keep every student we can at the university right now. But that is not always the case because then quality does drop off.

So many of these structures and infrastructures are so important, like Holmes Student Center. That is an engine, a gathering place for students, and it needs a major overhaul. But, financially, this is not the time for a major flip in the bond market, so we have to keep it looking as good as we can. And I really want to thank the buildings and staff people and the staff of Holmes Student Center, because even though that structure is used to the degree it is in our climate and its age, it still looks good. So, on balance, I am really pleased with these recommendations.

I have been in this process now year after year since 1996, Chair Boey said, and each year I still marvel at the fact that it works. I can share with you that all the Trustees feel very strongly about being custodians of the fact that we need to do this right and do what is affordable every year.

Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the FY 10 Student Fee Recommendations. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Fiscal Year 2010 Room and Board Rate Recommendations

Again, a representative committee is responsible for coming forth with this recommendation on room and board rates for Fiscal Year 2010, Dr. Williams said. The Residence Hall Association, a student organization in the residence halls, participate in the establishment of room and board rates. Primarily, in this case, there were no increases in the board rates, but there was an increase in the room rates. However, NIU room rates remain in the lower half compared to other universities. More importantly, we have other things to address, particularly a project now underway, the installation of sprinklers in all of our residence halls by 2013, which is an unfunded mandate. We are still trying to raise sufficient funds in the reserves to address all of the requirements to finish that project, as well as meet other needs within the residence halls. We are dealing with buildings that have been in place for many years, and require a number of maintenance repairs and other improvements as well. There is also a component in the room rates that addresses the increase in the minimum wage for student employees in the residence hall system. After their deliberations and review by the President, an overall 8.67 percent increase is recommended in room and board rates for 2010.

Trustee Butler asked Dr. Williams if he was aware if any changes had been made in the way students receive financial aid so that they can apply it to their room and board and soften the impact of the increase. Dr. Williams replied that he understood there are provisions in the stimulus package increasing student aid. Also, there are mechanisms by which these increases would be factored into the evaluation of financial aid for the student, and that is done every year.

I want to make a positive comment about the process that is involved here, Trustee Butler said. I commend the students involved on their understanding of the absolutely essential role that the residence halls play in the success of the university overall in their quality of life. These are high increases, but everyone knows that the residence halls have to stay competitive, they have to be an attractive place for students to live, and that is going to require money that is not going to come from other sources. I want to
add that the students have to stay safe, Trustee Vella said, and the sprinkler systems are really important. Though it is an unfunded mandate, we have to do what is required of us and complete the project.

When talking about unfunded mandates, Trustee Siegel said, it is important to understand that these required sprinkler systems are a legal obligation placed upon us by the State. The funding was not provided by the state, so there is only one source from which we can obtain the funding to meet that legal obligation, and that is the increase in room and board rates.

Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the FY10 Room and Board Rate Recommendations. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.c. – Energy Infrastructure Improvements – Phase IX Performance Contract**

This is Phase IX of our performance contract projects, Dr. Williams said. We have been able to accomplish many energy related improvements to our facilities outside of university funds through the public act passed by the legislature that allows performance contracting. This act says that we are allowed to pull energy related projects together that would have some energy savings, then contract with an outside vendor, who would be responsible for putting forward all the capital necessary to carry out those improvements. The vendor's only recourse for repayment would be from the savings generated by the improvements. We have had a very successful experience with this. Many great improvements have been made to our library and to other facilities, and we have not had to put forth capital. The university is requesting approval of Phase IX for up to $12.5 million in improvements to various buildings listed in the item.

