

Minutes of the  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**  
February 25, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marc Strauss at 9:03 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, Cherilyn Murer, Manuel Sanchez, Barbara Giorgi Vella, Student Trustee Matthew Venaas and Chair Strauss. Not present was Trustee Myron Siegel. Also present were Acting Board Parliamentarian Gregory Brady 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 Acting Board Parliamentarian Gregory Brady.

**MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

After discussion with President Peters and review of the printed 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 67, Action Items 9.a.(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (9), (10), (11), (12), (14), (15), (24), (25), (26), (28) and (29); and our receipt of Information Items 9.b.(1), (2), (3), (4) and 9.c.(1) to that Consent Agenda. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda as now proposed. Trustee Sanchez made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Trustee Murer 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: personnel matters as generally described under §2(c)(1) and (3) 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. Student Trustee Venaas so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey.

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

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

A 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 11:43 a.m.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

It was moved by Trustee Murer and seconded by Student Trustee Venaas to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2009 Board meeting. The motion was approved.

## CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

February has been an extraordinary month here at NIU, Chair Strauss said. We have soared to new heights as an academic institution, and we have remembered the darkest day in NIU history, resolving to continue to move forward, together, forward. I am encouraged with the speed and strength with which NIU is moving forward just this month alone. NIU political science professors were called upon to provide election analysis and insight for regional news outlets in Chicago and the suburbs for the primary elections on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Several of our graduates ran for office in these elections, some successfully and some unsuccessfully.

Governor Quinn returned to campus and released \$10.3 million to allow renovation to begin on Cole Hall, as well as to begin the formal architectural and engineering plans and drawings necessary to update Stevens Hall. As a reminder, capital funds from the state are to be used for construction and equipment purposes only and are not available for use in university operations.

One of our alums, Ryan Diem, had the honor of playing football for the Indianapolis Colts in the Super Bowl Game. And, regardless of the outcome of the game, Ryan had most of NIU's 200,000 alums cheering for him on Super Bowl Sunday. He was definitely our MVP that day.

Our own President Peters led an effort with UI President Stan Ikenberry to coalesce all public university presidents and chancellors in Illinois around a single letter signed by every public university president and chancellor to Governor Quinn and Comptroller Hynes drawing attention to the state's lack of timely appropriation disbursements and the dire consequences of such poor public policy.

NIU announced a new academic program that will help teach and train our students in the "Green Jobs" movement sweeping the country. A consortium comprised of DeKalb County, Northern Illinois University and DeKalb Fiber Optic, working together under the banner of the DeKalb Advancement of Technology Authority, announced that they will be running fiber optic cables to every school in the county to deliver cutting edge Internet technology. The consortium was awarded nearly \$12 million in federal grant money, in addition to \$3 million in state and local funds for the project. Most schools will see their Internet speed increase one thousand-fold, and for most it will come at a lower price than their current service.

Our world-class Department of Geology faculty were called upon to provide expertise when an earthquake along a previously undiscovered fault line running through the northern part of DeKalb County awoke me and probably most of you. NIU has the only seismograph machine in the region, and faculty and students had the unique opportunity to study real time data in a real-world environment.

NIU was awarded a \$7.5 million federal stimulus grant to lead a statewide initiative to create a Health Information Technology Regional Extension Center (REC) that will help doctors adopt electronic medical record technology. The NIU center, which will be one of 70 such facilities nationwide, will assist primary care physicians all across Illinois, except in the city of Chicago where they will be served by a separate REC operated by Northwestern University. NIU and Northwestern will coordinate efforts to make a statewide system that is as seamless as possible and one that will ultimately integrate with a nationwide system.

NIU's School of Music earned international recognition last week by hosting a three-day residency of world-renowned composer Morten Lauridsen. The importance of his visit can best be summed up by an area music teacher who took time off to watch Lauridsen's rehearsals at NIU. She said to her principal, "Imagine if Beethoven was at a university 20 miles from you for three days. Would you want me here – or there?"

