

Minutes of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
December 1, 2005

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Barbara Giorgi Vella at 9:31 a.m. in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall, at Northern Illinois University. Recording Secretary Sharon Mimms conducted a roll call of Trustees. Members present were Trustees Robert Boey, Manuel Sanchez, Myron Siegel, Marc Strauss, Student Trustee Andrew Nelms and Chair Vella. Present via teleconference were Trustees George Moser and Cherilyn Murer. Also present were Board Parliamentarian Kenneth Davidson and President John Peters. With a quorum present, the meeting proceeded.

VERIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Confirmation of Open Meetings Act public notice compliance was provided by Board Parliamentarian Ken Davidson.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Trustee Sanchez made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Trustee Moser seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

After discussion with President Peters, Chair Vella said, I propose the creation of a Consent Agenda that would immediately precede the beginning of the President's Report for today's meeting, and move President's Report No. 49, Information Items 9.b.(1), (2), (3) and (4) to that Consent Agenda. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the revised meeting agenda. Trustee Boey made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Trustee Strauss seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Vella asked for a motion to close the public meeting to conduct an executive session to discuss the following subjects authorized by the Illinois Open Meetings Act: personnel matters, as generally described under §2(c)(1) and (3) of the Open Meetings Act, litigation and risk management matters as generally described under §2(c)(11) and (12) of the Open Meetings Act, property matters as generally described under §2(c)(5) and (6) of the Open Meetings Act, and Executive Session Minutes matters as generally described under §2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Moser. A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Executive Session was unanimous.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECONVENED

Chair Vella reconvened the public meeting of the Board of Trustees at approximately 11:16 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Trustee Murer to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2005 regular Board Meeting and the November 10, 2005 Special Teleconference Meeting. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

I want to thank all of you for coming this morning. It was a very slippery and difficult this morning leaving Rockford in our first snow. Not only is today our last Board meeting of 2005, but it is a very big day in the

history of NIU and our other athletic programs. Tonight, for the first time ever, the NIU Huskies, as Western Division champions of the MAC, will take on the Eastern Division champions, the Akron Zips, for the MAC Championship at Ford Field in Detroit. I know many of you will be glued to your TV sets tonight, and some of you are even leaving immediately after this Board meeting to travel to Detroit for this historic game and opportunity for NIU to win the MAC championship in football. Last year it was the Silicon Valley Bowl Championship and this year, possibly MAC champions. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Trustees to congratulate Coach Joe Novak and the football players for a wonderful and terrific season. Win, lose or draw, you are always champions to the Board. We are very proud of our team and everyone who has made this possible. So, good luck tonight, and Go Huskies!

As if the MAC Championship in football is not enough activity for one day, we have another special evening in store tonight at the NIU Convocation Center where the Huskies take on the Northwestern Wildcats in the opening wrestling showcase for the 2005-2006 season. Our Congressman, Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert, is chairing a fundraising dinner tonight for the NIU Huskie wrestling program at the Convocation Center. We will be showing a special video tribute to our alum and friend, Speaker Hastert, before the meet, which begins at 7:30 p.m. We all know the Speaker's love for the sport of wrestling, and we are grateful that he is willing to take time out of his busy schedule to help NIU Athletics raise funds for the wrestling program. We cannot thank him enough.

Finally, I want to take a moment to thank the faculty for a good semester and wish the students well during their upcoming final exams. How can we forget what it was like in those days and how stressful final exams can be. I am telling the students, as a mother and as a Trustee, to study hard and get help from your professors and anybody else you can. We know you have a lot of help out there, and that is what we are talking about during my term. As we all know, credentials are very important for all of us and especially for our students. That is how we fulfill our potential in this kind of society. The degree and the respect that a degree brings, especially from a place like NIU with the opportunities it offers, are tremendous. So we are asking all of the students to take advantage of our great faculty. I am always impressed with our faculty and all the services that NIU and its staff provide to help you students launch this special time in your lives to complete your learning. So, good luck to all the students.

And finally, because this is our last meeting for 2005, I want to take this opportunity to wish each and every member of the Board, faculty and staff, all of you here today and the students a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year.