On the subject of capital improvements, Trustee Murer asked if the university had shovel-ready projects that might be funded by the federal stimulus package. Ms. Buettner, Vice President for External Affairs, reported that when the stabilization funds are received, the first thing the Governor has to decide is what allocation he is going to make between K-12 and higher education. The second decision he has to make is how much he is going to allocate to brick and mortar projects versus operational funds, which were provided for in the stabilization funds to help balance any deficits that the state had in either K-12 or higher education. Neither decision has been made yet. They should be made in the next two weeks, and until those macro level decisions are made, nobody in the state knows what, if any, funds will be available for capital and brick and mortar through the stimulus. The decision to fund or not fund “shovel-ready” projects was left up to the individual governors. It is possible that all of the money could be devoted to operational funding for K-12 and higher education with no money going to capital funding. The Governor’s Office stated that they will have this decision made very soon, and we should know by the time the Governor gives his budget address on March 18.

The Department of Education is responsible for distributing the state fiscal stabilization fund, Ms. Buettner continued, and there are many different pockets of money in the stimulus bill. The main pocket of money for brick and mortar projects, the nonresearch and the GR type funds that we are focused on institutionally right now come in the stabilization funds which are administered by the Department of Education. They have not set up their formal rulemaking structure to distribute those funds yet. The Department of Transportation began distributing transportation funds from Washington to the states last week. None of the education funds have gone out yet, but I was told last week that they will be putting those rules up very quickly. The governors then have to petition the Department of Education for those funds. So, I can tell you right now what Illinois is going to get in a formulaic distribution at a macro level, she said. What I cannot tell you is how the Governor is going to choose to petition for those funds to be spent. Then there will be an approval process which will go lightening fast by any standards that many of us in government are used to. However, it will take at least 90 to 120 days before we know anything.

Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Phase IX Performance Contract for energy infrastructure improvements. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.d. – Fiscal Year 2010 Athletic Sports Camp Housing and Meal Expenditure**

The approval of the expenditure authority for athletic sports camps is a pass-through, Dr. Williams said, and is based upon the fees that are collected for the camps. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve
the FY10 Athletic sports Camp Housing and Meal Expenditure. Trustee Vella so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.e. – Fiscal Year 2010 International Programs Division**

Approval of International Programs expenditure authority for 2010 is also an annual pass-through, Dr. Williams said. Those who are involved in the program supply the funds to be expended. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the FY10 International Programs Division request for expenditure. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.f. – Huskie Stadium Turf Replacement**

The Huskie Stadium turf has reached what we consider to be its useful life, Dr. Williams said. He stated that there are set standards to determine the strength and integrity of the turf, and tests are performed each year. The tests include checking the resilience of the turf, how stiff it is, how slick, and other kinds of things pertaining to footing and so forth. Tables tell us when we are in acceptable and unacceptable ranges. When we approach the unacceptable range, we are required to replace it. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Huskie Stadium Turf replacement. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.g. – Fiscal Year 2009 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Amendment**

The normal contract is based upon an estimated number of participants, Dr. Williams said, but this year that number has increased by almost 2,000 students who opted to take the insurance compared to last year. This is an excellent insurance program. We are in a very tight and difficult economic time, and that could be what convinced many students to switch over. Having 2,000 additional students opt for the program requires us to amend the contract to cover the premium for them. The university is requesting a $1 million increase in the base contract to a total of $7.7 million. Dr. Williams explained that students opting into the program would pay the fees to fund the increase. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the FY09 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Amendment. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.h. – Fiscal Year 2010 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Contract Renewal**

This is the corresponding FY10 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Contract for the year 2010 with the assumption that those 2,000 students will continue into the next year, Dr. Williams explained. Chair boey asked for a motion to approve the FY10 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Contract Renewal. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.i. – Fiscal Year 2010 Document Services Copier Contract Renewal**

Our copiers on campus are under contract through Document Services, Dr. Williams said. This represents the eighth year of a ten-year contract. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the FY10 Document Services copier Contract Renewal. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the FY10 Document Services Copier Contract Renewal. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.j. – Fiscal Year 2010 Copy Paper Contract Renewal**

This is an open order for the purchase of printing paper, envelopes and supplies for use in the copiers throughout the campus, Dr. Williams said. This is paid for through the advertising revenue generated by the Northern Star. In reply to a query from Trustee Sanchez, Dr. Williams said that like any other business in this country right now, the paper certainly has its challenges. However, because of the nature of the student paper, the fact that they have a minimal overhead, and also the fact that this is
probably the only major mechanism by which any advertiser might reach our students, there is not much opportunity to advertise other than through the student newspaper. So, on the whole, they should be okay.

