

Minutes of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
September 17, 2009

SWEARING-IN OF NEW STUDENT TRUSTEE

Before I call the formal meeting to order, Chair Strauss said, I have the pleasure today of introducing for the first time our new Student Trustee for Fiscal Year 2010. Matt will take his oath of office and be sworn in today, despite the fact that his term began officially on July 1, but first I would like to tell you a little about him. Matt Venaas is a senior political science major with a cumulative GPA of 3.8. He has been a member of the University Honors program since starting as a freshman in 2006. While maintaining that tremendous GPA, he served as Vice President and President of the Douglas Hall Counsel, Student Association Senator, Speaker of the Student Association Senate, and now Student Trustee. He has just returned from a summer in Washington, D.C. working as an intern in our own congressman's office after winning one of three highly competitive congressional internship scholarships from NIU. While there, he was awarded the Paul Simon Award, the highest award given by the Illinois State Society, and as a result, won another scholarship that he was able to apply to his studies at NIU this fall. Also, I should note that he is the recipient of the Peters Scholarship for Outstanding Public Service from NIU in Spring 2008.

We are delighted to have you join the Board this year, Matt. Your service in student government and experience on campus has provided you with a depth of knowledge that will be a tremendous asset to the Board. This Board takes the opinions and counsel of the Student Trustee very seriously, and I want you to know we are looking forward to working with you.

Chair Strauss administered the following oath to Mr. Venaas:

I, Matthew Venaas, do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois and the laws thereof, and that I will faithfully discharge the duties of Student Trustee for the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University to the best of my ability.

A summary of Mr. Venaas's comments follows:

Thank you very much for that very warm introduction. I am truly honored to be here today and to have the opportunity to represent my fellow NIU students on the Board of Trustees. As I stand here today, I cannot help but reflect back on my time at NIU and to the beginning of my university experience. In the time before I began my freshman year, I wondered how exactly I would fit in at Northern Illinois University. I was certainly excited to begin my college experience, but I was also quite nervous. However, once I arrived on campus and spent time with my peers and others, I realized quickly that I had made the right decision. I have now embraced the Huskie spirit fully and have allowed it to truly define who I am as an individual and, more importantly, as a student leader. Once at NIU, I took every opportunity to get involved on campus and quickly recognized the importance of serving my fellow students. From my very first Hall Counsel meeting my freshman year to my work with the Student Association and everywhere in between, I have committed myself to speaking on behalf of the student body and working to leave this university just a little better than it was when I started.

Now, as I embark on this newest and, in many ways, most humbling journey, I once again commit myself to serving my fellow NIU students in this dynamic and challenging role. I also assume this position at a time when a need to channel the voice of the student body into our decisions has never been greater. As a student of political science, I cannot help but pay particular attention to our current economic uncertainty and the impact it has not only on our nation, but especially on higher education. Students are struggling to pay for their education, and universities across the nation are forced to make complex and difficult decisions. However, from the short time I have

already worked with my fellow Board members and university officials, I have faith and confidence that together we can navigate these challenging waters and remain on a path towards improving this already vibrant and resilient university. I have watched over the past several years as members of this university have worked through the most challenging of times, and President Peters, members of this Board and others have led this university with unwavering commitment and tremendous success. I thank you all for the example that you set for student leaders and others on this campus and look forward to working closely with each and every one of you in my limited time on this Board.

Over the past several years, I have also had the pleasure of watching other Student Trustees serve this office with distinction and honor. I would like to thank them all, including our most recent Trustee, DuJuan Smith, for their service to NIU. I fully intend to follow in their footsteps and to serve the students of Northern Illinois University to my fullest capacity, acutely tuned to the challenges and hard work that lies ahead.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank some individuals without whom I would certainly not be here today. First, I would like to thank my family, my parents Mark and Chris, and my brother Josh. My family has been my bedrock. They have always encouraged me to reach higher and to push farther. I am eternally grateful for the opportunities they have set before me and, without them, I would certainly not be here today. I would also like to thank my fellow Student Association Executive Board members, President Rob Sorsby, Vice President Erik Calmeyer and Treasurer Abiola Akinyemi. Thank you all for believing in me, and thank you for the support you have given me during our time together. I am truly touched to have the opportunity to work with such very talented student leaders. To the countless faculty, staff and students who I have had the pleasure of working with in my time at NIU, you have all in one way or another helped to shape who I am, and I will be eternally grateful for that.

