

Minutes of the
NIU Board of Trustees
**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS, STUDENT AFFAIRS
AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**
November 16, 2006

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cheryl Murer at 9:07 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 Trustee Marc Strauss, Student Trustee Andrew Nelms and Chair Murer. Trustees Robert Boey and Manny Sanchez joined the meeting via teleconference. Also present were Committee Liaison Raymond W. Alden III, 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

Trustee Strauss made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Student Trustee Nelms. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Trustee Boey to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2006 meeting. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Today, Chair Murer said, our Academic Affairs agenda contains three action items and three information items. The action items include a request to endorse a Request for Proposal pertaining to the Northern Illinois Proton Therapy Treatment and Research Center and two amendments to Board of Trustees *Regulations*. Our three information items include the Fiscal Year 2008 Programmatic Budget Requests, the selection of a guarantee agency for the Federal Family Education Loan Programs, and the proposed Board of Trustees committee meeting dates for 2007.

I would like to recognize the representatives of the University Advisory Committee, Joseph Stephens and Ferald Bryan. We just want to add that we share your excitement at the prospects of entering the proton age, Dr. Bryant commented.

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 requests for public comment had been received.

UNIVERSITY REPORT

Agenda Item 7.a. – Northern Illinois Proton Therapy Treatment and Research Center

Our first item, Dr. Alden said, is a request for an RFP for the Northern Illinois Proton Therapy Treatment and Research Center. Chair Murer will have some comments at the end of this presentation, but we

wanted to give a technical presentation for those members who are unaware of what proton therapy is. I would like to ask Dr. Jerry Blazey, the Presidential Science Advisor, to give us the background for proton therapy. And then I will say a few words about the potential academic research and outreach opportunities offered by this particular facility.

Good morning, Dr. Blazey said, I would like to spend about 15 minutes giving you a brief report on how we have come to this RFP request, beginning with a description of the proton planning team. The Provost, Kathy Buettner, John Lewis, Jerry Zielinski and myself have been the team from NIU, which has been focusing on this plan, setting up strategies and trying to understand the industry. We have retained the services of two very good consultants, George Coutrakon from Loma Linda University, and Allan Thornton from Midwest Proton Institute in Bloomington. To date, most of our work has been conceptual only.

We began our exercise with both a vision and a mission, which will be given in this brief slide presentation. What is proton therapy? Essentially, it is a controlled beam of protons that offer the most precise form of radiation treatment available. It is a charge particle, so it can be steered and set up with the correct energy so that the deposition of energy in any tumor can be planned. It is a highly effective treatment for tumors in hard to reach areas such as the head, brain, neck, lung and prostate. Only the tumor sites are radiated, which leaves the healthy tissues and organs surrounding the sites intact and mostly unharmed. As you can imagine, this is very important for pediatric patients because they still have growth centers and their bodies are changing rapidly. It is often used in conjunction with other modalities, photon or radiation chemotherapy. And it is an outpatient treatment. A patient is typically treated for 15 minutes a day. Most of that time is set up, and the patient is irradiated for one or two minutes. Usually, a patient will receive 30 or 40 such treatments or fractions distributed over five to eight weeks.

The essence of proton therapy is given by a curve called the Bragg peak. This chart shows in arbitrary units the dose that is delivered as a function of depth in tissue. So, for instance, x-rays deposit most of their energy at about 10 centimeters inside a patient. Depending on the energy, protons deposit very little in the trace area and then can be tuned or the energy set so that almost all their energy is dropped just in the tumor site. So where x-rays actually do irradiate the tumor, there is excess or unwanted radiation before the tumor and after the tumor. With protons, there is some radiation before the tumor, but there is a very sharp edge or a Bragg peak, which allows control of deposition of the energy in the patient.

