

Minutes of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
June 9, 2011

SWEARING-IN OF TRUSTEE

I have the pleasure today of introducing for the first time our new student trustee for Fiscal Year 2012, Chair Strauss said. Jaemin will take his oath of office and be sworn in today despite the fact that his term begins officially on July 1, but first I would like to tell you a little about him.

Jaemin Robertson is a political science major, with an emphasis in public law. He has served as vice president of the student association this year, and in the past as a student senator and a community advisor in the residence halls.

We are delighted to have you join the Board next year, Jaemin, Chair Strauss continued. Your service in student government and your 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. Your political science course work will be put to good use next year.

The Chair welcomed Mr. Robertson and asked that he join him at the podium. Chair Strauss administered the Oath of Office as follows:

I, Jaemin Robertson, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully serve and support the Constitution of the United States, and the laws thereof; the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws thereof; and the Bylaws and Policies of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University. I further affirm that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of Northern Illinois University. Finally, I acknowledge the fiduciary responsibility that each member of the Board of Trustees has and further solemnly swear that I will discharge faithfully my duties as a member of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University.

Mr. Robertson's comments were as follows:

I want to thank you all for coming to this event, friends, family, staff and Board members. I am truly thankful to be here today. As I stand before you now, as the previous vice president of the Student Association and now the new Student Trustee, I am reminded of the years that I have attended this university. It was the student body and my friends who believed in me. They are the very reason that I am here today to execute these duties of Student Trustee, and I thank them.

I would like to thank a woman who is truly a mother to us, Melissa Vargas. Whenever the staff needs help, she is there. When we need guidance, she is always there. Whenever we are in trouble and we cannot get out of a situation, she always comes and saves the day, and I want to thank her for that. To Larry, whether he knows it or not, he has had a big impact on me. He has always been tough on me, but it is something that I truly needed. He had high standards and expectations for me and, most of all, he reminded me how important detail is for every situation. To Student Trustee Sorsby, my mentor and, most of all, my friend, since I can remember, Rob Sorsby has always been involved on campus, and he has been very influential in my development and success. It is because of him that I am a better student and a better man. When I was nervous, it was he who encouraged me to go on with this opportunity. He showed me that every new task comes with trials, but it is what we learn that makes the trials

worthwhile. Sometimes it takes a person to help you see your own vision, to give you that ounce of courage that you need when you do not have it, and Mr. Sorsby is that man.

I truly look forward to working with this Board. I know the journey will not be easy, but hard work and dedication not only for this Board, but for the students, will provide the best outcome. I know with our minds and the student support, we can achieve all. I see the future of our institution, and we are just a few ideas from becoming the school we want to be. Maybe not this year, maybe not next year, but in the near future, NIU will be the school that all students will want to come to. I believe this board is the one to make it happen. Once again, I thank you for allowing me to be here.

President Peters congratulated Student Trustee Robertson and presented him with the official Board of Trustees pin.

Also, today, Chair Strauss said, I have the pleasure of introducing the newest Trustee to our Board, Anthony A. Iosco. Tony is a Cook County Circuit Court judge and has served on the bench for over 11 years. He received a B.A. from the University of Illinois and is an alum of NIU's College of Law as a member of the same class as Trustee Murer. Tony has been an active participant on the NIU Alumni Association's Board for years and was elected President of the Alumni Association Board in 2010. He has served as an adjunct professor at John Marshall Law School as well as served in private practice and was an attorney with several state agencies prior to becoming a member of the judiciary. Tony and his wife Debbie live in Elk Grove Village.

The Chair welcomed Judge Iosco to the NIU Board of Trustees and asked that he join him at the podium. Chair Strauss then administered the Oath of Office as follows:

I, Anthony Iosco, do solemnly swear that I will faithfully serve and support the Constitution of the United States, and the laws thereof; the Constitution of the State of Illinois, and the laws thereof; and the *Bylaws* and Policies of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University. I further affirm that I will preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of Northern Illinois University. Finally, I acknowledge the fiduciary responsibility that each member of the Board of Trustees has and further solemnly swear that I will discharge faithfully my duties as a member of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University.

Mr. Iosco's comments were as follows:

Thank you, Mr. Chair. Usually at nine o'clock in the morning, my crowd is not anywhere near as happy as this one. But that, today, is a good thing. I want to thank Governor Quinn for appointing me to this position. I am tremendously proud of the university. As you know, Cheryl and I are members of the 1978 inaugural class of the law school. I want to continue helping the university become greater than it already is. I want to continue our branding throughout the United States. I want to thank everybody for being here, and I hope to meet everyone. Thank you.