In conclusion, I would like to again thank my fellow Board of Trustees members and others in this administration who have assisted me during my transition to this position. You have all been willing and eager to help me to learn, to answer any questions that I have had. I look forward to strengthening this relationship with you all in the coming days and weeks and to tackling the many challenges that lie ahead. Thank you very much.

Chair Strauss presented Student Trustee Venaas with the official Board of Trustees pin and offered his congratulations.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marc Strauss at 9:02 a.m. in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Sharon Banks-Wilkins conducted a roll call of Trustees. Members present were Trustees Robert Boey, John Butler, Cheryl Murer, Manuel Sanchez, Barbara Giorgi Vella, Student Trustee Matthew Venaas and Chair Strauss. Not present was Trustee Myron Siegel. 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 revised agenda before us, Chair Strauss 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 65, Action Items 9.a.(3), (4), (5), (6), and (9); and our receipt of Information Items 9.b.(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15)

and (16); and 9.c.(3) and (4) to that Consent Agenda. Trustee Murer made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Trustee Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Strauss 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: 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 Sanchez so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Venaas.

A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Executive Session was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Butler	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Trustee Sanchez	Yes
Trustee Vella	Yes	Student Trustee Venaas	Yes
Chair Strauss	Yes		

The roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Executive Session was unanimous.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECONVENED

Chair Strauss reconvened the public meeting of the Board of Trustees at approximately 11:18 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Strauss asked that two changes be reflected in the minutes of the June 25 Board meeting. In the fourth full paragraph on page 18 in his post-election remarks, his wife's name should be spelled "Terri." And, in the following full paragraph appears the word "undo" which should be "undue." With these minor changes, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2009 Regular Board Meeting. It was moved by Trustee Sanchez and seconded by Student Trustee Venaas to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2009 Board Meeting as amended. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair recognized University Advisory Committee representatives Dr. Alan Rosenbaum, Dr. Ferald Bryan, Dr. Joseph "Buck" Stephen, Dr. Clersida Garcia, Ms. Bobbie Cesarek and Mr. Jay Monteiro.

My impression is that the faculty is very appreciative of the efforts on their behalf of both the Board and President Peters, Dr. Rosenbaum commented, and I will do my best to represent the faculty and to work constructively with the Board and President Peters. I want to extend a welcome to our new Student Trustee, Matt Venaas, Mr. Monteiro said, and I also would like to welcome our newest UAC Committee colleague, Dr. Rosenbaum.

As most of you know, this is my first meeting as Chair of this Board and I want to thank my colleagues again for their confidence. While it is my first meeting as Chair, it is also a new beginning for over 3,000 new freshmen and 2,100 transfer students who started NIU just a few weeks ago. It is always interesting to listen to the Move-In Day stories and see the vast array of Welcome to NIU activities put together for our students by our Student Affairs staff. I was amazed at the opportunities available to our students. No one should have trouble finding clubs, recreation, sports and social opportunities on this campus. We definitely have something for everyone. A special thanks to Student Affairs for their tremendous efforts to make each of our students feel welcome and at home as a member of our NIU community.

While President Peters will have a more detailed enrollment update during his remarks, I want to note that NIU's enrollment is up by 27 students this fall, as compared with last year. In the preliminary enrollment data that is available so far, it is clear that community colleges throughout Illinois are experiencing record

enrollment due in large part to the dire economy and the uncertainty of the MAP grant funding for the second semester. NIU and other four-year institutions have to work even harder to maintain enrollment in these historic times. I want to thank everyone in Admissions, Financial Aid, Registration and Records, Student Affairs, and others, for their great work bringing in the class of 2013. I also want to remind everyone that enrollment is everyone's issue here on campus. Our students need to feel and know that our NIU community truly cares and that we will help them achieve their goals and dreams.