A typical facility contains an accelerator, and there are two types of accelerators. One is a synchrotron and one is a cyclotron. They have slightly different technologies, but they both deliver a beam energy suitable for treatment. An injector starts out with particles at rest, then they are injected into the ring and accelerated. Once they reach the energy of interest, they are then diverted into a beam line which goes to various treatment rooms. These treatment rooms can either be fixed targets with a beam line that radiates a patient, or they can have gantries with which the beam can be directed around the patient. A gantry is quite an impressive device weighing approximately 120 tons and has a circumference of about 10 meters. The beam line goes up on the gantry and from there magnets steer the beam towards the patient, or rotate it around the patient. Because these gantries are quite large, the footprint of this building is around 100,000 square feet. Current facility sites include Boston, Florida, Texas, Bloomington and Loma Linda. The proposed location site is in the DuPage Tech Park just north of I-88 near Fabian Road.

One of the clinical benefits of proton cancer therapy is precise targeting of charged particles with radio-surgical precision. These beams can be steered to almost two-tenths of a millimeter. That makes possible reproducible treatments and daily precision in all three dimensions. There are fewer acute and chronic side effects because the dosage can be increased to target the tumor and avoid damage to other tissues, which leads to low toxicity or a lower incidence of side effects. Finally, there is a decrease in radiation-induced tumors in surrounding tissue because the radiation has been minimized. This is very important for pediatric patients because currently their secondary cancer rates are approximately 15 times higher than adults. There is a whole host of cancers and diseases that can be treated with proton therapy, and opportunities are opening up for new treatments, including breast irradiation, carcinomas of the rectum, lung and others.

Our timeline would begin with the release of an RFP for the proton equipment in December. Finalization of the proton equipment contract is expected to be completed in late 2007 when architectural planning would begin, with groundbreaking sometime in 2008, and installation of equipment in 2009. And treatment would begin early in 2011. This still needs to be integrated with the academic programs and academic milestones that we plan to associate with this center, Dr. Blazey said, and I will turn it over to Provost Alden to address that.

There are a number of opportunities that we can see coming from this program, Provost Alden said. It is a very cutting edge technology, and we see a potential for residencies, for medical professionals from other medical schools and medical physics. This technology was actually developed at FermiLab. We see the need for medical physics to perfect it, so that educational opportunity would be a very apparent component of this program. There are opportunities to prepare dosimetric scientists and radiation therapists either at NIU or in combination with community colleges. Some of these are at the associate's level, some at the baccalaureate level, yet they are very important. There are over a hundred people associated with these clinics with very highly trained technology areas. Other areas in existing programs that could have emphases and internships are things such as childcare and education. Many of these patients will be children. In many cases patients come with their families because they stay near the facility for several months during treatment. Obviously childcare and education is an important component of that. All the various treatments of patients in rehabilitation – physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech, hearing, audiology are all important components that would be available to our students in internships. Nursing practicum areas for both our students and community college students as well as the social sciences – social work, counseling – would also be available. Obviously these are very stressful times for patients and their families, so we see these as opportunities for our programs in those areas. We have the nutrition program, family nutrition is going to be an important part of the treatment of the patients, providing a welcoming environment for the families and, obviously, a potential for residential facility development.

We see business planning for these kinds of operations in affiliated healthcare facilities: healthcare management, engineering, ergonomics and human factors, operations and process management, robotics controls, nanosensors, advanced machining techniques, are all associated with these very high tech types of programs. And, of course, in computing are the simulations, the CAD-CAM type of mapping of tumors and treatment regimes as well as controls of these very complex systems. Research opportunities are numerous. Medical physics wants to reduce unwanted radiation to the greatest extent, improve the scanning technologies and so forth in the medical physics area. Radiochemistry, radiobiology are all components of these kinds of studies. In health sciences, obviously, you have the clinical trials, both looking at the effects on various kinds of cancers, and in the future, maybe even determining what combinations of treatments with proton therapy and chemotherapy. What combinations work best on individual patients and individual tumors and maybe even genetic mapping to determine the best protocols for treatment. Also biology, psychology, and other related subjects would be advanced diagnostic systems that would provide other areas for study as well.