Despite all of these great things happening at NIU, we were awakened last Friday morning with news of an unfortunate, yet isolated incident, involving two students outside Stevenson Towers North. Officers were on the scene within 47 seconds, medics quickly attended to the needs of the victim and the suspect was apprehended within four minutes. Our first responders and university administrators and staff who worked throughout the day, and every day, to ensure our campus is safe and secure, should be commended. There are no stronger or more enthusiastic supporters of this university than its Trustees,

and we draw encouragement from our community's resolve.

What a month for NIU! Yes, we have had our challenges, but we cannot forget to fully celebrate and appreciate the myriad innovative and exciting projects our faculty, staff and students participate in every single day. We are a complex institution, and we should celebrate the academic and programmatic diversity and the opportunities created for each and every student at NIU.

Chair Strauss then welcomed University Advisory Committee representatives: Dr. Alan Rosenbaum, Dr. Ferald Bryan, Dr. Gregory Waas, Dr. Joseph Buck Stephen, Dr. Bobbie Cesarek and Mr. Jay Monteiro. We celebrate with the Board the promise of spring and the renovation of the Cole-Stevens Complex, Dr. Bryan said. We respect the Board's sensitivity for keeping increases in room and board rates for our students as low as possible, and we are also grateful for the Board's continued commitment to faculty sabbaticals which are vital to the university's research mission.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The Chair asked Acting Parliamentarian Gregory Brady 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. Brady 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, February 4, 2010. At that meeting the committee considered and endorsed the following action items: Recommendations for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for 2010 and 2011 Academic Year; the Appointment of Lisa Freeman as Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies; a request for a new degree program in the Department of Philosophy; a request for degree authority at regional sites for the Bachelor of Science in Nursing; request for new Minors in Business Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Biomedical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, and Engineering Technology; requests for new Emphases in Engineering Management within Industrial and System Engineering, and in Energy and Environmental Technology within Technology; a request for new Specialization in Nonprofit Management within the Master of Public Administration; a request to delete a program in Russian offered by the Department of Foreign Languages and Literature; a request to delete a Specialization in Human Services Administration within the Master of Public Administration; acceptance of the Oral English Proficiency Annual Report for 2008 and 2009. The committee also heard reports on the following information items: Faculty Reports on Sabbatical Leaves, Annual Report on the Outcomes of Sabbatical Leaves, College of Law Academic Excellence Fee, off-campus fees for courses associated with certificates, and undergraduate regional course charges.

### **Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee**

Committee Chair Manny Sanchez reported that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee met on Thursday, February 4. The committee considered and approved the recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2011 Student Fee Recommendations, and Room and Board Rate Recommendations; other fee items including the College of Law Academic Excellence Fee, off-campus fees for certificate courses, and undergraduate regional course charges; expenditure authorizations for athletic sports camp housing and meals, International Program Division, and IP Voice-Trunking Services; FY11 Contract Renewals for Copy Paper, and Document Services Copier and Controller Systems; Mass Transit and nonfood food service-related commodities; *Northern Star* printing; security services for residence halls; student accident and sickness insurance; and hardware and software maintenance upgrades; grant expenditures and authorizations for the Regional Health Information Extension Center and the Northern Illinois Proton Treatment and Research Center; and capital project authorization for the Cole-Stevens Complex. The committee also received the following informational reports: Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions

in Excess of \$100,000, Periodic Report on Investments, and a report on gasoline savings through the use of our hybrid vehicles, none of which are involved in the Toyota recall. The recommended items addressed by the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee are included in President Peters' report that will be presented today for approval.

### **Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee**

Committee Chair Murer reported that the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee met in DeKalb on February 4. We were able to hear two long-awaited reports that had to be delayed due to time constraints at the November meeting. Dr. Steven Cunningham gave an extensive PowerPoint update on the benefit provisions for marital status and domestic partnerships. Included in his presentation were comparative slides of benefits such as tuition waivers, bereavement leave, sick leave, Family Medical Leave Act and how these are distributed at other Illinois state universities. We will continue to investigate this area further at future meetings. Our committee was also pleased to be formally introduced to Danielle Schultz, NIU's new Director of Internal Audit. Danielle gave us a brief overview of her department, introduced us to her audit team and was able to inform us that in FY09, 14 audits were completed. I was pleased to meet with her, subsequently, as Chair of the committee, voicing our support of the audit and compliance sector of this committee. Kathy Buettner presented the 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Report and highlighted several bills for our review. She then briefly talked about the state budget and reported that the Illinois Board of Higher Education had approved their FY11 budget. She listed the four options IBHE had outlined in their budget which are (1) a six percent decrease in funding, (2) the current status quo if the state puts in stimulus monies again, (3) a two percent increase, and (4) a 3.8 percent increase. President Peters also addressed the committee and commented that the state currently owes NIU \$64 million net. If we receive no more General Revenue funds, NIU will take a 65 percent revenue cut. Due to time constraints, Kathy instructed the committee members to please review the Congressional Report on their own.