Finally, as we move into the flu season this fall, I would like to direct the campus's attention to the NIU H1N1 website that contains updates and instructions to students, faculty and staff regarding any concerns over a potential swine flu outbreak. NIU plans to follow all pertinent CDC recommendations issued over the coming weeks and months. Under the leadership of the Provost and the Faculty Senate, I am pleased see that advice has been offered to all faculty regarding academic policies and procedures that should be put into place should an outbreak of swine flu occur here at NIU. I believe we are as prepared as we can be at this point, and I would like to thank everyone for your planning efforts.

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 no timely requests had been received to address this meeting.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee did not meet.

Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee

Committee Chair John Butler reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee met on Thursday, August 27. At that meeting, the committee heard reports on the following information items: Status of MAP Grant Funding; Follow-Up on the Ph.D. in Economics; Fiscal Year 2009 Program Review Findings; 2008-2009 Faculty Emeritus Recognition; Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff; and Fiscal Year 2009 External Funding for Research, Public Service and Instructional Projects.

Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee

Committee Chair Manny Sanchez reported that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee met on Thursday, August 27. At that meeting, the committee considered and approved recommendations for the following: Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriated and Nonappropriated Capital Budgets; University Outreach Multiyear Professional Service Contract; Maintenance Agreement for ITS Telecommunication Hardware; Maintenance Agreement for Finance and Facilities Financial Software and Database; Permanent Utility Easement for Far West Campus; Capital Project Approval for Cole Hall Renovation and Equipment; and Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 364 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. There was a request for expenditure approval for a College of Engineering research project grant; however, as of this meeting, the grant award has not yet been issued. The Committee also received reports including: fiscal year annual reports on capital activities, transactions involving real property, cash and investments, obligation of financial resources, quarterly summary report of transactions in excess of \$100,000, and Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff. All recommended items addressed by the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee are included in the President's Report today for Board approval.

Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Cheryl Murer reported that the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee met in DeKalb on Thursday, August 27. I want to take a moment, she said, to congratulate Mr. Zehnder as well as Ms. Lori Clark and Vice President Kathy Buettner on their promotions.

The meeting began with an update from Ken Zehnder on the status of a number of legislative initiatives debated and passed by the General Assembly during its overtime session and the Governor's actions on those initiatives. Ms. Lori Clark and Ms. Kathryn Buettner presented the congressional report and highlighted several key points of President Obama's current higher education agenda. One of the highlights of that meeting was that we were able to participate in an extraordinary demonstration by Paul Bauer, Director of the NIU School of Music, who demonstrated NIU's Internet2, an interactive technology that allows music students and professors to communicate in real time activity. During this meeting, 200 students participated in the Board of Trustees meeting through this interconnectivity, and that was very exciting because usually we are not able to have 200 students attend these meetings. Scott Mooberry presented a report on NIU's current fire safety policies and assured us that NIU is meeting and exceeding any federal mandates that resulted from the 2008 passage of the Higher Education Opportunity Act. At the request of Trustee Butler, we did a great deal of investigation of the domestic partner benefits available at NIU and the parity with other state universities. Mr. Cunningham did an exceptional job, and we want to thank him for his very detailed report to the committee. Also, Dr. David Stone presented information on the status of NIU's pursuit of competitive R&D under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

Illinois Board of Higher Education

President Peters reported that the last meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education was held on Tuesday, August 11, at DePaul University on its Chicago campus. Among the items discussed and reviewed at that meeting were two that are of particular interest to NIU and the Board. One was a report on the Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success. That is the recently adopted strategic plan of the IBHE that focuses on getting more of our students into postsecondary education to close the gap that exists between those who graduate from high school and those who receive some sort of a postsecondary certificate. I represent the Illinois Public University Presidents and Chancellors as their convener, and we had a lively discussion on that topic. Since I am also their dean and their unofficial spokesperson, I took the opportunity to point out to the IBHE that their report with its appropriate and lofty goals runs counter to the actions of the legislature and the Governor cutting MAP funding by 50 percent because of the severe budget crisis. Nothing strikes me as more of a disconnect between the strategic plan for higher education and that action. In this regard, a point of presidential privilege, I want to point out to the Board this great bit of American journalism that appeared a day or two ago, in the *Northern Star*. The editorial board wrote this hard-hitting, succinct, appropriate letter to the state legislature about restoring MAP funding. I applaud them for taking the lead in this and speaking out for our most needy students. The second very important thing that happened is that the IBHE approved our Bachelor of Science in Applied Management program. This is historic. The reason it is historic is that our faculty, working all last year, devised a plan to accept A.A.S. community college degrees in technical areas as two years of baccalaureate education and then top that off with an Applied Management degree in technical areas such as homeland security and public safety. This is a very fundamental forward looking degree that will help us, with our community college partners, deliver baccalaureate degrees in needed areas to place-bound students.

