

Minutes of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
June 15, 2006

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Barbara Giorgi Vella at approximately 9:05 a.m. in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Sharon Mimms conducted a roll call of Trustees. Members present were Trustees Robert Boey, George Moser, Cherilyn Murer, Myron Siegel, Marc Strauss, Student Trustee Andrew Nelms and Chair Vella. Not present was Trustee Manuel Sanchez. 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

After discussion with President Peters and review of the printed agenda before us, Chair Vella said, I propose 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 Number 51, Action Items 9.a.(4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (11), (12), (13), (16) and (18), and our receipt of Information Items 9.b.(1), 9.b.(2) less deleted purchase item number two, (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9), and 9.c.(1) to that Consent Agenda. The Chair a motion to approve the meeting agenda as proposed. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Moser. 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, and property matters as generally described under §2(c)(5) and (6) of the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey.

The Chair amended her original motion to include Executive Session Minutes Matters as generally described under §2(c)(21) and of the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Strauss moved to accept the motion as amended, seconded by Trustee Boey. 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 11:30 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Trustee Murer to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2006 Board Meeting. The motion was approved.

ELECTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2007 BOARD OFFICERS

The Chair recognized Trustee Boey to nominate the Board's elected officers for Fiscal Year 2007.

It is with great pleasure that I place into nomination the following slate of officers to be elected for Fiscal Year 2007, Trustee Boey said:

Chair – Trustee Barbara Giorgi Vella
Vice-Chair – Trustee Cherilyn Murer
Secretary – Trustee Marc Strauss
Fourth Member of the Executive Committee - Manny Sanchez
Trustee Civil Service Merit Board Representative – Trustee Marc Strauss

I am proud to repeat the nominations, Trustee Boey said. Certainly, the year's activity conducted at a very high professional level speaks to the level of leadership on this Board. So, I thank you, Madam Chair, and the other officers again for the great service during the past year. I would like to second the nomination, Trustee Siegel said, and again thank all of the officers and the Universities Civil Service Merit Board member for their year of service. The motion was unanimously approved. The Chair congratulated the elected officers reminding them that their terms will extend through June 30, 2007.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

First of all, Chair Vella said, I want to thank everyone for the kind words. I also would like to thank the other officers and appointed officials who have agreed to continue for another year. It is a real commitment of time and energy, which I appreciate and I know the university appreciates.

I know that everyone on campus, including the Board of Trustees, joins me in welcoming Dr. Alden as our new provost and executive vice president. He could not be here today, but we congratulate him, and we know that he will enjoy his experience here at Northern. Dr. Alden's credentials and his background indicate that he will be a real asset to the university. This significant appointment is the result of a search committee composed of faculty and staff, and the Board is very happy with the successful completion of that process. Congratulations to everyone involved, and congratulations to Dr. Alden. I also want to congratulate Andrew Nelms, who has been reelected as a Student Trustee, and also will serve through June 30, 2007.

As you know, I have asked the staff to present information to the Board on issues regarding the outreach the university does for underprepared students. Today I am looking forward to a presentation on the REAL program, a Teacher Quality Enhancement grant, which is part of a partnership between Rock Valley College, Northern Illinois University and Rockford Public School District 205. Because of this program, Rockford's Jefferson High School has instituted a new club for select students who are growing more interested in attending college. This is a very exciting program, and I hope that this idea will take hold in all of our feeder high schools.

Along with the university, I am pleased to report that the General Assembly and the Governor have agreed on a Fiscal Year 2007 state budget that includes a 1.2 percent increase in general revenue funding for NIU – our first general revenue increase since 2002. We hope this is a trend and that this support will continue to grow.

This is the final meeting of the fiscal year, and many of our students have completed their spring semester and moved out of the residence halls and apartments. I participated in graduation and saw all the happy students and relieved parents. In the last three months, much has occurred at NIU in the lives of all of our students, faculty and staff. And I'm cognizant of the diversity of people, issues and needs of our community. I want you to know that NIU and I are committed to making NIU the school of choice in Illinois and in the nation. When we look around and see the many changes to our university, our new alumni center, a development agreement for housing for students with dependent children, the proposed Academic and Athletic Performance Center, we know that we are on the right track to providing a diverse and meaningful university experience for everyone.

Finally, I want to thank the Board for their support today. I am aware of the trust and confidence that they have placed in me. I am proud, and I am humbled to serve the students, the faculty, the staff and my fellow Trustees as chair of this Board. I will continue to do my best on behalf of the university, and I will continue to work to make NIU the choice for our region.