### **Illinois Board of Higher Education**

President Peters reported that the Illinois Board of Higher Education had met twice since our last meeting. The first meeting was held on December 8, 2009 at the University of Chicago. At that meeting, the IBHE unanimously approved NIU's Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in the College of Health and Human Sciences. That was the one thing they said they wanted when I visited that college ten years ago. Also at that meeting, as convener of the Public University Presidents, I brought to the attention of the IBHE the crisis that was looming with the cash flow problem at the universities, and they took very appropriate action. The second meeting of the IBHE was held January 26 at Chicago State University and was devoted, basically, to the budget.

### **Universities Civil Service Merit Board**

Board Liaison Barbara Giorgi Vella reported that the last meeting of the Universities Civil Service Merit Board was held on January 20, 2010 in Urbana, and she participated by telephone. The board elected its officers for the upcoming year at that meeting. They were chair, Joanne Maitland, ISU; vice chair, James Montgomery, UI. The executive committee members are Kristi DeLaurentiis and John Simmons, and the secretary is Teresa Rademacher. The key agenda item was the rule change regarding furloughs that was considered at our previous meeting. Three speakers provided comment, one from the UI, one from the Civil Service Advisory Committee and one from AFSCME. The rule change was voted on and published in the *Illinois Register* before this meeting. After receiving many comments and suggestions for changes, Director Tom Morelock prepared a second draft for consideration at the January meeting. Because the second notice of the rule change was rejected by JCAR, the director advised that we would seek an extension until March before publishing that second draft. He further noted that this delay put some universities in a bind. There probably will not be a speedy resolution of this rule change, thus, everything regarding the rule change on furloughs is on hold.

### **NIU Foundation**

Co-Chairs Murer and Boey deferred to Mallory Simpson, President of the NIU Foundation, for this report. We are almost at the conclusion of our True North campaign, which ends June 30, Ms. Simpson said. True North stands at \$158.2 million, just over our \$150 million goal. We hope to close the campaign with about \$160 to \$165 million. As we are keenly aware, our students urgently need our help. So, even

though we have gone over goal, we are not twiddling our thumbs. We have redoubled our efforts in the area of expendable scholarships. Last fall, we launched the faculty/staff portion of the campaign. This is the first time we have ever done anything like this here at Northern, and I am delighted to say that we have 20 percent participation through all classifications of employees throughout the university. We have had a little bit of friendly rivalry among the deans of the colleges, and today the College of Business has a 78 percent participation rate.

There has been a significant recovery in endowments. As you know, every portfolio in the country took a pretty big hit last year. Ours was not as bad as many, and by the end of the quarter, December 31, we had about a 14.3 percent recovery. So we have regained a great deal of ground that was lost. Many of you know that the Foundation signature event, the Red and Black, is being held this Saturday. The Red and Black gives the deans and university leaders the opportunity to celebrate and appreciate many of the donors who have contributed to the success of the campaign. Our volunteer committee raised the bar this year and worked extraordinarily hard to attract corporate sponsorships. We would not have been able to have the kind of event we have planned without the help of external funders, and we appreciate that.