President Peters congratulated Trustee Iosco and presented him, on behalf of the university, with the official Board of Trustees pin.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marc Strauss at 8:58 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, Anthony Iosco, Robert Marshall, Cheryl Murer, Manuel Sanchez, Student Trustee Robert Sorsby and Chair Strauss. Also present were Board General Counsel Jerry Blakemore 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 General Counsel Jerry Blakemore.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

After discussion with President Peters and review of the printed agenda, Chair Strauss proposed creation of a Consent Agenda that would immediately precede the beginning of the President's Report for today's meeting, and move Report No. 75, Action Items 10.a.(2), (3), (6), (7), (9), (11) and (12), and our receipt of Information Items 10.b.(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8), and 10.c.(4) to that Consent Agenda. The Chair asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda as now proposed. Trustee Murer made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Trustee Sanchez seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

RESOLUTIONS HONORING FORMER TRUSTEES

It is now my privilege to bring some resolutions honoring two former trustees for their lengthy and distinguished service to NIU and our Board of Trustees.

Former Trustee Barbara Giorgi Vella is with us this morning, and I would like to take this time to thank her personally and on behalf of this Board for her extensive service, commitment and faithful dedication to her alma mater, NIU, and this Board of Trustees. Those of us who have had the privilege of serving alongside Barb over the years know that she takes her responsibilities very seriously, puts considerable thought and research into the issues coming before the Board at each meeting. She has been a strong advocate for students in general, and has actively worked to enhance student services and programs on campus and in Rockford. Barb is also still practicing law, in her case family and general practice law, in Rockford with her husband, Frank, who is also here this morning.

I am very glad, Barb, that you plan to remain an active member of the NIU community in the years to come. You leave behind a legacy of faithful service, dedication and extraordinary professionalism to this Board and to our university.

As one of the senior Trustees here, along with Trustee Boey, Trustee Sanchez said, let me say that when a school like NIU gets the opportunity to have its own Board, you take on a significant responsibility. The first time you have the transition of people as you are going forward, you wonder, who are the people that are going to succeed the founding Board members? I remember when Barb's name came up that I had driven I-39 and was very familiar with the name Zeke Giorgi but did not understand the connection. I am certainly familiar with some of the legislative activities in Springfield. Then to have had the pleasure and the privilege to have served with Barb, including her two wonderful years as chair of this Board, I feel blessed, not only to have had such a great former Trustee, but a friend for life. Thank you for everything that you have brought to DeKalb, to NIU, to this institution, because your legacy is one that is rich and that will remain with us forever.

When I first joined the Board, Trustee Butler noted, one of the first phone calls I made was to Barb, particularly when I was appointed Chair of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee. Barb had been the prior chair, and she was very helpful to me and took the time to help me learn what was important about that role and what were some of the issues that would come up, and I really appreciated that. Throughout the time I have served with Barb, she has always been someone I was able to call. We had some substantial conversations, and I received some very good advice. Barb, I have such an appreciation for you and am so grateful for your service and for what you have taught me.

I am both happy and sad on this occasion, Trustee Boey commented. Saying goodbye to a dear friend is always hard. But in thinking back through the years of trusteeship with you, Barbara, you were always a committed, hard working Trustee, a stabilizing voice and a terrific chairperson. I am sure that Frank is

looking forward to seeing more of you. But this is not the end of the friendship or the partnership. We thank you and look forward to many more visits with both of you.

As one of two women on this Board, Barb, it was always a pleasure, Trustee Murer said. But what I am most aware of is your commitment to the students. You were always, have always been and shall always be the champion of the student. That voice on this Board was always a very important voice, it was a very strong voice and it was a very loud voice. We thank you for your service. We share something else, the delight of working with our husbands. It is a special thing when husbands and wives can practice in the same profession and share not only their personal lives, but their professional lives. So we thank you and expect to see you often visiting your alma mater.

Even though my work experience with you has been short and limited, Student Trustee Sorsby remarked, from day one, you have been here to help and guide me. You gave me confidence through my first couple of meetings and helped me become more involved and active in the actual Board meetings. So I want to thank you for being there to support me and give me that courage.

I bring these resolutions to the Board this morning to honor Barbara Giorgi Vella and Myron Siegel for their service to this Board and to NIU, Chair Strauss motioned. Trustee Murer seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Chair Strauss asked Former Trustee Vella to join him at the podium, while he read the following resolution.