I want to welcome the University Advisory Committee (UAC) members who may be present this morning: Dr. Paul Stoddard, Dr. Xueshu Song, Dr. Ferald Bryan, Dr. Joseph Stephen, Ms. Shey Lowman and Ms. Rachel Turner. We do not have much to comment on, Dr. Stoddard said, other than to echo your comments wishing everybody on the Board a happy and safe holiday season. And, Go Huskies!

I wanted to thank the administration and the Board for all their support of our many issues that we have had this year with pension reforms and so on, Ms. Lowman said, and especially to thank you for the one percent increment that staff will be receiving on January 1. We really appreciate it, and we look forward to working with you on the many challenges that we will be facing this spring as well.

Not to sound utterly repetitive, Ms. Turner said, but I also would like to thank all of you for making raises possible for the staff. It means a lot when things are tight that you still can see that we are important and that you are appreciative of what we do. Also, congratulations to the Huskies football team and Joe Novak. It is an exciting time to see things going so well and going to a MAC Championship game is very exciting for everybody. I would like to extend an appreciation to Huskie Athletics for taking the time and the initiative to designate our last home football game as a Faculty/Staff Appreciation Day to recognize the efforts of the faculty and staff on campus and for recognizing them during the game.

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 Board of Trustees Bylaws. Mr. Davidson noted that he had received no timely requests to address this meeting.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS

Executive Committee Academic Affairs and Student Affairs Committee Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee Legislation, Audit, and External Affairs Committee

These committees did not meet prior to this meeting.

Illinois Board of Higher Education

President Peters reported that the most recent meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education was held in Urbana on October 18. Several issues were discussed that are of concern or interest to the Board and the university: Stan Eikenberry, the former president of the University of Illinois and probably the current national figure on what is happening in higher education, gave a wonderful report on Higher Education and America's Future. Stan tried to lay the groundwork that states really need to reinvest in public higher education after the recent downturn. I think it was well received. Among the other things that were discussed was a report on faculty salaries. The good news was that they have been rising in Illinois, marginally. The bad news is that we are lagging behind our competitors. That is why I am very pleased that we have been able, based upon the state economy, but more importantly on our own prudent planning and stewardship of resources, to provide the additional one percent salary increase as well as some additional money out of our own resources for faculty and staff pay. It is my top priority, has been, always will be, until we get to an acceptable level.

The next meeting of the IBHE will be this Monday in Chicago. But since the last meeting, former State Representative Judy Erwin was named the new Executive Director of the IBHE; she is well known to us and we to her. That is a positive development. There was a summit put on in early November by the IBHE on higher educational issues in the state. It was an all day conference, and the one theme that permeated many of the sessions I attended were the issues of access, affordability and the underpreparedness of the students Illinois universities are receiving. So I congratulate the IBHE for bringing attention to those issues for our state legislators who were in attendance.

I also attended the summit session with President Peters and many of our administrative personnel, Trustee Siegel said. What I heard from the legislators was a little surprising. The common theme that echoed when they spoke was they did not realize how much the cuts hurt us. We did not make it clear enough to them. So, this next legislative session when I am in Springfield, I will be talking with a much louder voice at their encouragement so that they do not mistake the impact of the cuts that they approved for our institution and others. Having Judy Erwin as the executive director of the Board of Higher Education is a positive development.

Universities Civil Service Merit Board

Universities Civil Service Merit Board Liaison Marc Strauss reported that the Universities Civil Service Merit Board last met on November 16. Many of the items discussed are items on which I reported at the last meeting of this Board. However, there are six agenda items from that meeting on which I would like to report today.

The first is the progress of the discharge and demotion rule revisions. There were minor modifications made as a result of comments by covered institutions. These focused on simple things like calendar versus working day clarifications and the like. Publication will occur shortly followed by a 45-day comment period. The rules then come back to the Merit Board before going to JCAR (Joint Committee on Administrative Rules) for final approval.

Second, the e-testing program, which will begin to affect more and more people, has been released for 34 job classifications as of November. A couple of hundred exams had already been administered when the Merit Board met in November. Classifications available now are focused in the food service and library areas. There is anticipation that building service and clerical classifications will be added soon. Priority for future implementation will be based on the percentage of the total exams that are

administered through the board. The board's budget looks for additional personnel to speed the implementation process for this program.

Third, the CJASI (Computerized Job Analysis Service Instrument) automated classification system was discussed and demonstrated. The first two classifications are being finalized currently and others should be added soon.