Chair Vella then recognized the University Advisory Committee representatives: Dr. Paul Stoddard, Dr. Xueshu Song, Dr. Ferald Bryan, Dr. Joseph "Buck" Stephen, Ms. Bobbie Cesarek and Ms. Rachel Turner. Ms. Cesarek stated that she was delighted to be at the meeting and looked forward to working with the Board in the future. Ms. Turner thanked the Board of Trustees, President Peters and the administration for their continued support and commitment to reviewing, increasing and improving faculty and staff salaries. That means a great deal to all of us, she said, particularly in this time of financial constraint.

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 Board meeting.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS

Executive Committee

There was no report from the Executive Committee.

Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee

Committee Chair Bob Boey reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee met on Wednesday, May 25. At that meeting, the committee considered and endorsed the following action items: Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotions with Tenure for the 2006-2007 Academic Year; Appointments with Rank and Tenure for Dr. Raymond Alden III as executive vice president and provost, Dr. Bradley G. Bond as associate dean of the graduate school, and Dr. Raymond K. Ege as Department Chair of Computer Science; Appointment of the Interim Dean of the University Libraries, Mary Munroe; request for a new degree program, Ph.D. in Art Education; request for new specializations within the M.S. Education in Physical Education and within the M.D. in Nursing. The Committee heard a summary report on Program Reviews completed for the 2005-06 Academic Year.

Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee

Committee Vice Chair Cheryl Murer reported that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee also met on Wednesday, May 25. At that meeting, the committee considered and approved recommendations for tuition rates for the upcoming year. The state Truth-in-Tuition guidelines were used in the development of the tuition recommendations, which the committee thoroughly reviewed with affordability at the forefront of consideration. Additional items considered by the committee were Fiscal Year 2007 Internal Operating Budget; Fiscal Year 2007 NIU Foundation Professional Services contract; Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Guidelines; lease extensions for the School of Art and for University Outreach; two easements, one for the Academic and Athletic Performance Center and one for the far West Campus roadway extension; NIU Institute for Neutron Therapy Radiation Oncology Physician Services Contract; Designated Depository Account; and Information Technology Services computer Equipment Maintenance. The committee received the following reports: Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000; Periodic Report on Investments; Semiannual Progress report of Active Capital Projects in Excess of \$100,000; Student System Replacement Project Update; and an Academic and Athletic Performance Center Update. Many of the items addressed by the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee are included in the President's Report that Dr. Peters will present for Board approval at today's meeting.

Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Myron Siegel reported that the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee, met on Tuesday, May 23, at NIU Hoffman Estates. The agenda focused primarily on the state budget and

substantive issues as well as federal issues and a report on NIU's audit process. Ken Zehnder reported on a number of pieces of substantive legislation including amendments, the Public Community College Act, the Higher Education Student Assistance Act and Local Government Energy Conservation Act. Ken also reported that NIU received a 1.2 percent increase for Fiscal Year 2007 over FY06. NIU received no capital again this year. Kathy Buettner, who is busy this week in Switzerland working on our proton project, reported on the Higher Education Act Reauthorization update and noted the possibility that Congress may adjourn its 109th session without final passage of the legislation. She went on briefly to discuss two new Pell Grant related programs. NIU's participation in these programs represents a major funding increase for qualifying Pell recipients, so the university will make every effort to integrate these new program opportunities. Tom Krepel gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Commission on the Future of Higher Education. The commission is focused on addressing the demands and challenges of higher education in the 21st Century. Finally, Bob Albanese and Keith Jackson presented a report on the internal processes NIU staff has developed to comply with and adhere to university audit practices and regulations. This committee remains deeply concerned about these functions and wishes to remain proactive on these audit matters. The committee wishes to thank Kathy Buettner, Ken Zehnder and Cathy Craddock for all their hard work that they have done for us this last year. The committee would also like to recognize the service of Dr. Ivan Legg and thank him for his help since this will be the last meeting he will attend as Provost.

Illinois Board of Higher Education

President Peters reported that the Illinois Board of Higher Education last met on June 6 at Morton College in Cicero, Illinois. The matters discussed that were of interest to the Board and the university included a rather lengthy presentation by Professor Karen Haycock from the prestigious Education Trust on the alarming and growing gap between achievement levels in math and science among middle school and high school students based upon economic condition, race and gender. The board also heard a report of the Fiscal Year 2007 budget and legislative session, which we discussed here previously. Finally, the board received its annual report to the Governor and legislature on underrepresented groups, and considerable progress was reported.