Lastly, I have a couple of True North stories to share with you. One of them involves someone who was important to the university a number of years ago. David Knight, has chosen to make a gift in honor of his son, Kevin Knight, who was a student leader on campus and died tragically in an accident shortly after his graduation. He was an exemplary student leader, dedicated to improving campus life for all students. His list of accomplishments and activities when he was on campus was extraordinary and included his being selected to serve as the student body representative on the Presidential Search Committee. In honor of his son, David Knight chose to make a \$40,000 major gift commitment for student leadership activities in the Division of Student Affairs. He hopes that it will encourage future leaders like his son. David Knight is not an alumnus himself. He attended a historically black college in the south, served in the military and had a distinguished career with Pfizer Corporation. He has become increasingly involved in student leadership activities through the efforts of Vice President Brian Hemphill and his team. We are delighted to see this first major gift coming to the Student Affairs Division, and I congratulate Brian and his team for attracting that wonderful gift and working hard to engage Mr. Knight.

Even though times are tough economically, we do have people who are able to make commitments, and this couple has given again and again to Northern. Christine and Anthony Speiser, double Huskies, have funded support for a couple of our facilities and prior scholarships. Their new gift of \$160,000 is to provide \$10,000 a year scholarships for each of four years to graduates from Christine's high school, Guerin Prep High School. Christine is a Foundation Board member and has sat through our making the case for the urgent need of expendable scholarships. She heard the message, and they responded in a big way. It is going to have a tremendous, immediate impact, and we are so grateful that Tony and Chris Speiser are still able to provide support to our students in so many different ways.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL**

Before beginning the President's Report, Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the items earlier placed on the consent agenda that include President's Report No. 67, Action Items 9.a.(2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (9), (10), (11), (12), (14), (15), (24), (25), (26), (28) and (29); and receipt of Information Items 9.b.(1), (2), (3), (4) and 9.c.(1) Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 67**

Before I begin, President Peters said, I have been asked to deliver a personal message to NIU. It is on behalf of President Dave Williams from University of Alabama-Huntsville, with whom we have been in contact throughout the tragedy they experienced. He wanted me to pass along his appreciation and thank you to all of you who reached out and provided advice and comfort during their time of tragedy. He said it has made a very big difference.

I am very pleased, Chair Strauss, that you devoted your remarks this morning to celebrate the great and

amazing opportunities that have occurred for NIU alums and faculty, staff and students in this past month alone. Plus, we won a basketball game last night.

NIU is truly a remarkable and a transformational institution. We are a very diverse and complex university. We are brimming with life with the tens of thousands of alums and students that I have been privileged to see over this past ten years as their lives have been transformed by the experiences they have had here.

The last time we met in December at our Board meeting, I spent considerable time bringing the campus up to date on the gravity of the state budget and how the state's lack of timely payments is affecting the daily operation of this university, all of the other public universities and, of course, many others. To be frank, not much has changed in the three months since then other than the fact that a continued failure to fund state universities has become an even more pressing issue. We eagerly await the Governor's budget address to the General Assembly, which has been pushed back to March 10, 2010, so we will be better able to see where we are going in FY11. I could spend my time this morning dwelling on our challenges. They are varied, and they are truly daunting, particularly the budget situation. But this university faces challenges head on. We have been tested, we have survived and, indeed, we are moving forward together at a pace that I would have thought impossible just a few years ago. We may not know what our state budget is in FY11. And while we continue to be tested when confronted with unfortunate incidents such as that which occurred last week in DeKalb, NIU students, faculty staff and alums continue to press on in good form. This great institution continues to transform the lives of its students and its alums as well as our faculty and our staff. NIU offers academic excellence and research opportunities in a campus environment which is richly diverse socially, academically and artistically. When our students graduate from NIU and find a career path, they become some of the best and brightest in northern Illinois, the Chicago area, the nation and the world. So despite almost record unemployment in Illinois – 17 percent in Rockford in our region – NIU students are still in demand by regional employers. Employers know the value of an NIU degree. They know our students are hardworking, bright, dedicated, thoroughly trained and educated in their disciplines, and ready to roll up their sleeves to work hard to help their employers succeed. Given the State's unemployment rate of 13 percent overall, I thought it important to show you how NIU is helping students transform their lives by finding careers in their field of study.