Fourth, previously I reported that the board anticipated doing a constituency survey. The plan was for that instrument to come back to the board for approval first. We have not received it yet, although the hope was that it would be released to us by the end of 2005 and then should go into use the beginning of next year.

Fifth, there was an update on pending litigation. There are no cases that involve Northern and there were no cases heard by the Merit Board on appeal in the November meeting.

Finally, the meeting schedule for the Merit Board in 2006 will be February 15, May 24, August 23 and November 15.

Northern Illinois University Foundation

I was surprised that we did not have an Academic Affairs meeting or a Finance and Facilities Committee meeting this past quarter, Trustee Boey said. This takes me back to the good old days, and the good old days is just four years ago before the dismantlement of the higher education system and before the budget cuts. We used to have each of those committee meetings, Academic Affairs and Finance and Facilities once a quarter. And sometimes we were hard-pressed with once a quarter to try to get everything done. Now we do not even meet once a quarter. Let us hope that the good old days will come back shortly.

It has been a great fall. We celebrated the grand opening of the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center, Homecoming and the ceremonial groundbreaking for the Academic and Athletic Performance Center (AAPC) last week. The funds raised for both projects have exceeded their minimum goals: \$6.7 million raised to date for the Alumni Center, nearly \$7.1 million raised to date for the athletic facility and more than \$7.6 million has been raised for endowments, now the university's single most important fundraising priority. For these three priorities alone, there have been 47 gifts of \$100,000 or more – 47 heartwarming stories of people choosing to make the big difference for past, current and future NIU students. Also, the Foundation Directors have committed a total of \$5.7 million in gifts to those three priorities. But we should not focus solely on the largest gifts. The Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center was built by 2,200 donors with touching expressions of love and loyalty for NIU and its people displayed on inscriptions inside and outside the building. Passionate Huskie fans at all giving levels are digging deep to build the AAPC. Donors are making gifts and endowments large and small to create a lasting legacy for themselves or a beloved person in their lives. The total raised to date for all purposes during the past five years is \$85 million. This wonderful way of giving is providing opportunities to students that even many of our successful alumni did not have, and "that's what it's all about."

As always, I will close with a story of a recent gift. Thanks to the vision and creative work of Marilyn McConachie and Dean Promod Vohra, NIU has just received a gift of \$496,000 from the E. Eugene Carter Foundation. The gift will establish an ambitious program to increase the pipeline of students, especially women, preparing themselves for careers in engineering. The program will encompass systematic educational interventions beginning in the middle school and continuing through college graduation. The gift provides for a \$250,000 endowed scholarship fund and \$246,000 for program support. Dr. Carter has led a distinguished career in academia serving on the faculty at Harvard, as Chair of the Finance Department at UI and Associate Dean of the College of Business at the University of Maryland. He has no connection to NIU other than personal friendship with staff member Marilyn McConachie. Since most of his own undergraduate and graduate studies were funded through scholarships, Eugene Carter has devoted himself to helping finance the education of other determined and hardworking individuals. He has done that by establishing engineering scholarships at a number of major institutions, primarily in the Midwest. It is an honor for NIU to receive one of the largest gifts ever. This can be attributed to his confidence in the integrity and skills of his friend Marilyn, who will administer

the program, as well as his regard for the caliber of NIU's engineering program and to Dean Vohra's scholarship.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the items earlier placed on the consent agenda. They include President's Report No. 49 Information Items 9.b.(1), 9.b.(2), 9.b.(3) and 9.b.(4). Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Nelms. The motion was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 49

Good morning everyone, President Peters said, and thank you Trustees for hazarding the roads and making it here today. Hopefully, when you leave, the roads will be cleared. I also want to echo everyone's excitement and appreciation of the fact that we are playing the Mid-America Conference Championship game tonight. I will be with Speaker Hastert, who is honorary co-chair of our wrestling fundraising activity tonight, something that he dearly loves. And we are appreciative of everything he has done for us. I am so proud of our students. And, we are going to have another championship on Sunday in a couple of weeks when approximately two thousand individuals cross the stage, and we give them their diplomas. They are true champions.