Civil Service Merit Board

Board Liaison Marc Strauss reported that the Universities Civil Service Merit Board met on Wednesday, May 24, in Champaign-Urbana, which he attended telephonically. One discharge case was considered and action was taken. Fortunately, it did not involve an NIU employee. The budget was approved by the legislature in accordance with my prior report to this Board. There was a brief summary of what occurred to date with regard to the codification of rules for appearances before the Universities Civil Service Merit Board. I previously reported on the somewhat elaborate process that leads to the promulgation of a final rule. There were extensive comments received from Illinois State University after the first publication, and those comments were acted upon by the Universities Civil Service Merit Board in part and, at the meeting, were moved along for the second publication. They will be open for another 45-day comment period. Those interested should certainly review the rules and regulations, and if there are additional comments, they should be submitted. There are a couple of items that were not acted upon in this second publication by the Universities Civil Service Merit Board. We did, however, make a commitment to consider those remaining comments at the next meeting. There was also an interesting discussion regarding Senate Bill 585, which amends the Open Meetings Act. If the Governor signs it, it has the impact of requiring a physical presence of a quorum in order to commence a meeting. There was a brief demonstration of the constituency survey, which I reported on previously. They have decided to engage in a constituency survey in pieces. The first piece was demonstrated and will be rolled out shortly. The next meeting of the Merit Board is scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 23, at Governors State University in Park Forest South.

Northern Illinois University Foundation

Board Liaisons Cheryl Murer and Bob Boey invited Foundation President, Mallory Simpson to give the report. You may have heard me cite this figure before, Ms. Simpson said, but it bears repeating. During the last six years, \$90 million has been donated to Northern Illinois University. That includes six gifts of \$1 million or more and 47 gifts of \$100,000 or more. So donors have invested more in NIU in the past six year than the last hundred years combined. We have a great momentum and now are focused on

developing new strategies to sustain and build on that momentum. More immediately, our plans to build the Academic and Athletic Performance Center are coming to fruition. Nearly \$7.4 million has been raised for that facility and we expect to raise another million to million and a half before dedication. Full construction will begin later this month, and the building will be completed by August 2007. This surge of philanthropy extends well beyond our capital projects and our major gift level. Investments on many levels for the annual fund are doing well also and are having a huge impact.

I am very proud to announce a major milestone for Northern Illinois University. This year for the first time in its history, the annual fund has surpassed the million dollar benchmark. Personal contact efforts in solicitations for the annual fund are responsible for a large part of that. It is clear that through these efforts with our annual fund and our major gift efforts that NIU alumni and friends are indeed responding to the opportunities to invest here. Our prospect pool is robust, and we are limited now only by the number of staff we have to make these personal visits.

I have talked recently about endowment, and that will be an ongoing theme as it is now President Peters' number one fundraising priority. More than \$8.7 million has been raised for endowment since 2001, well over either of our capital projects. Endowments are much tougher to sell because they are not as tangible for our prospects to grasp. But I have great news to share this morning about someone who really does get it. I am thrilled to report that President Peters, with Dean Harold Kafer's help, has secured a pledge of \$1.1 million to establish a named endowed chair in violin. This is only the second endowed chair in NIU's history, and the first one was more than a decade ago. This chair has been endowed by a generous, anonymous donor who has stepped up to make sure that NIU will have the resources to attract a nationally distinguished ensemble to succeed the renowned Vermeer Quartet when they retire next June. And we hope the vision and generosity of this individual will inspire many more gifts for endowed chairs and professorships.

In closing, I want to talk just a moment about our students and the impact endowed scholarships make on their lives. Our students work very hard in the classroom and many of them have jobs to help get through school. We had several student speakers at our endowment luncheon this spring bringing together our scholarship recipients and donors. One of them, Jose Zaragoza, was particularly remarkable. Jose took the podium to talk about the Anna and Mary Jane Larson Scholarship that helped him stay in school even as he faced tremendous hardship. This is a young man who is student teaching, working and caring for his grandmother and both of his parents who were out of work for medical reasons. He was on the verge of dropping out of school. This scholarship literally meant that he could finish his education, and Jose shared this moment with the audience. "When I told my mom about the scholarship, she cried with relief. And all it took was my dad's hand on my shoulder to let me know that he would sleep well that night." This is the impact that donors are having with their gifts.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the items placed on the consent agenda earlier in the meeting. They include President's Report Number 51, Action Items 9.a.(4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (9), (11), (12), (13), (16) and (18), and our receipt of Information Items 9.b.(1), 9.b.(2) [less deleted purchase item number 2], (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8) and (9), and 9.c.(1). Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 51

Please, let me add my congratulations on your reelection to another term as Board Chair, President Peters said. Also, congratulations to our other Board officers Cherilyn, Marc, Bob and Manny, and special congratulations to Andrew for winning a second term as Student Trustee. Few people realize how much time and effort these roles require, but we certainly appreciate your willingness to serve NIU in such a grand manner. In the spirit of disclosure, Marc, Cherilyn and Andrew, it is traditional when you are appointed or elected Trustee, that you receive the official NIU Board of Trustees pin. Unfortunately, our supply of BOT pins went missing in our move to Altgeld last year. So, I am pleased to present each of you with the official NIU Board of Trustees pin.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

As usual, President Peters said, we have a number of important items to discuss today, so my comments will be brief. I know many people imagine that this is a slow time at universities; but as you well know, that is not the case. We may have fewer students on campus right now, but June, July and early August represent very busy months at NIU, particularly in terms of preparations for fall and a new class of students. And speaking of new students, I am happy to report that our enrollment projections for fall look very strong. Applications continue to increase, and we generally are seeing strong demand for NIU, particularly the undergraduate experience. There is little projected growth in graduate enrollment largely due to the economy. I will have more details for you on the numbers as our fall semester draws closer.