So, our potential partners would include the various medical centers and other proton treatment facilities. The Midwest Proton Radiation Institute is one NIU already collaborates with. Various hospital systems, private practice oncologists, and so forth, are all seen as potential clinical partners in this facility. In terms of research, obviously the medical schools, various research universities and, of course, the international proton treatment facilities that are in this area of research around the world. And education, as previously mentioned, medical schools, universities, community colleges and the various proton treatment facilities for advanced and continuing education are all our potential partners.

At this point, the Chair recognized Trustee Sanchez who had joined the meeting via teleconference.

I appreciate the Provost allowing me an opportunity in the midst of his presentation to make some comments about the proton therapy center, Chair Murer said. As many of you may have known in other presentations we have made and, if you participated in the outstanding press conference that we had a couple of weeks ago, it is very difficult to grasp the magnitude of this opportunity for Northern Illinois University. And what continues to strike me is that the magnitude of the excitement it can bring to this university sometimes gets lost in the myriad of slides and presentations and bullet points. It is an extraordinary, complex project, but what excites me personally is the opportunity to watch NIU take a

national leadership role in bringing this state-of-the-art medicine to the Midwest. That is a tremendous opportunity for Northern Illinois University. It is not simply medicine, and it is not simply engineering, the Chair commented, but as the Provost said, it is bringing it down to nutrition, bringing it down to hospitality. The integration of the whole university is really what our focus has been for quite some time. So we are working very diligently to bring this about, in order to make our mark in the scientific, medical and academic communities not only from the research that we can garner from this project, but also because we are taking a very unique position as a consortium. We want to embrace the other academic and medical centers of the Midwest, not just of Illinois but of the Midwest. Trustee Marc Strauss and I serve on the subcommittee, and I have the great pleasure of chairing that subcommittee. I had the pleasure of going to Houston with Kathy Buettner, John Lewis and Dr. Blazey. So, it was a great personal experience, but we did a lot of business. We interviewed five international equipment companies and gave it a great deal of care and consideration.

It is obvious how excited I am about this, President Peters said, having watched this develop over the past couple of years and having appreciated the effort that our people – Kathy Buettner, Jerry Blazey, John Lewis, our consultants and many others – have put into this. But I want to pause for a moment to tell our academic community how important our Trustees were in the formative stages of this proposal. Our chair, Barbara Vella, and the rest of the Board asked Trustees Murer and Strauss to represent the Board of Trustees on this. And this was very fortuitous because Trustee Murer has a first-rate, well-known consulting practice for hospitals and clinics, and, we know Marc Strauss's ability in analyzing business plans and development activities. In my career, I do not think I have experienced the kind of involvement of Trustees with the development of a project that has the potential to make a major difference. So I want to, on behalf of the whole academic community, thank both of you and all the Trustees for what you have done so far and for taking the time out of your busy lives. I mean, you have devoted days out of your business life to do this, and that is really appreciated by the working group. And someday, it is going to be very much appreciated by the thousands of people who are going to be treated with this therapy, as well as for what it will mean for this university.

And so, Chair Murer said, it is with pleasure that I take this opportunity to make a recommendation to this committee that we endorse the request to issue a Request for Proposal for technical specifications necessary to properly evaluate proton particle accelerated systems, including the various beam delivery systems, nozzle configurations and patient treatment software system integration approaches. We ask that the President forward it by means of the President's Report to the Board of Trustees for approval at our meeting on December 7. Trustee Boey moved the motion on Chair Murer's recommendation, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Amendment to Board of Trustees *Regulations* Section IV.D. – Students – Residency Status

This revision of Board of Trustees *Regulations* on residency status for students is to bring the university into compliance with Public Act 93-0007, which describes how residency is defined, as well as to refine the process so it is clearer to students exactly how residency and domicile are defined. And finally, it will provide a mechanism for the Provost's Office if the student is dissatisfied with the determination of the Office of Registration and Records. So these three components do not change the process, but they make it more student-friendly and in compliance with the law, being more specific and providing that appeal process.