They other thing that I want to comment on, win or lose tonight – and I always like winning – I think our teams, our coaches and our players have demonstrated such good sportsmanship and character. Coach Novak has become nationally renowned as someone who builds programs the right way and has a reputation for his integrity and character. If you want to read something that validates that, read Coach Curtis's article in *ESPN.com*. He had not met Coach Novak yet has become the biggest fan of NIU and Coach Novak in the country. That resonates. Then people really begin to understand what a quality institution this is. Also, on the front of today's *Tribune Sports* page, there is an incredible article on Jim Phillips and his personal journey through medical tragedies at three different times this year. I urge you all to take a look at that if you want to have a true meaning of what it means to be an NIU person. There are so many stories like that out there.

I just want to take a few minutes to highlight a few events and activities. Many of you know that I have had the privilege of serving on the congressional task force called the Abraham Lincoln Commission on Study Abroad. We have completed our more than yearlong study, and we issued a report a few weeks ago. It made headlines across the country. I will have copies of the report for anyone who would like one in a couple of weeks. We called on American colleges and universities to send one million students overseas to study abroad by the year 2017. Since national numbers are now only about a fifth of that, we have a lot of work to do. At NIU, we send about 250 students overseas each academic year. I've talked to many of those young people, and to a person, they used the same word to describe their experiences – it is "transformational." Spending even four to six weeks in another country, immersed in another culture, surrounded by people who speak a different language, is absolutely a life-changing experience. Beyond that, it is becoming a national imperative. As the commission pointed out, international experience is vital to our national security, to our economic competitiveness and to our public diplomacy. I have provided the Trustees with a copy of an article about the study abroad challenge that appeared in the *Daily Herald* earlier this week. The reporter who interviewed me had many of the same preconceived notions about study abroad that many of our students have: that it is terribly expensive, that it automatically puts you behind in your studies, that you have to go for a whole year or a whole semester. All of these are myths that we need to dispel, and you can expect to hear more about our efforts in this area throughout the coming year. One of the five things I would like to accomplish in five years is for us to truly globalize this campus in every respect.

One of the most enthusiastic supporters of international exchange is our Provost, Ivan Legg, who is representing me in Michigan tonight. Having grown up overseas and engaged in a good deal of travel as an adult, Ivan is very committed to multiculturalism, and I believe it has been very helpful to our campus community. The second bit of news I bring you this morning is that we are beginning a search for his replacement. Last Monday, we had the first meeting of our Provost Search Committee, which I co-chair with Executive Secretary of the University Council Paul Stoddard. We outlined an ambitious but I believe

attainable schedule for the search. A set of selection criteria was approved. The Faculty Senate has given their input on that, we now are ready to advertise. We have had a very interesting and productive discussion about what NIU wants and the needs of its chief academic officers with the search consultant. Today I briefed the Trustees on our process and what we are looking for, and I heard their issues and concerns. I will be keeping all of you updated on the search. I believe we will attract one of the best individuals in the country to this important position.

The last thing I want to talk about is our annual report on grants and contract activities. So I want to focus just for a second or two on the good work that our researchers and our creative artists are doing to attract external funding, because many of our programs in science and research and creative activities would not be possible if we did not attract external funding. I want to mention something that happened this Monday, and you will hear about this in greater detail as the weeks and months unfold. For about 12 hours on Monday, I had a series of reports from individual researchers on this campus who, over the past five years, have received federal earmark dollars for their various projects. I have to admit that I was stunned by what has been accomplished with those funds, which are considerable. They run in the tens of millions of dollars across all of these programs as a result of our earmark initiatives from several of our congressmen in Washington. We heard reports from the College of Arts and Sciences Dr. Jonathan Berg and the work they are doing at the Center for Analytic Climate. And I was truly struck by the quality of research that is being conducted and the impact these funds have had on our research program. We heard from: Dr. Gerald Blazey and his associates on NICADD (Northern Illinois Collider and Detector Development) with FermiLab; the Nanoscience Institute group under the leadership of Clyde Kimball and the work being done in nanoscience; a very interesting project by Dr. Keith Millis on cognitive intelligence in the use of computers and computer routines to help individuals with critical thinking and ethical considerations and making ethical arguments; Dr. Michael Parrish on our paleontology grant with the Burpee Museum for the Jane dinosaur; several reports from Dean Vohra of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology on our ROCK project, our acoustics and vibration research and our hydrogen fuel cell research with Argonne National Laboratory – I believe we are going to have a hydrogen bus demonstration on campus sometime soon to see what that technology can yield; the College of Health and Human Sciences reported on our wonderful Speech, Language and Literacy Center. That is the Family Health, Wellness and Literacy Center, which will be moving to the recently acquired Monsanto building or, as I call it, NIU Sycamore. Finally, we heard from Dr. John Lewis on our ag-tech initiatives in Belvidere where we are trying to use agricultural products to produce such things as cleaning products. As a part of that project, I think we are using soy-based glass cleaning products in our residence halls. I want to say thank you very much and to thank Kathy Buettner for her hard work.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 9.a.(1) – Fiscal Year 2006 Mass Transit Contract Amendment