We now have a recommendation for a new provost, Dr. Raymond Alden, who will be joining the university next month as executive vice president and chief academic officer. You will be acting on his appointment, his rank and his tenure today. Ray is a very well known and respected national figure in public higher education, and I know we will all enjoy working with him very much. He comes to us from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas where he also served as vice president and provost. For those you who are not familiar with UNLV history, they have experienced probably the fastest enrollment growth in the country – 10,000 additional students in the last decade alone – and he has had to hire over a hundred new faculty. Suffice it to say that Dr. Alden is well-prepared for the challenge of increased demand and limited resources. Beyond that, he brings a national perspective, for he currently holds a position in NASULGC, the land grant association to which NIU belongs, as a member of the Executive Committee of their Council on Academic Affairs. I commend the search committee on an outstanding pool of candidates. Our ability to attract someone of Ray's stature is a testament to the growing reputation of Northern Illinois University. Dr. Alden's first task will be a charge to lead an academic strategic plan so we will insure access and strengthen our academic programs and academic quality.

I know he had to leave to catch a plane, but I would be remiss if I did not make the connection between the reputation that Ray Alden holds and the fine work of the man Ray is replacing. And I am speaking, of course, of our dear Provost, Ivan Legg. I know that Ivan was worn out in terms of farewell speeches and celebrations, but I wanted to take this opportunity at his last official Board meeting to once again thank him for everything he has done for us all in terms of his loyalty and friendship to us in these five years. He told me recently, in all sincerity because he has been at many good institutions, that NIU is his favorite and the one that has the largest place in his heart. He is not here, but let the record show that we applaud Ivan Legg.

I want to talk a little bit about something that Ivan cares a great deal about, and that is our faculty and staff. And I want to congratulate them for going out of their way to serve and inspire our students and the citizens of our region. We cannot bring them all here and describe all their contributions. But we can and we must do our best to enhance their salaries. This morning, as you consider the FY07 Internal Operating budget, you will hear about a salary increment plan that I announced to the campus earlier this week. And I want to acknowledge that my personal commitment to salary enhancement is my top priority and has always received strong support from this Board, a fact that is well known and much appreciated by our faculty and staff.

A little later, you will be voting on tuition for FY07. And, once again, I think that this Board's careful consideration of that issue has been much appreciated by our students. This year, as in the past, the increase we are recommending falls well into the middle range of tuition hikes across the states. Nonetheless, I feel, as you do, a heavy sense of responsibility on this issue. On the one hand, we have lost millions of state dollars over the past few years, and we are not getting them back any time soon. State support down, tuition up – it is the same story all over the country, unfortunately, and it is becoming a national issue and a national crisis. Yet we worry about affordability and access. And keeping NIU tuition within the reach of those students we are here to serve is very important. The proposal before you today is our best effort to meet both challenges, and I appreciate the very careful review you have given this plan.

I began by describing how busy we are making plans for the fall, and we are certainly excited about a number of upcoming events including NIU's participation in DeKalb's Sesquicentennial Celebration, and, of course, an exciting football season kicked off by a nationally televised game against Ohio State. The

only thing that might be better than that would be to play Iowa at Soldier Field. "Oh, wait a minute, we're doing that as well aren't we? And, mark your calendars for 2008, the Huskies will play the Hawkeyes at Soldier Field!" With that bit of inspiration, I believe we are ready to move on to our agenda.

Agenda Item 9.a.(1) – Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Guidelines

The Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Guidelines are essentially the same guidelines we have submitted the past few years, President Peters explained. One of our top priorities calls for a six percent faculty and staff increase from the state. We recognize increases in utility costs of 15 percent, a three percent general price increase, four percent fire protection, an increase in library materials, medical costs, and our program needs. I bring this for your approval with the hope that the legislature and the Governor act on this budget this year.

I always like to make this emphasis, Trustee Boey said. In 1996, the first year of the Board of Trustees' existence, I believe we were pulling close to 50 percent from state funding. With my quick math, today's budget represents a little bit less than 30 percent of state funding. That is remarkable. And here we are still kicking, surviving and doing better than ever. It speaks to the organization and the professional leadership of the university as well as the Board of Trustees, he said. Each year I do this comparison, and each year it totals less and less in state funding.