Universities Civil Service Merit Board

There was no report from the Universities Civil Service Merit Board.

NIU Foundation

It goes without saying that we are delighted to have Mr. John Castle here with us today, NIU Foundation representative Murer said. It is a pleasure to have the Foundation participate so directly with the Board of Trustees, and we are pleased to defer our comments to Mr. Castle.

As the years go by, Trustee Boey said, the Foundation plays a more and more important role in the university, especially now. Currently, we receive about 26 percent of our funding from Springfield and we are on our own for the rest. We have always appreciated the Foundation, but more than ever, we need it now. It is always nice to see the President of the Foundation, Mallory Simpson. And, to a dear friend and the co-chair of True North, John Castle, I say welcome.

Today's Foundation report celebrates a major milestone in NIU's history, Chair Strauss remarked. Because of this historical milestone, I would like to ask President John Peters to make a few comments and introduce our special guest this morning.

We have, indeed, reached an historic milestone, the President said, and I am very pleased to be able to share that good news with you today in this very official setting. Last week, in my annual State of the University Address, I was able to tell the entire campus community that nearly a year early and during a period of extraordinary challenges to our university, our state and our nation, we have reached and surpassed our ambitious \$150 million goal for NIU's first-ever comprehensive campaign, True North. In fact, we are at \$153 million. During a period of time when we have seen state support plummet to just 26 percent of our total budget, when our legislature went almost a decade without passing a capital budget, when our students have seen financial aid opportunities shrink and, in some cases, disappear, we also have experienced rock solid support from alumni and friends who believe in Northern Illinois University and its mission of educating the next generation of students, and they have dug deep to find the resources that make a difference in the lives of others. We have gone from raising about \$35 million in the decade of the nineties to nearly five times that amount already in the next millennium. We built Barsema Hall, the Alumni and Visitors Center, and the Yordon Center, all with private funds. We have provided \$8.2 million worth of scholarships to over 13,700 students. We have established more than 20 named professorships and chairs to support faculty teaching and research, where just a decade ago we had only one. This list goes on and on, but suffice it to say this is a very proud moment in NIU's history and extremely gratifying to me personally. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our campaign co-chairs, John Castle and Dennis Barsema. John and Dennis gave so generously of their time and their expertise, and we are forever indebted to them for their contributions to NIU. Dennis Barsema is teaching class in the College of Business that bears his name and sends his regards. But we are fortunate to have with us his co-chair, Mr. John Castle, and I invite John to favor us with a few words.

I have never been a special guest, Mr. Castle said, so this is sort of a milestone for me too. As President Peters announced, True North has met and exceeded its goal of \$150 million almost a year ahead of the official end of the campaign, which will be June 30, 2009. The campaign started in May of 2000, and has been an ongoing process since then. Dennis and I, as co-chairs, have been privileged to serve as coaches, cheerleaders, and occasionally as constructive critics, and have had a unique opportunity to watch a very professional staff organize and execute a broad-based fundraising campaign for a major state university. Dennis and I have both felt very privileged to be part of the process. I cannot tell you how hard these people have worked to make this campaign a success to this point, and there is more work ahead. Dennis and I cannot say enough about the team that planned the campaign, organized it, did the work in the trenches – Mike Malone, Mallory Simpson, Alberta Solfisburg, John Bass, Jean Jagodzinski, Angela Johansson and many others, Foundation staff, university staff, university faculty, students – literally everyone has pitched into this effort and contributed in one manner or another. It has not only brought badly needed funding to the university, it also provides a basis for cohesion within the university, a common purpose. This fundraising need is going to continue, and that is very clear from the comments that have been made today by the Board. The Board of Trustees' unflinching support for our efforts has been tremendous and has been instrumental in the campaign's success. John Peters' enthusiasm, leadership and guidance, along with the Board of Trustees' guidance has made this campaign what it has turned out to be, and we are very thankful to all of you for that.