R E S O L U T I O N

BARBARA GIORGI VELLA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WHEREAS, Barbara Giorgi Vella has faithfully served as a member of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees since 1999; and

WHEREAS, prior to her election as Chair of the Board of Trustees in 2005, Barbara Giorgi Vella served as the Board's Vice Chair for two years, Chair of the Executive Committee, Chair of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee, and Board of Trustees Liaison to the Universities Civil Service Merit Board, as well as serving as a member of the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee; the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee; and the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee of the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Giorgi Vella has invested significant amounts of valuable time and energy in service to the Board of Trustees and the students, faculty, staff and administration at Northern Illinois University for over eight years; and

WHEREAS, we as her colleagues on the Board of Trustees want to express our appreciation for her years of service to the NIU community and especially her leadership of the Board since 2005; and

WHEREAS, as Chair, Barbara Giorgi Vella led the effort to develop an agenda that helped Northern Illinois University realize many of its larger goals, including continued support for and funding of programs to assist underprepared students succeed at NIU, despite historical funding reductions from the state; and

WHEREAS, Barbara Giorgi Vella served during a time of unprecedented growth at Northern Illinois University, participating as a policymaker in studying, approving and concluding dozens of projects such as the Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences global warming research project, and construction ventures including the Convocation Center, the Family Health, Wellness and Literacy Center, the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center, and the College of Business; and

WHEREAS the contributions Barbara Giorgi Vella has made to Northern Illinois University through her service on its Board of Trustees during one of the most important times in the university's one hundred years plus of history have resulted in countless new opportunities for students, faculty and staff to continue to shape NIU and make it the best regional university in the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University in formal meeting herein assembled, extends its grateful appreciation to Barbara Giorgi Vella for her distinguished service to Northern Illinois University as a member of the Board of Trustees from July 1999 through May 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this **RESOLUTION** be presented to Barbara Giorgi Vella and a copy of this document be placed in the official files of the Board of Trustees as part of the permanent record of the university and the great state of Illinois and as a lasting tribute to the accomplishments of Barbara Giorgi Vella.

Adopted in a regular meeting assembled this **9th** day of **June 2011**.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

Marc J. Strauss
Chair

Robert T. Boey
Secretary



President Peters thanked Former-Trustee Vella for her service. I want to speak in behalf of the entire Northern Illinois University community, the President said. You have heard the expressions from the Trustees, and we echo those. You were a Trustee when I first came here 11 years ago, almost to the day. We have been through many highs and many lows, but your sage advice, your calmness, your commitment to students and to good NIU values, which include caring and commitment to social justice, have really helped sustain us. I want to thank Frank and his family for sharing Barbara with us, because Barbara is a dedicated spouse and co-owner, as well as a mother and grandmother. This institution will always remember your contributions, and we are better for your service, and we thank you. The President then presented Former-Trustee Vella with a crystal obelisk engraved with:



Barbara Giorgi Vella
In recognition of your distinguished service to
Northern Illinois University
and as a member of the Board of Trustees.

Former-Trustee Vella's remarks were as follows:

I want to thank all of you for the kind words. I am really overwhelmed. As a member of the Board, and with the help of President Peters and the administration, the faculty and all of the NIU community, we have accomplished a lot. We all worked together, and I am truly grateful for that. When I look back, it amazes me. We have had our ups and downs, but we have always had good times, new beginnings and grand openings, and I am very proud of my service to NIU. I thoroughly enjoyed our meetings, particularly, as you know, the reports on the sabbaticals and the report from Student Services.

I especially want to thank all the Board members for their civility, congeniality and intelligence. They are truly dedicated to continuing to make NIU a great regional university, they all work very hard and they all have the right goals in mind. I also want to thank the administration, President Peters and his cabinet, for their hard work and the proactive way that they address the issues that face us. Finally, I want to thank the entire NIU community. Each year you are asked to do more with less. You have come through for us every year. You have supported the Board, and you work to make sure that our students have a good experience here. I want you to know that the northern Illinois region, and particularly Rockford, appreciates your hard work and perseverance.

Finally, I want you to know that I learned a great deal from all of you and I had fun doing it. It was a good experience, and I hope I gave back as much as I got. Thanks.

Trustee Siegel, as many of you know, just recently passed the Florida Bar and has been spending a great deal of time in Florida the last few years, and, in fact, could not be with us today for that reason, the Chair said. He is quick to say he is not retiring, and that must be the case, because nobody sits through the grueling experience of a bar exam if they are not going to actively practice. So, even though former Trustee Siegel could not be with us today, we wish him well and thank him for his longtime service to his alma mater.

Former Trustee Siegel will receive a crystal obelisk engraved with the Board of Trustees seal; *Myron E. Siegel; In recognition of your distinguished service to NIU and as a founding member of the Board of Trustees*, as well as the following resolution.