I appreciate that, the President said, and I want to thank all of our fiscal managers at every level. They are good stewards of resources. The fact of the matter is, we must do more for ourselves. Private fundraising is the future. We must increase our grants and contracts and other sources of income to decrease the dependency on tuition with an understanding that state resources probably will never reach their former levels.

Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Guidelines. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(2) – Fiscal Year 2007 Internal Operating Budget Interim Approval

Along with the Fiscal Year 2007 Internal Operating Budget, Dr. Peters said, the FY07 Salary Guideline statement has been distributed. Each year, the Board requires a preliminary operating budget, followed by a full report in the fall. Also associated with it are the salary increment allocation guidelines, which will provide to all regular faculty a three percent increase to be distributed on the basis of merit. Supportive professional staff, exempt civil service staff and hourly civil service staff will receive a three percent total increment, which will be allocated on an across-the-board basis.

In addition to this, Board members, I told the community yesterday that we will be working very hard this fall watching the budget situation in the hope that in January we will be able to augment this three percent as we have done a couple of years in the past.

Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the FY07 Internal Operating Budget as presented and to approve the FY07 salary increment guidelines. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved. Trustee Strauss recused himself on this issue as a result of having a spouse who is an NIU employee. Board Parliamentarian Davidson recommended a roll call vote, which was as follows:

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

The motion was approved with a vote of six approving and Trustee Strauss abstaining.

Agenda Item 9.a.(3) – Fiscal Year 2007 Tuition Recommendations

The Fiscal Year 2007 Tuition Recommendations come to you after careful consideration, the President said. One of the complexities of setting tuition in public universities in the state is a requirement to

comply with the Truth-in-Tuition Act, which stipulates that for those students entering university beginning in the fall of 2005 and continuing, their rate will be set for a fixed period of time. In our case it is set for nine semesters. We still have students who were here before 2005 and are not covered under Truth-in-Tuition. We have set our general rates, therefore, for continuing students not covered by Truth-in-Tuition, at seven percent; the graduate and law schools, which are not under Truth-in-Tuition, are set at the same seven percent; and new degree-seeking freshmen and transfers and nondegree-seeking students is set at an increase of 10 percent. At the seven percent level, that translates to about \$168 per semester, and at 10 percent to \$259.35 per semester. Our tuition for undergraduates in terms of the other universities is right in the middle at about \$5,808.

In the context of what I said earlier about the state funding at less than 30 percent, Trustee Boey said, I believe that last year when we did our tuition increases and we used the average price on room and board, the total number was somewhere around \$14,000. NIU tuition, room and board, as compared to the other Illinois public universities is still one of the greatest dollar values in this country, in spite of the handicap on state funding.

Trustee Boey has focused on one side of the revenue portion of the profit and loss statement, Trustee Strauss said, but there is an expense side as well. It certainly is commendable that we have managed to cope with the situation where part of the funding source has gone away, and credit needs to be given to many people for being able to make do in that environment. Although we rank midrange, the national phenomenon appears to be that tuition is increasing faster than the rate of inflation, and if everybody is moving in the same direction, that cannot be sustainable for the long term. As a Board, this is something that we have to be concerned about for many reasons, not least of which is running the risk of having a gap that exists between the ability of people to afford an education, even with assistance, as you continue to increase tuition. That is something we should be mindful of, as well as the other portion of the profit and loss statement, which I want to make clear does not mean that we do not pay people fairly, but we look at what the expenses are because that is the other way you are able to control what the cost is for an education by delivering efficiency for your product. In the discussions I have had recently with Dr. Williams and others through e-mail, I know that there are people who are watching this. So this is not a complaint about the quality of that oversight, but an expression of my interest in making sure it continues and that we make whatever adjustments are appropriate.

Every public higher education institution is struggling with this, President Peters said, because when your tuition becomes disproportionate to your state resources, through no fault of our own, it puts tremendous pressure on the institution and its role and mission. At that point, we are faced with painful choices such as downsizing, not providing access or cutting essential services. Like you, I am very concerned that this rise in tuition above inflationary rates in this country is out of control. However, Truth-in-Tuition will aid in bringing rates down to at or under the rate of inflation.

Trustee Boey was right to point out that there has been a precipitous drop in the level of state funding, Student Trustee Nelms commented. This Board handled that loss of revenue in a very pragmatic and conservative manner. It could have been very reactionary over the course of the past few years and dramatically increased tuition. But the Board, even before my time, chose not to take that approach, but rather pursued an avenue that would be more sustainable to the students. And from my perspective, as a Trustee, we are never happy to hear about tuition increases, but we are able to find some level of comfort and solace in knowing that with these additional funds we will be able to promote our world-class academic programs and help to enhance the NIU experience.