The General Counsel's Office has had the role in the past of being the appellate reviewing authority on the appeals of residency determinations, General Counsel Ken Davidson said, and we thought there could be some improvements to the language in the regulation, and I was directly involved in the language development. So, overall, it is a system improvement as well as a compliance matter. The first determination is through the Office of Registration and Records, Provost Alden explained, and the appeals process has been moved from the General Counsel's Office to the Vice Provost.

Let me add my perspective on this from working in other states, President Peters said. First, this is a good clarification, and it helps the students by alleviating any ambiguity. Secondly, on the surface, there are lots of reasons why someone would want to be declared in-state for tuition purposes when they come from out of state, but we have to take seriously our fiduciary responsibility, because when we declare

someone in-state for tuition purposes, state money is involved. Therefore, I am pleased that we have tightened this up. And third, Illinois is a state by statute, and the way we have interpreted that is relatively friendly to those coming into the state. So, I want the students to know that this is a fairly user-friendly statute and I am pleased that our interpretation now makes it more easily understood and takes some of the guesswork out of it.

Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the amendment to Board of Trustees *Regulations* Section IV.D., Students Residency Status. Student Trustee Nelms so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.c. – Amendment to Board of Trustees *Regulations* – Benefits – Sections II.D. and III.C. – Military and Disaster Relief Leaves of Absence

The amendment to Board of Trustees *Regulations* Sections II.D. and III.D., Benefits, Military and Disaster Relief Leaves of Absence, extends the benefits for leaves of absence to individuals who are called up for military and disaster relief, Provost Alden said, and provides them leaves of absence for events such as Hurricane Katrina or the Iraq conflict for call up to National Guard and Reserve units.

In reply to a query from one of the Trustees, Dr. Steve Cunningham indicated that these leaves of absence are usually with pay. But whether or not the leaves are to be granted with or without pay depends on the standards contained in the Executive Order. Sometimes the Executive Order will also make it clear that both pay and benefits continue. In other cases, benefits would continue even if there is no pay status. So CMS would continue to provide the insurance program in those situations.

Right now, when an Executive Order or a statute is enacted pertaining to a military operation or, for example, Katrina relief, Dr. Cunningham explained, we send a memo out to employees and the departments and colleges advising them of these provisions. In the case of a military call-up, when one of our employees is called up, then we work with that situation. There is a procedure to go through to authorize the leave and so on. We make sure that is done in accordance with whatever statutory provision might apply. The issue has been that the existing Board *Regulations* had limitations on both time and pay status, and that is why we are requesting this amendment.

Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the amendment to Board of Trustees *Regulations* Sections II.D. and III.D., Benefits, Military and Disaster Relief Leaves of Absence. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Nelms. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.d. – Fiscal Year 2008 Programmatic Budget Requests

Provost Alden asked Vice Provost Virginia Cassidy to give a summary of the Fiscal Year 2008 Programmatic Budget Requests.

The specifics noted in this item further delineate information that was provided to the Board in the spring of this year about the budget development process for FY08, Vice Provost Cassidy said. These eight budget requests total approximately \$9 million, and they are one of the major ways that the university has of infusing new money into its budget. Unfortunately, over about the last five years that has not happened, but we have continued to submit these budget priority requests as they do reflect the university's priorities for new funding if new funding were to be available. They are reported in priority order, and our first request is to restore the professoriate by the addition of new tenure-track faculty lines to replace positions that have been lost due to earlier actions by the IBHE such as the P•Q•P process that was initiated in the early 1990s as well as positions that have been lost through recent budget rescissions.