R E S O L U T I O N

MYRON E. SIEGEL DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WHEREAS, Myron E. Siegel faithfully served as a founding member of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees beginning in 1996 through 2011; and

WHEREAS, during his long tenure as a Board member for Northern Illinois University, Myron served as the first Chair of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University, establishing the Board of Trustees working committees and helping to lay a firm foundation for those Trustees who would serve in future years; and

WHEREAS, Myron held other leadership positions within the Board including Vice Chair, Secretary and Chair of the Executive Committee; Chair of the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee from 1999 through 2006; and Board of Trustees Liaison to the Illinois Board of Higher Education; as well as being a member of the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee and the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee; and

WHEREAS Myron E. Siegel provided wise counsel and invested significant amounts of valuable time and energy in service to the Board of Trustees and the students, faculty, staff and administration at Northern Illinois University for more than fifteen years; and

WHEREAS we as his former colleagues on the Board of Trustees want to express our appreciation for his many years of service to the NIU community and especially his leadership and contributions to the Board and the university since his appointment to the Board in 1995; and

WHEREAS, as Chair, Myron E. Siegel successfully pursued the passing of SB770, which resulted in the university's acquisition of 200 acres of land now known as the West Campus, the most significant land acquisition for NIU in the last half century. He also presided and served during a time of unprecedented growth at Northern Illinois University, participating as a policymaker in studying, approving and concluding dozens of construction ventures including the Convocation Center, NIU Naperville, the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, and an innovative new

Center for Diversity Resources on the DeKalb campus, a new Campus Child Care Center, the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center, and the College of Business; and

WHEREAS, Myron E. Siegel thoughtfully and progressively supported the building of strong academic programs to prepare our students for success in the professional world; and

WHEREAS the contributions Myron E. Siegel has made to Northern Illinois University through his service on its Board of Trustees during one of the most important times in the university's one hundred years plus of history have resulted in countless new opportunities for students, faculty and staff to continue to shape NIU and make it the best regional university in the country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University in formal meeting herein assembled, extends its grateful appreciation to Myron E. Siegel for his distinguished service to Northern Illinois University as a founding member and leader of the Board of Trustees from 1995 through 2011.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this **RESOLUTION** be presented to Myron E. Siegel and a copy of this document be placed in the official files of the Board of Trustees as part of the permanent record of the university and the great State of Illinois and as a lasting tribute to the accomplishments of Myron E. Siegel.

Adopted in a regular meeting assembled this **9th** day of **June 2011**.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

Marc J. Strauss
Chair

Robert T. Boey
Secretary



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, as amended: personnel matters as generally described under §2(c)(1), (2), (3) and (21) of the Open Meetings Act, collective bargaining matters as generally described under §2(c)(2) of the Open Meetings Act, litigation and risk management matters as generally described under §2(c)(11) and (12) of the Open Meetings Act, property matters as generally described under §2(c)(5) and (6) of the Open Meetings Act, and Executive Session Minutes Matters as generally described under §2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Executive Session was unanimous.

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

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Butler	Yes
Trustee Iosco	Yes	Trustee Marshall	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Trustee Sanchez	Yes
Student Trustee Sorsby	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 10:33 a.m.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Murer and seconded by Student Trustee Sorsby to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2011 regular Board meeting. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Strauss recognized the University Advisory Committee representatives: Dr. Alan Rosenbaum, Dr. Ferald Bryan, Dr. Gregory Waas, Dr. Kerry Freedman, Mr. Todd Latham and Mr. Jay Monteiro. On behalf of the University Advisory Committee, Dr. Rosenbaum said, I want you to know how pleased we are that Chair Strauss and Trustee Murer have been reappointed. We would like to welcome your newest members, Trustee Iosco, Trustee Marshall and Student Trustee Robertson. We look forward to working with you in the coming year. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the good work of President Peters and the Board of Trustees in leading the university through yet another financially challenging year.

Today's meeting is yet another historic day in the life of NIU's Board of Trustees, Chair Strauss commented. It is the first full Board meeting for our two new trustees, Tony Iosco and Bob Marshall, and the last meeting for our current student trustee, Robert Sorsby. On behalf of the Board, I again welcome to Tony and Bob, and we look forward to serving with you over the next six years.

We are meeting at the conclusion of yet another academic year. Over 3,000 students received degrees during commencement last month, the culmination of years of hard work and dedication from each graduate, and also countless faculty and staff who encourage, mentor and guide our students as they shape and decide on the path they will take to each degree.