I am very pleased to vote in favor of the *Northern Star* contract renewal, Trustee Murer said, because I believe student newspapers are the quintessential example of free speech, and student newspapers are important, particular for a public university. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the FY10 *Northern Star* Contract Renewal. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.i. – Fiscal Year 2010 Materials Management Commodities Contract Renewal**

This renewal is for approval of an open order for our central storage of nonfood materials such as napkins, plates and so forth that are used in our residence halls, Dr. Williams said. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the FY10 Materials Management Commodities Contract Renewal. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.m. – Fiscal Year 2010 Mass Transit Contract Renewal**

The fee to support the bus system was approved earlier in the meeting, Dr. Williams said. This is the first year of a four-year contract. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the FY10 Mass Transit Contract Renewal. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.n. – Fiscal Year 2010 Public Safety Security Services Contract Renewal**

We have contracted with outside security agents to provide security in the residence halls, Dr. Williams said. After evaluation, we contracted with outside public safety security services in March of last year. We found that the students and the parents really appreciated it. So we would like to continue this very successful initiative.

In relation to this item, Chair Boey said, I experienced first-hand the security in Holmes Student Center last night when I attended the candidate interview for the dean of Visual Arts. When I went into the elevator and pressed the 15th floor, nothing happened. When I pressed it again, it went up to the 5th floor and stopped. I finally got back to the first floor, only to learn that a security guard has to key the elevator in order for you to reach the upper floors. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the FY10 Public Safety Security Services Contract Renewal. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.o. – Fiscal Year 2010 Radiation Oncology Physician Services Contract Renewal**

The university has provided physician services for our neutron facility at FermiLab, Dr. Williams said, and they have worked very successfully to provide services and treatment to patients over the last four years. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the FY10 Radiation Oncology Physician Services Contract Renewal. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.p. – Collective Bargaining Agreements**

Two collective bargaining agreements are presented for consideration, Dr. Williams said. The first is a four-year successor agreement, effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2012, with IUOE, Local 150, representing eight employees in the Materials Management Department. The second is a three-year successor agreement, effective July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2011, with IUOE, Local 150, representing 17 employees in the Grounds Department. These agreements are consistent with Board guidelines. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the bargaining agreements with IUOE, Local 150, for the Materials Management and Grounds Departments. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel. The motion was approved.

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The motion was approved.
**Agenda Item 7.q. – Temporary Construction Easement**

This temporary construction easement is to grant the NIU Foundation the authority to develop our reflection garden in honor and in memory of those victims of 2/14 on university property. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the temporary construction easement for the NIU Foundation. Trustee Vella so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.r. – Grant Towers Renovation - Phase I - Living and Learning Project Initiative**

Because of the economic situation in the financial markets, it is very difficult to contemplate applying for tax-exempt financing for improvements right now, Dr. Williams said. However, we do need to begin renovation of our residence halls as soon as possible to update them, modernize them and make them more attractive for our students. This request for Grant Towers, Phase I renovation is for C-Tower. This will allow us to begin the project with funds in our reserve and eventually reach our goal of renovating all four towers. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Grant Towers Renovation, Phase I. Trustee Siegel so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 7.s. – MLK Commons Redesign and Restoration**

The Martin Luther King Commons was built approximately 20 years ago, and now major upgrades are needed in that area, Dr. Williams said. Fortunately, this has been planned over the years, so we have the resources necessary to carry out these improvements. Again, image is important, and this is one of the key areas on the our campus. It is our free speech area and represents so much to so many; therefore, we feel the investment is both necessary and prudent at this time. As we talk about this redesign and that of the buildings and the residence halls in light of the financial times, Trustee Murer said, it is important to not forget that the aesthetics of a university are as essential as any other component, and we should concentrate on the environment, which includes the design of this common space related to free speech that is also used as a gathering area for students. Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Martin Luther King Commons Redesign and Restoration. Trustee Vella so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The motion was approved.