A video from Career Services featured interviews with three students from NIU who had taken advantage of the services offered there to gain employment. In the video, Cindy Henderson, Executive Director of Career Services, stated that the primary goal of Career Services is to assist students in their internship and job search process. We like to begin with our students in their freshman year to help them develop strategies that they will learn and continue to develop throughout their four years so that when they graduate, we like to say that we will see them with a degree in one hand and a job offer in the other. Employers appreciate the holistic approach that NIU takes towards the total development of our students. So, besides their academic success, we work on things like time management, critical thinking and decision making because we are preparing them to be future leaders. I am extremely proud of the fact that we have some good, strong partnerships with employers, career services and our academic colleges. When we can perform those types of collaborations, our students will succeed in their goals, whether they be for graduate school, for future employment or for a career path. As we all work together, certainly, we walk the walk and talk the talk of what NIU does to prepare students as future leaders.

The President recognized Ms. Henderson, who was present at the meeting. Kudos to Media Services for the wonderful job they are doing in producing these high-impact videos, he said, because this is the way we have to market now and tell the world about what a great place this is. So, yes, we are forced to devote attention to our challenges, but let us not forget the purpose for which NIU was created: to mold, to shape and transform student lives to enable them to maximize their personal, professional and intellectual lifelong pursuits, and for our faculty to produce the research and the understanding that will make this a better world.

## **UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES**

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(1) – College of Law Academic Excellence Fee**

The College of Law Excellence Fee, which has been well vetted by our committees, will serve to enhance opportunities for College of Law students, the President said. The proposal is to levee a fee on law students at \$40 per credit hour the first year, \$55 the second year, and \$70 in the third year, which will produce dedicated funds to help the College of Law stem the tide of the rising costs of their library serials and licensing, and also permit our new dean working with faculty and their strategic plan to embark upon any number of academic enhancements, particularly in the area of externships, internships and academic quality. The law students also have been involved in this. On page 16 is a table that shows what real value there is in an NIU law degree, particularly in relation to some of our major competitors such as John Marshall, DePaul, Loyola and Kent. Also, members of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee and the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee wanted us to take a look at the ratio of in-state to out-of-state fees. We are doing that and will come back to the committee with a proposal or an evaluation within the year. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the College of Law Academic Excellence Fee. Trustee Vella so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(2) – Off-Campus Fees for Courses Associated with Certificates**

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(3) – Undergraduate Regional Course Charges**

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(4) – Fiscal Year 2011 Athletic Sports Campus Housing and Meal Expenditures**

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(5) – Fiscal Year 2011 Copy Paper Contract Renewal – ITS Document Services and Materials Management**

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(6) – Fiscal Year 2011 Document Services Copier and Controller System Contract Renewal**

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(7) – Fiscal Year 2011 International Programs Division Expenditures**

Consent Agenda Items.

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(8) – Fiscal Year 2011 Mass Transit Contract Renewal**

The Fiscal Year 2011 Huskie Mass Transit contract renewal is the second year of a four-year renewal which is negotiated by our students, the President said. The amount for this year is \$3.9 million. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the FY11 Mass Transit Contract Renewal. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion as approved.

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(9) – Fiscal Year 2011 Materials Management Central Stores Commodities Contract Renewal – Clark Products, Inc.**

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(10) – Fiscal Year 2011 Materials Management Central Stores Commodities Contract Renewal – Edward Don & Company**

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(11) – Fiscal Year 2011 Northern Star Contract Renewal**

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(12) – Fiscal Year 2011 Public Safety Security Services Contract Renewal**

Consent Agenda Items.

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(13) – Fiscal Year 2011 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Contract Renewal**

This student group health insurance contract renewal is the fifth year of a nine-year renewal option, President Peters said. Every year the rate is negotiated based upon use, incidents and so forth. This is paid for with the student health insurance fee, which is at \$395 per semester, a pretty fair rate. We are asking approval of the Board for expenditure authority to our academic health plans carrier for FY11 of \$7.9 million. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the FY11 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Contract Renewal. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(14) – Information Technology Services Hardware and Software Maintenance and Software Upgrade Contract Renewal**

**Agenda Item 9.a.(15) – ITS Telecommunications Services IP-Based Voice Trunking Services**

Consent Agenda Items.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(16) – NIU Outreach Multi-Year Grant Regional Health Information Extension Center**