Just last week, the General Assembly adjourned its spring session, and like so many previous years, confusion reigns regarding capital project funding and other issues of critical importance to faculty, staff and retirees, including pension reform and annuitant healthcare. Today with just two weeks remaining in Fiscal Year 2011, the state owes NIU \$43 million, or approximately 43 percent of our current year's general revenue funded operating budget. The General Assembly extended the fiscal year to December 31, 2011, as they do not have a way to pay the billions of dollars in funding owed to public universities, educational institutions, local governments and human service vendors. Yet, I remain optimistic, despite the inaction and uncertainty surrounding our legislature. The reason is, what NIU has going for us is the undeniably strong combined expertise of our President, John Peters, and Executive Vice Presidents Ray Alden and Eddie Williams. Combined, they have over a hundred years of first-hand budget experience at the university level, with over 55 of those years here at NIU. No other public university in Illinois can claim this depth of leadership, wisdom and understanding to meet the state's fiscal challenges and lack of decision-making head-on. NIU will not only continue to operate in FY12, but it will flourish and grow.

This meeting also marks the second anniversary of my election as Board Chair. Two years ago, I remarked that I expected my tenure to be marked by respect, transparency and accountability. The Vision 2020 Initiative is a manifestation of those goals, and I am looking forward to the workshop session we will have after our Board meeting today. I also mentioned, two years ago, that the profound impact the state's fiscal problems would have on NIU would be the biggest challenge we would face together. Despite these challenges, and consistent with looking forward, we have found the will and means to embark on campus renovations and additions. We will hear more about these exciting opportunities during our workshop this afternoon. Suffice it to say, NIU will not stand still while Springfield figures out a solution to the state's fiscal crisis. We must continue to find ways to anticipate, adapt and master our own future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair asked Board General Counsel Jerry Blakemore 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. Blakemore noted that he had received no timely requests to address this Board 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, May 12, to consider four action items and two information items. All action items were approved for consideration by the full Board today. The meeting was of particular importance for faculty because the committee considered Recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure and Promotions with Tenure for the 2011-2012 Academic Year. Those recommendations were supported by the committee and are on today's agenda. Discussion was held on the reorganization plan in the College of Education relating to a request for a change in the Ed.D. in Educational Psychology degree designation. The committee supported advancing the proposal to the full Board with the understanding that the Provost's Office and College of Education would respond to several questions and concerns raised at the meeting prior to its consideration today. The final action item was a request for a new Minor in Theatre Studies. Information was provided regarding the request to increase the regional delivery fee for the Off-Campus R.N. Degree Completion Program in the School of Nursing and Health Studies. And an update was given on the visit and review of the Higher Learning Commission.

Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee

Committee Chair Manny Sanchez reported that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee met on Thursday, May 12. At that meeting, the committee considered and approved the recommendations for Fiscal Year 2012 Internal Operating Budget Interim Approval, six FY12 contract renewals and open orders, the School of Nursing Fee request, three grant purchases, capital budget approval of campus noninstructional modernization projects, and separate agreements with the NIU Foundation and the NIU Alumni Association. The committee also received the following information reports: Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000, Periodic Report on Investments, Semiannual Progress Report of Active Capital Projects in Excess of \$100,000. The recommendation items addressed by the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee are included in the Presidents' Report that President's Peters will present today for Board approval.

Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Cheryl Murer reported that the Legislation, Audit and External Affairs Committee met on May 12 in DeKalb. The LAEA Committee has been reviewing the issue of domestic partner benefits for the past year, she noted. Early this spring, Illinois passed the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act, and our committee tasked Dr. Steven Cunningham with the job of making sure NIU policies were in compliance with state law. Today our committee presents for the full Board's consideration these *Regulations* changes with the modification Trustee Butler suggested during our committee discussion. I also want to thank Dr. Cunningham for an extraordinary amount of work over a 12-month period and the detail and attention that has been put forth in assuring that we are compliant with the law.

Ms. Buettner gave an overview of legislation being debated in Springfield detailing the stumbling blocks the budget process has encountered. Along with assistance from Dr. Cunningham, she explained what some of the future changes to the State Universities Retirement System might look like. Bob Albanese and Keith Jackson made a presentation to the committee concerning the Fiscal Year 2010 audit findings. We are very pleased to report that there were no findings issued for the financial audit, and NIU had only five findings under the compliance audit.

Jennice O'Brien, NIU's Director of Web Communications, gave us an exciting demonstration of NIU's Blackboard Mobile application, which goes live in app stores this summer. Our students will be able to obtain this application as a free download on their smartphones to access information like NIU schedules, sport scores, Huskie Bus information, *NIU Today* news headlines, videos and photos, as well as the Blackboard academic components they currently access through NIU's web site. When queried about this, Ms. O'Brien reported that NIU is leading in this type of technology and very few universities have developed it yet. So, this is really a marvelous step forward for the university and accessibility for its students. I would like to finally continue to commend Vice President Buettner and her remarkable media and PR staff for maintaining 90 percent of the work in-house, and not only maintaining it in-house, but exceeding expectations of quality and distribution. Communication is one of the most important things we do, and we continue to have the name, the image and the vision of NIU out in the public.