As John Peters said, a lot has been accomplished during this campaign, and he described very well the students who have benefited. And do not lose sight of those 13,700 students-plus who have benefited from scholarships and other kinds of financial support. That is a need that is ongoing and becoming more and more critical as time goes by. Conventional sources of funding for scholarships and other student aid are really drying up with no good prospects that they are going to be restored. Hopefully, efforts like the *Northern Star* editorial will make that happen; but I am not very optimistic about it. I doubt that anyone sees it being fully restored and, actually, fully restored is hardly adequate. So, there is a job to be done, and we have less than a year in which to do it during the life of this campaign. The job of raising money for student support, for support for academic programs on a real-time basis, is going to require the efforts and the contributions of many people. We are not talking about large contributions, but smaller contributions such as buying a student's books, paying part of a tuition or a meal ticket. Those are the kinds of uses for which this sort of funding is needed. It is the critical difference between staying in school and leaving school. There will be an ongoing campaign to raise funds on a real-time basis for students in

need, and the first effort made by the Foundation to get that kind of fundraising effort rolling will come with Dr. Nancy Castle and Dr. Clark Neher, who will be soliciting faculty. All faculty will hear from them, and the hope is to get 100 percent participation in any amount.

But my part is to thank the Board of Trustees, President Peters and all of you in this room who represent the community that is NIU. It has been a privilege for Dennis and me to work on this campaign. Nothing succeeds like success, and nothing could be more gratifying than seeing the results that have been achieved here. But that is not due to the leadership we provided, it is due to the people who did the work in the trenches.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Strauss said, I would like to thank you and Dennis Barsema for your leadership on this as well as your many other contributions to the university. I believe we have a number of people from the Foundation here today, so we would like them to stand and be recognized as well.

Recently, Trustee Boey commented, Mike Malone and I were discussing the days back in the 1990's when we raised a million dollars and would bring out the Huskie Marching Band. That is compared to what we have today, over \$150 million, yet we still need more. I want to thank John and Dennis, again, for all their great efforts. As John said, this cannot be the end because the 26 percent from Springfield is going to continue to go down, not up.

We have one more NIU University Related Organization that has been growing and meeting more frequently, Chair Strauss said, and that is the Northern Illinois Research Foundation (NIRF). Trustee Vella represents the Board of Trustees on the Research Foundation Board. I am going to request that Trustee Vella report back on NIRF activities beginning with our December meeting, and it will be added as a regular item on our agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the items placed on the consent agenda earlier in the meeting. They include President's Report Number 65, Action Items 9.a.(3), (4), (5), (6), and (9); and our receipt of Information Items 9.b.(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (10), (11), (12), (13), (14), (15) and (16); and 9.c.(3) and (4) to that consent agenda. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 65

Yesterday marked the death of one of higher education's true leaders, President Peters said. Myles Brand was Executive Director of the NCAA, Former-President of the University of Oregon, Former-President of the University of Indiana, and Chair of Philosophy at the University of Illinois-Chicago. I knew him in an academic role and then came to know him in the NCAA role where I was privileged to be a member of his NCAA Executive Committee. I cannot think of an individual who has done more to ensure that the scholarship part of student athlete was emphasized and who worked tirelessly to regain presidential control of that very important organization.

I share Chair Strauss's sentiments regarding the start of our new school year. I have been in higher education so long that my internal clock is set to semester time in the fall, and the beginning of each new academic year, after all these years, is still quite a thrill to me. For the tenth year in a row, I have had the privilege of participating in Move-In Day, when we help 5,000 new students truck their belongings into our residence halls and get settled into their new homes, where they will establish new routines, new social lives, new friends and new academic programs. I am always amazed at how quickly they adapt, and thank all of you for making that possible.