Approval is needed for multi-year grant expenditure authority to establish our Rural Health Information Extension Center, President Peters said. We have received an \$8.546 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop this Rural Health Information Extension Center throughout the state. It is a wonderful opportunity that is going to help cut costs for health and also provide better information for providers, particularly in rural areas. Therefore, I request Board approval to establish expenditure authority for this four-year grant in which NIU also is working with and establishing relationships with the Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council, Quality Quest for Health of Illinois and Southern Illinois Healthcare Foundation. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the NIU Outreach Multi-Year Grant Regional Health Information Extension Center. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Venaas. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(17) – Northern Illinois Proton Treatment and Research Center Grant Amendment**

This Northern Illinois Proton Treatment and Research Center (NIPTRC) Grant Amendment requests expenditure authority for Fiscal Years 2010-2012 so that NIPTRC can manage the federal grants we have received for our proton center project and our proton research, the President said. It is an amendment of \$8.155 million, which reflects the amount we have received in federal grants, and establishes a new total of \$13,155,000.

I would be remiss to not comment on how pleased we are that this grant funding continues, Trustee Murer said, and to recognize all the hard work that has been put forth. What is interesting is that this is a new stream of revenue to NIU and one that we hope will continue to be available now and in the future. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the Northern Illinois Proton Treatment and Research Center Grant Amendment. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

**Agenda Item 9.a.(18) – Cole-Stevens Complex Capital Project Approval**

Recently, as you know, Governor Quinn was on campus to release \$10.3 million for funds for our Cole-Stevens Complex, President Peters said. That does not provide complete funding for the total project, but it does allow us to renovate Cole Hall and plan for the Stevens renovation, and the second phase of the funding will come next year. Outside on display are drawings of our renovation plans, and we have a wonderful concept. We are going to join Stevens Hall, which is in desperate need of upgrading, and Cole Hall. The link will be a stand-alone classroom that will be in the proximity of Stevens and Cole Halls. This request is to amend the authorization you have already given us for Cole Hall and establish an estimated budget of \$35 million for the Cole-Stevens Complex project for renovation and construction. We further request approval to enter into agreements with the State Capital Development Board and private consultants to execute purchase orders, contracts, issue work orders, necessary design work, procurement and remodeling of facilities. Additionally, we request approval to raze the Stevens Annex if it is determined that space is needed for the new auditorium.

I want the record to show the gratitude of the Board of Trustees to the Governor for that action taken just shortly before a very hotly contested election, Trustee Sanchez said. For him to take the time to come out to DeKalb, especially with the second year anniversary of February 14 just having taken place, and particularly in these incredibly challenging budgetary times, I think for him to be as sensitized as he was to do that speaks volumes for his sensitivity to this issue in the hearts of everybody associated with NIU.

The Stevens project was first initiated in the early years of the formation of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees, Trustee Boey said. It took us 14 years to get to this point, but I am delighted that we are at least able to begin the project. Echoing Trustee Sanchez, Student Trustee Venaas said, in addition to the Board being very grateful to the Governor for coming to campus and taking this action, I know it is something our students greatly appreciate as well. Obviously, we do not have all the money for it yet, but



we are finally able to get started on this process. These are desperately needed infrastructure projects, and it is something our students are very grateful for as well.

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the Cole-Stevens Complex Capital Project. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Venaas. The motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 9.a.(19) – Fiscal Year 2011 Student Fee Recommendation**

Annually, we go through a very long and detailed process with student input in various committees as we move forward and analyze the needs for student fees, President Peters said. It finally rolls up with a meeting in my office where the various groups come together with their proposals. My usual directive to Dr. Williams is to try to keep these as low as possible and not above 3.0 percent if possible. So, we are at 2.97 percent with the assumption that the students are not opting out of their health insurance, which is their right. The individual fees and percentages for each are listed in your reports.