Our first action item is the approval of an extension of our mass transit contract, President Peters said. Due to rising fuel costs, we have to amend the Huskie Line contract by \$250,000. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the FY06 mass Transit Contract Amendment. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. A roll call vote of the Trustees was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Strauss	Yes
Trustee Moser	Yes	Student Trustee Nelms	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Chair Vella	Yes
Trustee Siegel	Yes		

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(2) – Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center Conveyance Agreement

Our next item for consideration, the President said, is a very important item and one we are happy to see. That is the beautiful Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center Conveyance Agreement, which is now open. This project was funded in large part by private donations. We were very fortunate that our NIU Foundation acted as the development agency. The university now seeks to have the NIU Foundation convey the facility to the university through an acquisition agreement. This would allow the university to own, to program, to operate and to manage this facility. I want to thank the NIU Foundation greatly for

their participation in this wonderful partnership. Therefore, he said, I recommend the Board approve that we enter into an acquisition agreement with the NIU Foundation for the Barsema Alumni/Visitors Center. The university further requests that the Chair of the Board and the university President, in consultation with Board counsel, be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the NIU Board of Trustees. Chair asked for a motion on the recommendation. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

As I drove in today, Chair Vella said, I cannot tell you how beautiful that building is and how impressively it stands out. A roll call vote of the Trustees was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Strauss	Yes
Trustee Moser	Yes	Student Trustee Nelms	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Chair Vella	Yes
Trustee Siegel	Yes		

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(3) – Construction of Parking Lot W – Capital Project Approval
Agenda Item 9.a.(4) – Reconstruction of Parking Lot 20 - Capital Project Approval
Agenda Item 9.a.(5) – Reconstruction and Paving of Gravel Parking Lot X - Capital Project Approval

I would like to treat Agenda Items 9.a.(3), 9.a.(4) and 9.a.(5) as a set, President Peters said, because they are all capital projects dealing with parking lot paving or extensions. Lot W is an extension of the parking lot to the north and south of the residence halls. The university requests BOT approval for that project, which is set at \$753,500. Lot 20 is located by Evans Field House. We have had some traffic and parking issues there and want to reconfigure this lot along with a reconfiguration of Lot 21 for parking and to make the traffic flow better. That project is set at \$650,000. Parking Lot X, a gravel lot on the West Campus, is located at the corner of Annie Glidden and Grant Drive Extension north of the old University Apartments. That project to reconstruct and pave the lot is set at \$333,500. Dr. Williams stated that the purpose here is to provide appropriate parking for our students. Several of these are gravel lots. We have built up the reserves and now have the opportunity to pave these lots and to provide adequate lighting for the safety of our students in these areas. It makes a big difference for them, and our students are very much in support of this. I want to commend Bob Albanese and his staff for internally generating funds in the reserves to make sure that we can do these projects. Student Trustee Nelms stated that from a student perspective, these projects have been important, especially the paving of the gravel lot in front of the residence halls, and we are happy to see them come to fruition. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve Agenda Items 9.a.(3), (4) and (5) for the construction and reconstruction of Parking Lot W, Parking Lot 20 and Parking Lot X. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Moser. A roll call vote of the Trustees was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Strauss	Yes
Trustee Moser	Yes	Student Trustee Nelms	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Chair Vella	Yes
Trustee Siegel	Yes		

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(6) – Approval of Limited Senior Administrative Reorganization