As we talk about enrollment and focus on numbers and categories of students, I like to keep in mind the personal conversations I have on Move-In Day when everyone's future looks bright and students are excited to be here, because as hard as we try, for some of these young people, their time here will not end in a degree. Even as we celebrate the number of new students who have joined us in the fall, we must keep our focus on retention. Too many students, for whatever reasons, walk away. Most of them

are financial, some of them are personal. Very few are academic. Our enrollment is up this year, which is no small achievement in this economy, and I was particularly pleased to see we have met our targets for new freshmen and transfers, and graduate students are up significantly as well. But getting them here is only half the equation; we need to create more pathways for students so they can get into their first choice majors. We need to find every available resource to help students as they encounter financial obstacles. We need to improve and expand our advising services on every level so students remain on the path to graduation. Later today, the Trustees are invited to join us on a short tour of our new Central Advising Center. More than just a new facility, the center and its programs are aimed at catching problems early to get students the help they need on a focused journey that leads to a degree.

Finally, I do not need to tell you how concerned I remain over the MAP Grant issue. As you know, a couple of weeks ago I led a delegation of college presidents to meet with Governor Quinn. The Governor was receptive and sympathetic and offered to use his office as a bully pulpit for legislative relief for more than 137,000 students who rely on MAP funding that is not going to be there in the spring. And, of course, this is not just a gubernatorial issue, it is also a legislative issue. The bad news is that we do not see any significant revenue raising measures in time to deal with this crisis only months away, so something must be done in the veto session in October. So whatever the solution, the answer for our students lies with the actions of our state legislature and the Governor during the upcoming fall veto session. That is why I was so pleased about the *Northern Star* editorial, and editorials like this are cropping up all over the state. I am pleased to see that our students have risen to the occasion. Be assured that we will continue to press this issue at every opportunity. We are aware that restoration of MAP Grant funding has to compete with a host of other worthy causes, but I submit that few state investments offer the payback of a well-educated and skilled workforce. We owe it to our students and to our state to keep our promise to get full MAP funding reinstated as soon as possible. You have all offered your support in this crusade, so I know I can count on the Board.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 9.a.(1) – Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriated Capital Budget Request

Our capital budget has two items, President Peters said, the regular capital budget for large projects and the capital renewal budget for those items between \$100,000 and \$1.5 million. This past legislative session, funds were authorized for our Cole Hall and Stevens Hall projects, as well as the planning money for our Computer Science and Technology Building. We now are waiting for the appropriations so we can begin these projects. The first thing that appears on the new list we are submitting is a request for core funding of about \$37 million for our Computer Science and Technology Center. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2011 Appropriated Capital Budget Request. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Venaas. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(2) -- Fiscal Year 2011 Nonappropriated Capital Budget

The Fiscal Year 2011 Nonappropriated Capital Budget lists those items that are less than \$100,000, which we pay from our own bond revenue or local funds, the President said. Some of these items include the sprinkler systems mandated by state law and the rotational painting of residence halls such as Grant and Stevenson Towers. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve Fiscal Year 2011 Nonappropriated Capital Budget. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(3) – University Outreach Multi-Year Professional Services Contract

Agenda Item 9.a.(4) – Fiscal Year 2010 ITS - Telecommunications Hardware Maintenance Agreement

Agenda Item 9.a.(5) – Finance and Facilities Software and Database Maintenance Agreements

Agenda Item 9.a.(6) – Permanent Easements for Utilities – Far West Campus

Consent agenda items.

Agenda Item 9.a.(7) – Cole Hall – Renovation and Equipment – Capital Project Approval

We received an appropriation authorization for about \$7.8 million to renovate Cole Hall, President Peters said. Our long-range plan is to make smart classrooms out of the Cole Hall auditoria, so we had already theoretically allocated some internal funds from various sources to upgrade those two rooms. We are

requesting authority to proceed with the planning in anticipation of the \$7.8 million in order to begin work on the project as soon as possible. There are three components, which were discussed extensively during the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee meeting. The west classroom will be made a smart classroom. The east classroom will be a simply renovated auditorium for uses to be determined. Money has been set aside for a stand-alone classroom to replace our second classroom. Approximately \$2 million worth of equipment will be into the smart classrooms. This would result in a total budget of \$9.5 million for the Cole Hall renovation and equipment purchases. The timeframe for completion of the project is estimated to be 12 to 18 months. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the Cole Hall Renovation and Equipment Capital Project Approval request. Student Trustee Venaas so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(8) – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Electrical Workers – Local 364