Overall, I want to express my support for the fees, Student Trustee Venaas said. As Dr. Peters stated a moment ago, this is something that students and others across campus have been heavily involved in for a significant period of time. It is a very delicate operation balancing our financial needs when at the same time, making sure we do not overly burden our students, especially in a period of significant economic difficulty. So I was pleased to see that we are able to keep the average just under 3.0 percent. In looking recently at some of the numbers I had over the last couple of years, I believe this is the lowest in terms of how much it has gone up. There was significant student input on this, and I just wanted, once again, to express my support for it.

I am big on having deliverables attached to fees, President Peters said, so when a student has to pay a fee, they should see a direct relationship between that fee and an outcome. By and large, that is what our committee structure does. If it is setting an Athletic fee, they want to see the direct result of that in benefit to the community and student athletes, and I am pleased that is happening.

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the FY11 Student Fee Recommendation. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The motion as approved.

#### **Agenda Item 9.a.(20) – Fiscal Year 2011 Room and Board Rate Recommendation**

When we take a look at everything combined, room and board, the President said, the average is about 7.5 percent. In your reports, you can see the differential rates based on the residence hall and the room type. For the second year in a row, there is no increase in board, and that means food, which some of the Trustees are going to sample after this meeting.

When I first looked at these rates, Student Trustee Venaas said, I will acknowledge that they did look high. I have talked pretty extensively with some members of the RHA, including their president, Jonathan Kite, who is here today. The one thing that has reassured me, though, is the fact that the Residence Hall Association is so strongly in support of these fees. They know that, yes, the fees are going up, but they know they are going to do good things to bring our residence halls up to date with things like sprinkler systems, another unfunded mandate, thanks to Springfield, and also helping to fund our Grant renovations, which are also very desperately needed. So, their support for this really reassured me that this was the right course of action to take.

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the FY11 Room and Board Rates. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 9.a.(21) – Recommendations for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for the 2010-2011 Academic Year**

These are the recommendations for faculty and supportive professional staff sabbatical leaves for 2010-2011. One of the most wonderful things about NIU and the Trustees is their continued commitment to professional refreshment and development of our faculty and staff, President Peters said. It pays great dividends, and I am very proud that we support these.

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the Recommendations for Faculty and Supportive Professional Staff Sabbatical Leaves for the 2010-2011 Academic Year. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Venaas. The motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 9.a.(22) – Appointment of Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies**

After a national search, the President said, Dr. Lisa Freeman has been selected for appointment as Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, effective July 1, 2010. She is recommended for appointment at the rank of full professor with tenure in the Department of Biological Sciences. Dr. Freeman earned her Ph.D. in Pharmacology at The Ohio State University. She also received a Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, a master's degree in Physiology and a bachelor's degree in Biology, all from Cornell University. She worked as a post-doctoral fellow and research scientist at the University of Rochester School of Medicine. She has spent the past 15 years of her career at Kansas State University where she currently serves as associate vice president for innovation and is responsible for building public-private partnerships relevant to teaching, research and outreach activities at the Olathe Innovation Campus, which is being developed to focus on commercially viable applied research and technology discovery. She also serves as liaison between the campus and the academic units and research centers on the K-State Manhattan campus. Dr. Freeman co-directs two interdisciplinary projects that are focused on strengthening the public health workforce involving collaborations between K-State colleges and campuses, public health associations and state agencies. Dr. Freeman is a highly accomplished teacher, scientist and administrator with a strong record of attracting external funding. She's experienced and effective in building collaborations among students and faculty, academic leadership, and business and community leaders. Lisa is the author of more than 40 articles published in peer review journals, and she has presented 49 national and international lectures, among other professional activities. Her work has resulted in a number of awards and recognitions, including the Award for Excellence in Faculty Mentoring at K-State College of Veterinary Medicine, which recognizes excellence in mentoring tenure-track faculty. She also served an administrative fellowship awarded by the prestigious American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows program. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Dr. Lisa Freeman as Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies with the rank of professor with tenure in the Department of Biological Sciences effective July 1, 2010. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Chair Strauss invited Dr. Freeman to say a few words.