Illinois Board of Higher Education

President Peters reported that there had been two meetings of the Illinois Board of Higher Education since the last Board of Trustees meeting. The most recent occurred on Tuesday, June 7, at St. Augustine College in Chicago. Of the items discussed that are of interest to this Board, there was a general review of the budget and also consideration going forward of how the IBHE would lead the effort to develop performance and outcome measures, which are mandated by new state legislation. The meeting I want to focus on occurred April 12 at NIU Naperville, and that was the first time in many years that Northern Illinois University has played host to the IBHE. Those people who visited our campus for the first time in Naperville were quite impressed with how magnificent that facility is. When hosting the IBHE, it is the custom for the President to give a welcome and a bit of a description of the activities of the institution. However, I deferred to Anne Kaplan, Vice President Administration and University Outreach, who oversees all of our satellite campuses, to give the opening. At that time, we showed them the four-minute video that we are now going to play for you.

The audio of the video was as follows:

Narrator: Serving the northern Illinois and Chicagoland region since 1895, Northern Illinois University has always extended its mission beyond the gates of its main campus in DeKalb. A nationally recognized leader in outreach and engagement, NIU links the resources and expertise of this vibrant global region to the academic and research aspirations of its students and faculty. NIU's three state-of-the-art education centers in Hoffman Estates, Rockford and Naperville provide the platform for the regional engagement initiatives. The regional centers offer graduate, undergraduate and certificate programs to meet the needs of adult learners and the regional workforce. The convenient locations of the education centers make it possible for working adults to continue their educations while juggling multiple demands on their time.

Individual 1 (female): "Most of us don't have the opportunity to change our job or our location to be able to pursue our educational dreams. And location's everything."

Narrator: The most recent addition to NIU's complement of bachelor's degree completion programs in the Bachelor of Science in Applied Management. Public safety professionals can now complete their bachelor's degree in a program especially designed for them.

Individual 2 (male): "I like the fact that without having to drive to DeKalb, which that would have been a deal breaker for me, when I'm done, I'm going to have a diploma that's from a school that means something to me."

Instructor 1: "We're partnering with various corporations. We're partnering with various educational institutions in the region so that it's not just us out there being by our self. It's us in a collaborative to make sure that we are encompassing an area and giving them all of the advantages and benefits of a higher education."

Narrator: Collaboration with regional partners is a core value of NIU's Outreach and Engagement mission. Strong partnerships with the 26 community colleges in the university service region help to create a seamless transition from two-year institutions to NIU.

Individual 3 (female): NIU realizes it's uniquely positioned to be this major university surrounded by this unbelievable number of vibrant, growing community colleges. And the conversation has always been about if we all work together, this unbelievable power we would have to really shape higher education for northern Illinois.

Narrator: In addition to a wide array of educational programs, NIU's regional education centers provide a conducive environment for area leaders to convene for strategic planning and professional development opportunities. NIU Rockford houses the university's first Office of Regional Engagement dedicated to the pursuit of a community specific engagement agenda. NIU faculty, staff and students work with regional partners on business innovation, information technology expansion, public school improvements and many other collaborative projects.

Individual 4 (male): NIU is outstanding at collaborating in the region and it's not just been a recent phenomenon. For decades, whether it was through the Center for Governmental Studies all the way through to NIUNet, which is a large band fiber network, has allowed many of us to connect our communities through NIUNet for a redundant computer backup. NIU has been a regional partner, a regional collaborator, for decades.

Narrator: NIU's academic, research and engagement missions come to life in countless ways in the living laboratory of northern Illinois and Chicagoland. In collaboration with its partners, NIU is helping to insure continuing growth, progress and vitality for the region and the state.

So, the higher education community not only saw our beautiful facility in Naperville, but they learned quite a bit about our outreach programs under the direction of Anne Kaplan, and we thank her.

Universities Civil Service Merit Board

Trustee Robert Marshall, BOT Liaison to the Civil Service Merit Board, reported that the board met on Wednesday, May 18, at the State University's Civil Service System Office in Urbana. Four new Merit Board members were introduced: Patricia Holmes from the University of Illinois, Bruce Freifeld from Governors State University, Donna Mannering from Southern Illinois University and myself representing NIU. The Merit Board granted the discharge of an Illinois State University and a Northern Illinois University employee. The Merit Board also reinstated a University of Illinois employee at Champaign-Urbana without a 60-day suspension and upheld its reinstatement decision against appeal. The Merit Board heard a report from Barney Bryson, Chair of the State Universities Civil Service Advisory Committee and from Maureen Parks, representative of the Human Resources Directors Advisory Committee. Additional reports included the Assistant Director of Legal Services updating the Merit Board on some outstanding legal matters. Among those was a report on 56 written charges that had been brought in during 2011 for discharge and have been served on employees. Of those 56 cases, 17 employees had requested hearings.