This board does not like to raise tuition, Trustee Siegel said. There is not a member on the Board that wants to raise the tuition one-tenth beyond what we absolutely have to. The state has put us into a difficult box that everyone on this campus and on this Board is well aware of. Capital money is not coming in. Money for deferred maintenance is not coming in. So deferred maintenance funds are sometimes taken out of operating funds to do emergency repairs, which then increases tuition rates, unfortunately. We have programs on campus to serve different groups of students that in some cases cost two to three times more than other students on this campus, but we are not going to get rid of those programs because they serve a very important need among students. It is a difficult situation. Yet we do have to look at the expense side, as Trustee Strauss pointed out. But we have done a lot, and the administration, the faculty and our staff should be complimented on a very difficult job. I apologize to our

faculty and staff for not being able to bring more money to the table for raises this year. It is another tough year, but we are trying.

Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the FY07 Tuition Recommendations. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Moser. The motion was approved.

- Agenda Item 9.a.(4) – Fiscal Year 2007 NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract**
- Agenda Item 9.a.(5) – Fiscal Year 2007 Materials Management Commodities Purchase**
- Agenda Item 9.a.(6) – Designated Depository Account**
- Agenda Item 9.a.(7) – Far West Campus Roadway Extension – DeKalb Sanitary District Easement**
- Agenda Item 9.a.(8) – West Campus Site Improvement and Steam Tunnel Extensions – Capital Project Approval**
- Agenda Item 9.a.(9) – Temporary Construction Easement**

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.a.(10) – NIU Outreach – NIU Institute for Neutron Therapy Radiation Oncology Physician Services

This is a federal grant for the university to make provision for radiation oncology services for our NIU Institute for Neutron Therapy, President Peters said, and is a pass-through item.

I have had the pleasure of serving as the liaison from the Board of Trustees on this project, Trustee Murer commented. This is a very important project to the university because it is unique in the country and continues to assist us in identifying the university as a national institution. The proton institute and the neutron therapy radiation oncology program are critical to NIU in the area of medicine, especially in light of the fact that NIU does not have a medical school. So this is a very unique situation.

Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the NIU Institute for Neutron Therapy Radiation Oncology Physician Services request. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Moser. The motion was approved.

- Agenda Item 9.a.(11) – NIU Outreach Services Lease Agreement**
- Agenda Item 9.a.(12) – School of Art Lease Extension**
- Agenda Item 9.a.(13) – Information Technology Services Computer Equipment Maintenance**

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.a.(14) – Recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotions with Tenure for 2006-2007 Academic Year

I am very pleased to bring for the Board's approval this year's recommendations for faculty promotions, tenure, and promotions with tenure, President Peters said. As you know, we have a careful process of probationary evaluation for tenure and strong professional standards for promotion. Therefore, it is with great pleasure that I bring these individuals forward for promotion, tenure, and promotions with tenure. Student Trustee Nelms noted that he was precluded by state statute from voting on this item and would be abstaining.

Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotions with Tenure for the 2006-2007 Academic Year. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The Chair then asked for a roll call vote, which was as follows:

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

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(15) – Appointments with Rank and Tenure

It is customary when bringing in senior individuals to grant their appointments with rank and tenure, President Peters explained. The individuals included in this request are Raymond W. Alden III as Executive Vice President and Provost and Professor in Biology; Bradley Bond as Associate Dean of the Graduate School; and Raymond Ege as Chair of the Department of Computer Science.

I am very happy to see these appointment recommendations, Student Trustee Nelms said, especially that of Dr. Alden for the position of Executive Vice President and Provost. While he was on campus, I facilitated a lunch with students, and my peers and I were unanimous in our support of him in his candidacy. However, again, state statute precludes me from voting on this matter.

Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve with rank and tenure the appointments as listed above for Raymond W. Alden III, Bradley Bond and Raymond Ege. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. A roll call vote of the Trustees was as follows:

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

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(16) – Appointment of the Interim Dean of the University Libraries

Consent Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 9.a.(17) – Request for a New Degree Program

The request for a Ph.D. Program in Art Education, a new degree program, has been contemplated, evaluated and analyzed for at least a period of five years, the President said. We have over that period of time and before accumulated six distinguished art education faculty, some of the most distinguished people in the country. It is not unique, but it is not common to see Ph.D.'s in Art Education versus the A.D.D. But our researchers feel there is a market for Ph.D.'s in Art Education. This is a small program. Many of the resources have already been put in place for graduate students, course loads and so forth. So there is minimal impact on resources, but a large impact on our movement as a regional public university. Therefore it is with great pleasure that I move this forward. Dean Kafer, who was very much a facilitator of this program, is here, and I want to express my thanks to him. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the request for a Ph.D. Program in Art Education. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(18) – Request for New Specializations

Consent Agenda Items.