Agreement was reached with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Local 364, which represents 13 employees in the classifications of Electrician, Electrician Foreman and Electrical & Electronics Instrument Control Mechanic, President Peters said. This is a full agreement that extends from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2013. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the IBEW Local 364 collective bargaining agreement. Trustee Vella so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.a.(9) – Federal Trade Commission Red Flags Rules

Consent Agenda Items.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 9.b.(1) – Fiscal Year 2009 Report on Capital Activities

Agenda Item 9.b.(2) – Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report of Transactions Involving Real Property

Agenda Item 9.b.(3) – Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report of Cash and Investments

Agenda Item 9.b.(4) – Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000

Agenda Item 9.b.(5) – Annual Summary Report Obligation of Financial Resources

Agenda Item 9.b.(6) – Follow-Up on the Ph.D. in Economics

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.b.(7) – Fiscal Year 2009 Program Review Findings

We had a good discussion in our Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee meeting about the intensity of the program review process, the involvement of external reviewers and the importance of the reports, Dr. Peters said.

Agenda Item 9.b.(8) – 2008-2009 Faculty Emeritus Recognition

The individuals receiving 2008-2009 Faculty Emeritus Recognition have served our university as tenured professors and are now retiring, the President said. This is not an automatic employment category. It is much like any other academic rank and is granted by the university based upon performance.

Agenda Item 9.b.(9) – Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff

Listed are winners of last year's Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff. This is quite an extensive and excellent list, Dr. Peters said, and many of these individuals were recognized at our Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee meeting.

We tend to look at these as pages with lists of names, Trustee Murer said. But these names belong to faculty that are at the nucleus of a great university. It is the faculty and the students they teach that define what a university is. I wanted to make a comment on behalf of the Board, as well, to say that we are proud of all of you who achieve this great recognition and these wonderful awards, and we thank you for your work in support of NIU.

Agenda Item 9.b.(10) – Fiscal Year 2009 External Funding for Research, Public Service and Instructional Projects

Agenda Item 9.b.(11) – Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Update

Agenda Item 9.b.(12) – 96th General Assembly Report

Agenda Item 9.b.(13) – Congressional Report

Agenda Item 9.b.(14) – Fire Safety Mandates as Required by the Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008

Agenda Item 9.b.(15) – Internet2 Technologies and the NIU School of Music

Agenda Item 9.b.(16) – NIU Activity Related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Consent Agenda Items.

Agenda Item 9.b.(17) – Benefit Provisions for Marital Status/Domestic Partnerships

During the LAEA Committee, there was an extensive discussion of the benefits provided to domestic partners at the university, President Peters said, as well as a rather detailed matrix of those benefits.

It means a great deal to me that this conversation was had, Trustee Butler said, and that the presentation was as thorough as it was. Both personally and professionally, this is an issue that has occupied a lot of my time. The Board needs to be mindful that the report reveals a discrepancy between what the university offers its employees and students with regard to their domestic partnership status versus what is in the official Board *Regulations*. We have a problem in that there has been a substantial amount of activity on campus to extend what we refer to as equitable coverage, but that activity is not reflected in any unified place. I merely ask my Trustees to simply go on line and try to learn what you would have available to you if you were in a domestic partnership and were a student or wished to be employed here. You will not find many resources to answer that question, not even in the university's recently revamped web site presence on its diversity efforts, and I do not think we can maintain this status quo. For one, it is discriminatory. And two, absent explicit inclusion, there remains broad room for supervisory discretion. We cannot know as a Board, whether that discretion is falling on the side of our will or our hope that these benefits are extended or rather the supervisor's individual value system. I say to my colleagues on the Board, the campus is waiting for us to act on this and has been for several years.