Our last action item is the appointment of a Vice President for External Affairs, President Peters said. Kathryn Buettner presently serves as the Associate Vice President and Executive Director for External Affairs and Economic Development. She has served as the university's chief state and federal government relations officer since September 1995. The scope of Ms. Buettner's position has evolved substantially, and she has provided exemplary performance in leading state and federal government relations programs and economic development initiatives for this university. She is a long-term member of the President's Cabinet. She serves as the administrative liaison for the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees and has assumed the responsibility for Board of Trustees operations. Ms. Buettner is extensively involved and maintains a leadership role with numerous

committees and professional organizations. Her work is indispensable with respect to NIU's relationships with the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the executive and legislative branches of state government, and the federal relations context. Ms. Buettner is responsible for numerous intergovernmental initiatives and provides leadership in the crucial annual university budget appropriation process. Examples of her work in expanding NIU's research and economic development programs include progressive initiatives between NIU and Argonne and Fermi National Laboratories, the NIU Institute for Neutron Therapy at FermiLab, economic development initiatives with the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, development of the EigerLab in Rockford and the AgTech Research Park in Belvidere, and the DuPage National Technology Park.

Therefore, I bring the following recommendation: In recognition of the scope of Ms. Buettner's position, its significance to the operations and success of the university in fulfilling its mission, and her exceptionally meritorious performance in the capacity of Associate Vice President and Executive Director, the university recommends that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Ms. Buettner as Vice President for External Affairs.

Parliamentarian Kenneth Davidson noted for the record that the recommendation being advanced by the President on behalf of the university was the same as Agenda Item 9.a.(6) on the posted agenda, titled Approval of Limited Senior Administrative Reorganization.

Trustee Sanchez and I earlier had discussed making a joint motion, Trustee Siegel said. But I have noticed many times in the legislature that often resolutions and motions have cosponsors, so Trustee Sanchez and I would be happy to make the motion for the university recommendation to appoint Ms. Buettner as a Vice President, which does not prevent anyone else on this Board from joining in as co-makers of that motion, should they so desire. On behalf of the rest of the Trustees, Trustee Boey said, we second that motion.

A roll call vote of the Trustees was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Strauss	Yes
Trustee Moser	Yes	Student Trustee Nelms	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Chair Vella	Yes
Trustee Siegel	Yes		

The motion was approved.

I would just like to say thank you very much to the Board, to the President and to my colleagues in the administration, Ms. Buettner said. I took a gentleman who was candidating here for a physicist appointment in neutron therapy out for dinner last night with several of you, and we were talking about the difference and the types of people that work at NIU. One thing he noticed after spending a day here was that most of the administration and people that he had met involving our faculty in the physics and the engineering community are people who come to NIU and make their careers and their lives here. And that is something I chose to do ten years ago when I came here. I am very honored by the Board's confidence in me and the President's confidence in me and that of my colleagues. I enjoy working with all of you. I have said many times in Springfield that I bleed "red and black." We are excited about what is happening tonight, both here and in Detroit. I just want to thank everybody for the ability to work with all of you. It is a mind-stretching experience, and I have really enjoyed it.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 9.b.(1) – Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000

Agenda Item 9.b.(2) – Fiscal Year 2005 Annual Report of Cash and Investments

Agenda Item 9.b.(3) – Fiscal Year 2005 Report on Capital Activities

Agenda Item 9.c.(4) — Grant and Contract Awards

Consent Agenda Item.

CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 34

Agenda Item 10.a. – Proposed Board of Trustees Meeting Dates for 2006

After much discussion, the Board agreed on the following meeting dates for 2006: March 23, June 15, September 21 and December 7. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve these dates. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey.

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Strauss	Yes
Trustee Moser	Yes	Student Trustee Nelms	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Chair Vella	Yes
Trustee Siegel	Yes		

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.b. – Report of Underprepared Student Programming

Chair Vella recognized Dr. Gip Seaver to introduce the presenter. I want to thank the Board and President Peters for inviting us back to take this opportunity to talk a little bit more about activities and the Division of Student and Academic Affairs that focus on assisting our students but also in improving our graduation and retention rates, Dr. Seaver said. When we talked to you at the last meeting, we focused on many of the activities that we provide for students here at Northern. Today we would like to focus on what we do for potential students to help them make the transition to Northern Illinois University as well other universities. So today I have asked Felicia Bohanon, Director of the Upward Bound Program, which is a U.S. Department of Education TRIO grant, to come and talk to you. She is also the director of the ACE program, which is a HECA grant that she has written and obtained. Both of these programs are what we would call outreach programs in the sense that we take programs out into the community to work with economically disadvantaged students to prepare them to come to NIU.