Chairperson of the commission, Mr. Morelock, updated the Merit Board on Senate Bill 1150, which would have amended the State Universities Civil Service Act. Many of the changes are technical except for Section 36e, which dealt with the exemption of positions from civil service guidelines. That bill is still in committee and was not called in the legislative cycle. Public comments for and against the bill were heard by the Merit Board. The chairperson also updated the Merit Board on the status of the FY12 operating budget and on the Public Officials Errors and Omissions Insurance Policy for FY12. The next meeting of the Merit Board is scheduled for August 17 at the university system office.

NIU Foundation

NIU Foundation Liaisons Boey and Murer deferred to Mallory Simpson, President of the NIU Foundation, for this report. At your last meeting, Dennis Barsema talked with you and told you about a gift that an accountancy alumnus, Dean DuCray, had made, Ms. Simpson said. That was a million dollar gift and part of it was to be used as a challenge. I am pleased to tell you that the challenge is working its magic already. Endowment pledges have been received from three new donors, alumni who have established new endowments as a result of that challenge. Despite the troubling economy, we are seeing a rebound at Northern and certainly a rebound in giving across the country. Our overall giving is up about ten percent this year from the same time last year. But the great news is that giving from alumni, which had seen a precipitous drop across the country, has doubled this year compared to last year at this time.

Our planned giving program hit the road this spring, a new venture for us. John Sentovich and Judy Schneider conducted their first out-of-state estate planning seminar in Phoenix. They report success of their test run both in terms of reconnecting and developing relationships with alumni and creating genuine interest in their estate planning program. Next year's test program will be in the state of Florida in March.

Dave and Linda Nelson are certainly not names as new donors, but these double Huskies have added another extraordinarily thoughtful and generous major gift to the university. They have created a \$100,000 endowment to support a new kind of scholarship program. It is a university-wide scholarship to help students who are in danger of having to leave school for financial reasons and those students who may not qualify for other scholarships that have some academic merit as a component. President Peters announced the designation of a charitable remainder unitrust that John Castle had established a number of years ago. He and his wife Nancy have decided to designate that charitable remainder trust for support for the Honors Program to encourage faculty and students to have more expanded study abroad opportunities. John loves the idea of giving honor students who are, in his words, "very bright, very curious and who have a lot of imagination" the ability to grow and flourish through international opportunities.

Jaymie and Harry Simmon had a wonderful experience on campus recently in April when they visited for the Undergraduate Research and Artistry Poster Day on campus. We spent several hours going through 123 student's presentations, and they were overwhelmed with the passion, the enthusiasm and the dedication of the students and faculty participating. After a conversation with one of the students who impressed them the most, we asked what his class level was at Northern. He was a freshman. He was 17 years old, but he was phenomenal. The Simmon's were so impressed with these students that they decided to create a named fund and made a \$25,000 pledge to enable more new students to be Research Rookies. More students will have a chance to have a research experience in their first year on campus. Jaymie also is vice chair of the NIU Foundation Board, and tomorrow at our Board meeting, she is leading a new brainstorming session that she is calling "Who Let the DOGs Out?" DOGs is the acronym for Development Opportunities Group. It is designed to generate ideas about how best to unleash additional help from our board members in the development process. This stems from her participation in the Vision 2020 Initiative and the imperative for increasing our private support. We need to tackle that challenge of increasing private support in as many ways as we can, and she is leading the charge with the Foundation Board of Directors.

Lastly, as you know, our students are very grateful for all the help they have received. I have a seven minute DVD, which we do not have time for today, so I put one at each Trustee's place. Do not let it get lost in the shuffle. I encourage you to watch it, and make sure you have the Kleenex box nearby. You will be very moved by the impact that private support is having on our students as our students thank our donors in their own words. These were student actors who were reading excerpts from real scholarship letters to scholarship donors.

Northern Illinois Research Foundation

Chair Strauss reported that the Northern Illinois Research Foundation Board did not meet, but are scheduled to meet again in September.