**OTHER MATTERS**

**Transportation Presentation**

Dr. Williams introduced Bill Finucane, Manager of Transportation, who gave a presentation on the results in the use of alternative fuel vehicles and hybrids which have set the bar for the entire state of Illinois.

I want to talk a little bit today about some of the things that Transportation has been doing over the past few years, Mr. Finucane said. Right now, the university fleet encompasses 242 vehicles. Of those, 39 are hybrids -- 35 Toyota Priuses and four Ford Hybrid Escapes. Another 66 vehicles are capable of running on E-85, a gasoline blend that is 15 percent gasoline and 85 percent ethanol. Five of our vehicles are capable of running on a combination of either natural gas or gasoline, and we have 20 vehicles that run on diesel. That means 130 of our 242 vehicles are hybrid or use alternative fuel, which is about 53 percent of the university fleet, and we have more hybrid vehicles than any agency in the state. By comparison, CMS controls more than 10,000 vehicles, and of that total only 62 are hybrids.

A moment ago, I mentioned diesel vehicles. For the last six and a half years, we have been using a 20 percent blend of soy diesel, which means it is 20 percent soy bio. That allows us not to have any additives in the winter, and we have been using it in all of our on-road vehicles that use diesel and all of the off-road equipment. In the six and a half years of using it, we have had no running issues. That has been huge. One of the dilemmas you hear about with people who use it is they are concerned about how it is going to run or how well it will work. Obviously, we have made the case that it can work.

The hybrids are where we have made the biggest impact. The first two were purchased in 2003. User demand and acceptance was high right away. We bought six more the following year, including the first test squad car. The last model year we purchased any nonhybrid sedans was 2004. We know of at least 15 NIU faculty and staff who have purchased a Prius after having used one of ours. Impact on the fleet...
mileage is about seven percent. Since we introduced the hybrid, we have saved over 30,000 gallons of fuel. Today, the entire police fleet is hybrid. There is one nonhybrid vehicle that is being phased out this month. The test squad I mentioned a moment ago worked so well that Chief Grady and I made the decision to convert to an all hybrid fleet.

To give you an idea of the advantages with squad cars, Mr. Finucane said, we had Ford Crown Victorias in use that were doing about 10 miles per gallon. The hybrids run around 40 miles per gallon. So, for the police use, that is a pretty significant savings. In reply to a query from Trustee Boey, Mr. Finucane stated that these figures are for local driving. Typically, because they are more “on and off, on and off,” and they are not going to get the high mileage the hybrid will if it is warm. Some of our pool cars have run as high as 57 or 58 miles per gallon. I also want to mention that yesterday afternoon I learned that NIU has been recommended to Toyota USA to be a recipient of one of their first plug-in hybrids to help test it.

**UNIVERSITY REPORTS**

**Agenda Item 8.a. – NIU Supplemental Retirement Plan**

**Agenda Item 8.c. – Quarterly Summary report of Transactions in Excess of $100,000**

**Agenda Item 8.d. – Periodic Report on Investments**

We have some information items, Dr. Williams said, and if there are questions on any of the information items in your packet, we will be happy to respond to them. Included are the 403B plan supplement retirement, Board transactions between $100,000 and $250,000 and the periodic report on investments. So, I believe I covered them all.

**Agenda Item 8.b. – Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget Update**

Dr. Williams stated that he would defer to the legislative committee for a budget update status for this year as well as for Fiscal Year 2010.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Chair Boey announced that the next meeting of the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee would be held on Thursday, June 4, In DeKalb.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Boey asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins
Recording Secretary