I would like to comment a little about the ambiguity of the state budget process in the past four or five years, President Peters said, and what may be coming in the future. We have stuck to our priorities for the past four or five years, because they are reasonable. And remember, our top priority is the pay issue for all of our faculty and staff. But these other things fit our academic program needs. The revenues for the state look better at this time, but there are tremendous needs in the state, and where higher education ranks among those needs is a matter of some debate and calls for some work on our part. And the Trustees have been involved in trying to help us make the case. The state is facing some very big issues

including pensions, health insurance issues and K-12 funding. But moving down on the list, in fifth or sixth place is childcare and higher education. So, once those revenues are distributed according to those large issues, it is difficult for us to contemplate major increases in state funding for higher education. There is some indication that the state may be interested in injecting performance dollars into certain areas where there is economic development need and workforce need. For instance, this past year, working through the IBHE and the universities, the state provided extra funding for the training and degreering of nurses because there is a nursing shortage. We have these needs that are going unmet that challenge us on a daily basis. So I want to thank the Trustees again for always supporting our budgets.

Agenda Item 7.e. – Guarantee Agency for the Federal Family Education Loan Programs

We felt it important to bring this item before the Board because the amount of dollars that NIU has involved in financial aid approaches a hundred million dollars a year, Provost Alden said, so this is a very significant program in its magnitude and its importance to the students. Each university has a guarantee agency that provides the infrastructure to allow students to have access to the federal education loan programs. And as part of the conversion of our computer system to the Student Information System (SIS), we would like to be ready for a new mandate from the federal Department of Education which will require us to use an XML technology. In order to tie this to the development of our new Student Information System, we would like to put out an RFP for this guarantee agency to have the support to help us develop that software and make sure we are in compliance when this federal mandate is approved. We wanted to inform the Board about this because it is going to require an RFP that involves a significant amount of funding.

Agenda Item 7.f. – Proposed Board of Trustees Committee Meeting Dates for 2007

The final item is the proposed Board of Trustees subcommittee meeting dates for the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee, Dr. Alden said. These dates – March 8, June 7, September 6 and November 15 – were developed in consultation with committee members and represent the meetings with a start time of 9:00 a.m.

OTHER MATTERS

Today is a special day for me personally and for my colleagues in the Department of Political Science, President Peters said. We are having a major symposium all day on the impact of the congressional elections. Two very distinguished political scientists, congress scholars, who I know, will be here, as well as Congressman Dan Lipinski, who is going to give a lecture tonight. I am continually amazed at the role of universities. Doing something like the proton therapy and making a difference and then bringing scholars together in a nonpartisan way to try to analyze this rather significant shift in the underlying political forces in the country is what a university is all about, and I am very proud to be part of it.

One of the things that also strikes me about the proton facility is, Chair Murer said, that in discussions we have had, especially presentations on research funding, someday we hope to reach that \$100 million mark. It is one thing to say it, but we have to have vehicles in which to achieve it, and I think the proton therapy facility allows us the vehicle to achieve a reasonable goal of research of a hundred million dollars. That will be a very important mark for NIU academically, representative of its research. So, it is not only what we will be doing for the community from a medicine standpoint. It is not only what we are doing for the community in terms of rallying our partners. But it also is a vehicle for us to be able to enhance our research capabilities, which is really the essence of our university. So Marc and I both are very pleased to be on this committee.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce two of our financial consultants on the proton therapy project who are here in the audience today, Ms. Buettner said. You will be meeting with them later this afternoon to go over some of the financial issues in greater detail. They are very talented people, and I wanted to take the opportunity to introduce them to not only the audience but to the community as well – Mitch Latinkic and Amy Hay. They are both from M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. Amy is the CEO of the ProBeam facility at M.D. Anderson, and Mitch is Chairman of the Department of Radiation Oncology there. They are both CPA's and are probably the best in the country at this point in

understanding the finances particularly necessary to make a successful proton therapy center. They have been helping our team for several months and are here to meet with a couple of the Trustees before they come in and meet with the full Board.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee is scheduled for March 8, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in DeKalb.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Murer asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Nelms. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:09 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins
Recording Secretary