As Chair of the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs (LAEA) Committee, Chair Murer said, I want to make sure the record reflects that this matter was brought before the LAEA Committee, and that the committee asked university staff to analyze the situation in great detail. As stated in my committee report, Mr. Cunningham and his staff expended a great deal of time and effort to identify in a matrix format exactly what the situation is. Some of it is not at our discretion; some of it is dictated by the purview of the State of Illinois. I want to be cautious of words such as discrimination because that is a very powerful word, and I truly believe no one has ever intended or committed any type of discrimination. So I would ask that we continue to review this through the LAEA committee to bring about the parity that is appropriate within the confines of our authority, because this is not about personal opinion, and it is not about personal desires, but it is operating within the confines of the law, the legislation and the dictates of the state. We will not neglect this issue, but will continue to investigate and identify what the difference is between anecdotal and actual. We need to quash rumors or misunderstandings or misstatements. Perhaps between now and the next time we meet, we can review what is anecdotal, what is commentary, and where are we on this very critical issue within the confines of our financial abilities and, more importantly, our authority.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 9.c.(1) – Fiscal Year 2010 Internal Budget

State statute requires that the Board of Trustees approve the university's FY10 Internal Budget, the President said. The walk-in item has several displays on General Revenue sources and federal sources. Under the appropriated fund revenues adjusted for 2009, for the current fiscal year we have approximately \$103 million. For 2009, it was \$104,745,000 for 2009. It appears that there is an increase in our 2010 budget to \$107 million, however, the problem is that those federal dollars are the stimulus funds. The Governor used stimulus funds to plug the gap in our General Revenue. This means that next year our base budget will start at \$102 million – not \$104 million or \$107 million, which presents us with

an immediate \$4 million problem in addition to other unfunded mandates. If the state finds a way to balance its budget or finds a revenue source, they must restore those funds. Our nonappropriated revenues have been fairly stable. NIU's total anticipated revenue for FY10 is around \$435 million at this point.

Table 2 is categorized as Object Classifications. These were agreed upon by the Office of Management and Budget, the Governor's Office and the chief financial officers of the universities several years ago. Universities are people intensive. Table 3 is our distribution of nonappropriated money, and Table 4 is a summary of our internal budget.

In regard to MAP funds, Chair Strauss asked for clarification that those funds were not appropriated monies directly to the university, but would come in as tuition paid, so this assumes that MAP funds and tuition would be paid in full. So if MAP funding is not restored for the second semester, Board approval of this internal budget does not account for a shortage in MAP money. President Peters stated that if that was the case, not counting indirect income from dorm rooms, food contracts, and so forth \$11 million in nonappropriated revenue, direct income, would be lost from the university income fund.

Northern Illinois University ranks third in aid to MAP students among public universities behind University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and University of Illinois at Chicago, with 5,000+ students. Most of our students receive the full amount they are eligible for, which means our students are among the most needy. It does have an impact on us, but our basic concern is that this money goes directly to students. It flows to us to pay for their expenses as it flows to public universities, community colleges and private universities across the state.

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the university's FY10 Internal Budget. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.c.(2) – Collective Bargaining Agreement – Carpenters and Joiners – Local 790

A collective bargaining agreement was reached with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local 790. The union represents eight employees in the classification of Carpenter and Carpenter Foreman. This is a full agreement extending from July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2013. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the UBCJA, Local 790, collective bargaining agreement. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 9.c.(3) – Grant and Contract Awards

Agenda Item 9.c.(4) – Fiscal Year 2009 Report of Tuition and Fee Waivers

Consent agenda items.

Agenda Item 9.c.(5) – Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer Upgrade

The last action item I have is a very important pass-through, President Peters said. Our Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry was able to secure approximately a half a million dollars in federal stimulus funds through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for a project titled "Upgrade of a 500 MHz NMR Console" from the National Science Foundation. The project will upgrade and cyber-enhance their nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectrometer Upgrade. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

OTHER MATTERS

Chair Strauss reminded Board members that a bus was waiting to take them for a quick tour of the new Academic Advising and Counseling Center on the old Wesley property.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Board of Trustees is scheduled for Thursday, December 3, 2009 on the main campus in DeKalb.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Vella so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Venaas. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins
Recording Secretary