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) – Periodic Report on Investments**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(3) – Semi-Annual Progress Report of Active Capital Projects with a Budget Over \$100,000**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(4) – Student System Replacement Project Update**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(5) – Implementation of University Commercial Procurement Credit Card System**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(6) – 2005-2006 Program Review Summary**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(7) – Substantive Legislation**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(8) – 2006 Congressional Budget and Legislative Update**
- Agenda Item 9.b.(9) – Compliance Audit Process**

Consent Agenda Items.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 9.c.(1) – Summary of Grant and Contract Awards

I just want to thank all of the faculty who have contributed to the items listed on this summary of grant and contract awards for their hard work, President Peters said.

Agenda Item 9.c.(2) – Development Agreement for Housing for Students with Dependent Children

Our development agreement for housing for students with dependent children was discussed extensively in the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee meeting earlier this month, the President said, therefore, I ask your approval. Chair Vella asked for a motion to approve the development agreement for housing for students with dependent children. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Moser. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 36

Agenda Item 10.a. – Report on Underprepared Student Programs

This report concerns the underprepared student programs and ideas here at the university that address student needs in the high school to interest them in a college education, Chair Vella said. And I am very interested in learning more about Project REAL, NIU's partnership with Rockford Public Schools and Rock Valley College. As many as 30 students from Jefferson High School in Rockford will be on our campus this summer to learn about college in general and NIU in particular.

Dr. Sharon Smaldino, the Morgridge Chair and director of the College of Education Partnership Office, Vice Provost Gip Seaver said, is going to do the presentation on behalf of the P-20 Task Force and the five colleges participating in Project REAL in Rockford.

On behalf of my colleagues involved in Project REAL, Dr. Smaldino said, I want to thank you very much for this opportunity to share with you a little about what we are doing in this project. Five of the colleges on the NIU campus are involved in this project, and they are very actively involved in a variety of different levels of participation. We are going to highlight one particular activity today, although we will also give you a quick overview of other things that are going on.

Project REAL stands for the Rockford Educational Alliance, which is an alliance between NIU, the Rockford School District and Rock Valley College. We have colleagues and participants who are engaged at all levels in working with these students at the elementary, middle school and high school levels. Our goal is to improve student achievement in the Rockford Public Schools, with four schools in particular that have been identified as schools with many children who are at risk for not only successfully completing their education at the high school level but the possibility of entering a collegiate level.

You will note that we are addressing a number of different objectives, and all of those involve a very collegial relationship with all of these institutions. With that, I would like to share this presentation with a number of the people who have been involved in this project. Portia Downey will give you a quick overview of some of the activities we are engaged in.

I am very honored to be Manager of Project REAL, Dr. Downey said. I have been in education at the school level a long time, in partnerships and at the university, and this is by far the most comprehensive, effective school reform effort that I have ever seen or read about. NIU is actually becoming nationally known for this grant and this comprehensive school reform model.

We are working on this through recruiting very qualified people into education and trying to improve our preservice program. Teacher development means all the professional development that we offer to the teachers to improve instruction so that we can also raise student achievement. Leadership development is the Rockford superintendent's favorite piece because there is a shortage of administrators. And so, we are offering an opportunity for teachers to gain their Type 75 so they can become administrators. There will be 35 graduating in August, and another 20 will be starting. We are working on parent and community involvement. I met recently with a new group in Rockford, the Hispanic Leadership Council,

that will be a great resource to Northern, Rock Valley and the Rockford School District. Direct Student Activities is what we are going to spend a little time talking about today. We have a lot going on in this area, and I give much credit to Judy Cox-Henderson who has been instrumental in putting the REAL experience together to bring Jefferson students here to help them understand how they can possibly go to college.

I am really happy to be talking to you today about my camp, Dr. Cox-Henderson said, because it is one of the most exciting projects I have done in my professional life. Project REAL has all kinds of elements to it, and one of the things that was called for in Project REAL was to have some sort of on-campus summer experience for high school students. It was also supposed to have a math and science connection to show kids the connection between what they were learning in their math and science classes in school and careers that they might get involved with later. So we took that idea and made it into something bigger. We made it so they would have a chance to come to a campus – something they may never have done before in their lives – and experience what it is like to be a college student just for a few days. That would be complete with going to classes during the day, having fun activities in the afternoon and staying in the dorms at night. I thought that was especially important for a school like Jefferson High School in Rockford where so many of the students do not have it in their vision at all to go to college. Jefferson High School has 50 percent low-income with an 80 percent graduation rate; so a large number of students do not even graduate from high school. Many students who come into Jefferson High School, when asked what their goal is say, “I hope I can graduate from high school” and “I hope I don’t get in trouble.” We wanted to make their goals a little bigger than that because if you have bigger goals, you are going to try harder in high school and, hopefully, be more motivated and succeed. So, we decided to recruit for this camp from that population of kids that had never thought about going to college before. I asked teachers of the freshman class to give me a list of kids that they said were not college bound but had the potential to succeed in college. We ended up with a nice diverse group of kids that came to campus last year for camp. We had racial, ethnic, socio-economic diversity, but I think the most important diversity we ended up with at our camp was this wide range of ability. We had kids that were academically talented to kids that were in the remedial reading classes when they came into the ninth grade. And what happened was the lower kids and the average kids started to see themselves as part of this more elite group of kids that were going to college.