We have had an Upward Bound Program here at Northern Illinois University since 1966, Ms. Bohanon said. For the last ten years, we have worked with Aurora and Rockford school districts. Currently, we are working in Rockford with East, Guilford and Auburn High Schools. In Aurora, we are working with East Aurora and West Aurora School Districts. We currently are funded to serve 95 students. The majority of those students, as indicated in the report, are coming from Rockford. We completed our performance report for 2004-2005 yesterday, so the top sheet gives you information about the students who are participating in our program as far as gender, ethnicity, and low income and first generation status. Part of the Upward Bound requirements are that our target population be students who are low income or whose parents do not have a bachelor's degree. During the 2004-2005 academic year, we had 80 of our 95 students who met those requirements.

Also included in your packets was the overall brochure for the Upward Bound Program showing the services that we provide through Upward Bound. We provide academic tutoring Monday through Thursday. In the past four years, we began going out to the schools and to provide tutoring at the Booker Washington Center in Rockford, so that we are providing tutoring Monday through Thursday in both the Aurora and Rockford school districts.

In addition to tutoring, we also provide academic counseling. In order to make sure that students are prepared to go on to four-year institutions such as Northern, we are making sure early on that they are looking at the courses they are taking. Particularly, when we look at an institution like Northern, one of the things we do is meet with the parents and go over the things the students need to be doing, particularly in mathematics and science.

We also involve the students in cultural enrichment activities, for the most part, throughout the Midwest. But one of the things that we have an opportunity to do during the spring break as well as at the end of the summer program is that we visit colleges throughout the United States so that at the end of last summer's program, the students had an opportunity to visit institutions in Tennessee. One of the things that we're planning for this spring is that we'll visit colleges in California. In Upward Bound, we have found that even though we talk to the students and to parents about the opportunity they have to go to

any institution, the majority of the students in the Upward Bound Program do come to Northern. Currently, we have 21 Upward Bound alum that are attending Northern Illinois University.

In addition to cultural enrichment activities and college visits, we also work with the students in making sure that their applications for college are completed properly. We work with them on their financial aid, and talk to them about career planning and looking at making the connection between majors and careers. We provide test preparation services for both the ACT and SAT plans and the PSAT so that the majority of our students begin the program as freshmen and continue through their senior year as documented in the performance report. So with our 2004 cohort, we have 61 of those students who continued from the previous year.

Our ACE program is modeled after our Upward Bound Program. ACE stands for Access to a College Education through Early Preparation. We have received HECA grant funding for this program each year since 1999. We initially started working with West Middle School in Rockford and, this year, expanded the program to include Simmons Middle School in Aurora so that we have both Aurora and Rockford populations going into our Upward Bound Program. We picked up a new group of sixth graders this year in a particularly exciting kickoff in Aurora a few weeks ago. After the grant was announced, we had about 45 students and families come out to learn about our program. In Aurora, we are working with about 70 percent Latino/Hispanic families, and they are very excited about our program and the opportunities we will offer through their program.

One of the differences with ACE in comparison to Upward Bound, other than the fact that we are working with a middle school population, is that our target population with ACE is low income minority students. In the past four years, we have had a lot of success with that program in moving students from our ACE program into our Upward Bound Program so that we continue to work with these same students. The ACE program is funded by a grant one year at a time, whereas Upward Bound is funded on four-year cycles. We are currently in the third year of a four-year grant cycle. And we have had an Upward Bound program since 1966, so we are optimistic about continuing.

In reply to a question from one of the Trustees, Ms. Bohanon said that the information listed is from the report that was submitted for the HECA grant. Part of page 1 is demographic information, and page 2 contains information on the types of services offered. Upward Bound offers a 26-week academic year program as well as a six-week summer program. Upward Bound is funded currently at \$440,000 to work with 95 students. For ACE this year, we have a grant of \$55,000 and are working with about 70 students.

I appreciate your report, Chair Vella said, and I am glad to see that you are getting involved with sixth graders. I really believe that to make a difference you really have to impact the children at that point, when they are transitioning from being children to being young adults.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chair Vella announced that the next meeting of the full Board is scheduled for March 23, 2006 in DeKalb.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no Other Matters, Chair Vella asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Mimms
Recording Secretary