I am very enthusiastic about the opportunity to serve Northern Illinois University as its Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, Dr. Freeman said. This is a very highly respected, student-centered, research university, and I look forward to both the challenges and the rewards associated with my new position. I will collaborate with stakeholders in this room and on this campus, inside and outside this region to advance NIU research. I appreciate that in the current environment, it is very important to invest limited resources strategically to realize the most possible best return on that investment. To this end, I plan to explore traditional and nontraditional sources of funding to advance and promote research growth at Northern Illinois University. My focus will be on facilitating the efforts of NIU faculty, scientists and scholars and their trainees. My approach will include making sure that NIU faculty have access to cost-effective and service-oriented research infrastructure. I will work to encourage multidisciplinary research efforts that are focused on solving complex problems, and this will include enhancing the existing collaborations between NIU and the proximate federal labs, Argonne and Fermi. I also look forward to expanding partnerships between Northern Illinois University and the regional agencies that are focused on economic development and workforce issues so that we can identify the best opportunities for synergy and pursue those vigorously. It is really a pleasure to be here and to become, officially, part of the NIU family.

We are really excited to have you, President Peters said. I want to thank Dr. Jim Erman for the great job he has done. And, I want to give recognition to our Provost, Dr. Ray Alden, along with his search committee, for conducting this search and bringing to NIU such an outstanding talent that fits our strategic direction so well.

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(23) – Request for a New Degree Program**

The Philosophy Department felt that rather than the very traditional outside cognate of a foreign language requirement, the President said, those individuals interested in the philosophy of science could offer a laboratory science/mathematical/computational skills cognate in place of that and establish this Bachelor of Science in Philosophy. That is a great opportunity for those students who want to pursue philosophy or are interested in science, but do not necessarily want to pursue a foreign language sequence. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the Request for a Bachelor of Science in Philosophy within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez. The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(24) – Request for Degree Authority at Regional Sites**

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(25) – Requests for New Minors**

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(26) – Requests for New Emphases and a Specialization**

Consent Agenda Items.

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(27) – Request to Delete a Degree Program**

The university requests Board approval to delete the Bachelor of Arts in Russian, President Peters said. This has been thoroughly reviewed, and has everyone's consent and approval. The Chair mentioned that there was considerable discussion at the committee meeting about whether this would impact the Russian History program. President Peters said that rather than weaken the program, this would strengthen it because it frees up the professor to focus on graduate students who take Russian. At a previous meeting, Trustee Murer asked that we not only continue to add programs to the university, but when appropriate, we should also look at programs that should be deleted. This reflects a great deal of responsibility among those who made the determination that this program was no longer needed, she said, so I commend the Provost and everyone who participated.

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the request to delete the B.A. in Russian. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(28) – Request to Delete a Specialization**

### **Agenda Item 9.a.(29) – Oral English Proficiency Annual Report 2008-2009**

Consent Agenda Items.

### **UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES**

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

### **Agenda Item 9.b.(2) – Annual Report on the Outcomes of Sabbatical Leaves**

### **Agenda Item 9.b.(3) – 96<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Report**

### **Agenda Item 9.b.(4) – Congressional Report**

There were no questions regarding the above items.

### **ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT**

### **Agenda Item 9.c.(1) – Grant and Contract Awards**

Consent Agenda Item.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 47**

### **Agenda Item 10.a. – Amendment to Board of Trustees *Regulations* – Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Laws**

I requested that Board Parliamentarian Ken Davidson prepare the required amendment to insure that the Board of Trustees *Regulations* conform to the latest statutory changes in the Freedom of Information Act Law, Chair Strauss said. In conformity with Board *Regulations*, Article IV, Section 7, to comply with changes in the law, these proposed amendments have been applied on an interim basis since the effective date of the revised law. The Chair asked for a motion to approve this amendment to the Board

of Trustees *Regulations*. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

#### **OTHER MATTERS**

I want to repeat a comment that I made in the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee meeting, Trustee Butler said. We approved today by consensus a number of minors and new specializations that are directly derived out of the university's strategic planning process. It is important to point out to those who were not at the meeting or may not have read the detailed report that we are seeing the fruition of some of these efforts in some very significant ways. Also, I appreciate the work of the deans and the faculty who have been involved in that work.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

The Chair announced that the next regular full Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 13, 2010, here on the campus in DeKalb.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Strauss entertained a motion to adjourn. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Banks-Wilkins  
Recording Secretary