We had a group of 33 students come through last year. We had seven NIU students who served as counselors, and that was another aspect that worked well because the high school kids were able to have a more informal relationship with a college student. Ten NIU faculty members were involved in the camp as well.

One afternoon we decided to have a photo scavenger hunt, and we gave the kids all kinds of challenges to have their pictures taken in various places such as inside a university police car, on a Huskie bus, on a bridge. One of the challenges was to have their picture taken in President Peters’ Office. They managed to find President Peters in his office. He invited them in, showed them around, let them sit at his desk and took a picture with them. It was a wonderful experience for the kids, and I want to thank him personally for that today.

To expose them and give them a feel of what college might be like, we structured this so that on Monday, they had classes in the College of Engineering. On Tuesday, they had classes in Health and Human Sciences with clinical laboratory sciences and the chemistry of cooking and audiology. On Wednesday, we did forensic science through the Biology Department doing a crime scene investigation, which the kids really liked. And on Thursday, they did bridge building. As you can see from the pictures we have shown you, the kids absolutely loved this camp. At meals during the week, the kids would come and ask if they could do this again next year. When I explained that the grant probably would not pay for them to come back, they asked about fundraising to pay their way. So many of the kids expressed interest in continuing this experience that I developed the NIU Club at Jefferson High School for them. We met every Tuesday morning before school, some Thursday afternoons if we were busy with fundraisers, and they would brainstorm ideas for other fundraisers. They had some good ideas and some ideas that did not make any money at all. We had hip-hop night, which was an amazing experience for me, and they made \$450 from that activity. We sold pom-poms at sporting events. One of the girls came to me one day with an idea to knit and sell scarves. When I asked who knew how to knit, she said that she did and would teach the others. So they had knitting parties, complete with pizza, and sold the scarves for \$10 each. We did not

make much on that project because I had to buy the materials. Altogether, they raised about a thousand dollars. They were very proud of themselves and that they had earned a chance to come back this year. We also did a couple of field trips to NIU this year attending classes and an act of *War and Peace*.

Next Monday, we will have 60 students from Jefferson High School here at NIU for the camp. This year we are taking on two groups. We have a new freshman group, and we are going to have the returning sophomores, who are all very excited about coming back. The freshmen will go through pretty much the same activities that I described previously with Engineering, Health and Human Sciences, and Liberal Arts and Sciences. For the sophomore group, we have been able to involve other colleges as well. The College of Visual and Performing Arts, will have art classes for the students. The College of Education technology department will teach the kids how to create computer games. We will have a physics class on designing roller coasters; and a journalism class in which they will create a camp newspaper.

In terms of the Real NIU Experience, the handout we gave you contains several testimonials that teachers and students have made. My impressionistic account would be that we saw the students who attended the camp start to take themselves more seriously as students. At Jefferson High School, and this is the case in Rockford in general, you have to sign up for honors classes, you are not placed in them. Almost every student who attended camp decided to be in honors classes this year. So, you can see that they were thinking of themselves as college bound at this point. Being in NIU Club, they said that they wanted to behave themselves and not get in trouble because they did not want to reflect badly on NIU. We had better behavior, better attendance and teachers were saying that they were more focused. When we talk about underprepared students, what so many of our low performing students lack is motivation. If they had the motivation and the goal, they would be able to do as well as any other student. And what I am hoping is that with this camp, now with 60 students, we can give more and more students that goal to strive for.

I think this is a wonderful program, Chair Vella said. In answer to questions from the Chair, Dr. Smaldino said that so far the grant is just for Rockford schools, so they have not been able to expand to other high schools in the NIU region. The current grant expires in two years. We have done a number of presentations around the country, Dr. Smaldino said, with regard to not only academic presentations, but we have been consulted on some of the work we have done. We have also done presentations at conferences that are more focused on partnership kinds of relationships between universities and schools, and those have been well-received. The whole REAL NIU Experience has been very well received nationally.

I am really happy that this is going forward, Chair Vella said, and I wish it could expand. Thank you for taking the time out to come and talk to us today.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Chair Vella announced that the next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, on the main campus in DeKalb.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no Other Matters, Chair Vella asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Siegel. The meeting was adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Mimms
Recording Secretary