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. 75, Action Items 10.a.(2), (3), (6), (7), (9), (11) and (12), and the receipt of Information Items 10.b.(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7) and (8), and 10.c.(4). Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Sorsby. The motion was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 74

President Peters welcomed everyone, especially the new Trustees, to the meeting. The last few weeks have proven exceedingly busy for the NIU administration and staff, he said. We have been grappling with the decisions that were made or left unresolved by the Illinois General Assembly regarding future pension benefits for current employees, annuitant healthcare benefit changes, a reduction to our operating base budget for Fiscal Year 2012, procurement reform, and a new emphasis on performance based funding and outcome measures, just to name the most significant. Pension reform in Springfield remains the single most important issue affecting every employee and annuitant here at NIU and in the public higher education systems. The good news is that it seems any further changes to be enacted will not affect any pension earnings accrued to this date by employees. However, change in the way the State's five pension systems are administered going forward appears to be a certainty. Increased employee contributions, later retirement age, and switching from a defined benefit type formula to a plan similar to a corporate 401(k) are among the changes that continue to be discussed and debated. While the General Assembly set aside consideration of Senate Bill 512, the main pension reform legislation, it is clear from comments made by Speaker of the House Mike Madigan and House Republican Leader Tom Cross that this was only the beginning of the discussion on the topic, and they have promised hearings during the summer with the goal of revisiting the issue in the fall veto session which begins October 25. We are monitoring that, and I will be speaking soon to the State Annuitants Association on this issue.

Any changes approved by the legislature on this issue are almost certain to face court challenges, and many argue that the State Constitution forbids midstream changes in State employee pension programs. Any proposal that would have ended free healthcare for annuitants with 20 or more years of service was also shelved temporarily. The plan would have instituted a new system under which all retirees would be required to pay a percentage of their health insurance costs. It would have established a sliding scale taking into account years of service, age of retirement and size of the state pension collected as a measure of ability to pay. While this was set aside, it is another issue that will likely be revisited this fall.

As the legislative session concluded, the General Assembly passed a budget which calls for a 1.15 percent operating base reduction for NIU for Fiscal Year 2012. It is almost a relief considering some of the cuts we have endured in the past and some of the cuts that were proposed northward of 10 percent during the session. However, as has been the case in recent years, cash flow proves to be our most daunting challenge. With two weeks remaining in Fiscal Year 2011, we have received only 58 percent of the money that was appropriated to us. So our budgetary hole is much deeper today than it was one year ago, and we see no last minute influx of revenue on the horizon to make up the difference. The State has postponed the Fiscal Year 2011 closing date until December 31, 2011, extending the deadline to make up what it owes. But where that money will come from is unclear. We do not foresee this situation improving any time soon. If anything, it will get worse as we start Fiscal Year 2012 saddled with last year's debts and facing a future of revenue trickling in rather than flowing in at a rate we can plan for. In addition to these issues, we must remain cognizant of our student enrollment numbers as tuition revenues are critical to the continued operational stability of this university. Student recruitment and retention are a priority not only for me, but for every single member of our faculty and staff. You will hear much more from me on this topic this fall as we begin to intensify the NIU brand in the northern

Illinois region. We are all brand ambassadors, and the success of this great university rests with each and every one of us.

The cash flow crisis has forced the university to scramble all year, living from paycheck to paycheck, as we struggle to meet our \$18 million monthly payroll, which is always our top priority. To insure that we can continue to do so, all of the cost control measures that have been standard operating procedure for the past few years will remain in place indefinitely and new areas will continue to be explored. As was indicated by our Chair, Marc Strauss, I want to thank Dr. Williams and his staff, Ray Alden and the deans, and all the individuals who worked so hard to help us meet payroll and serve our students.

Like other public universities, NIU is faced with no additional funding from the State to offset unavoidable cost increases on goods, services and utilities, costly yet unfunded State mandates, and a serious backlog of deferred maintenance that demands attention to prevent our infrastructure from crumbling. Countless students, faculty and staff, alumni, and prospective students and their parents have commented to me over the last few years that we simply must address this escalating deferred maintenance problem. Campus beautification and deferred maintenance have hit a crisis point and we can no longer put off critical repairs and maintenance. As you probably noticed, campus construction is everywhere this summer. I am so proud of our building and facilities and maintenance staff for their extraordinary effort and dedication to beautifying our campus environment for the enjoyment of our students, alums, faculty and staff. Our campus environment provides a first impression for many potential students and their families as well as alums, and we can no longer afford to cut back expenditures for deferred maintenance and campus beautification. So even though we have cut back to make sure we make payroll and fund other needs, I have heard your comments, and we are putting resources into this critical need.

Despite the fact that the State has not honored its financial obligations to public universities along with many other human service providers, NIU will not fail our students, their families, our alumni and the good people we serve throughout this region. As I have said before, we will emerge, we are a strong institution and a better institution as a result of the prudent planning we have done, the careful financial management and the unparalleled commitment to our students and alumni.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 10.a.(1) – Fiscal Year 2012 Internal Operating Budget Interim Approval

Illinois statute requires us to have Board approval for a Fiscal Year 2012 Internal Operating Budget before we can expend any new funds beginning July 1 of this fiscal year, the President said. Since we are still uncertain how the State will manage its fund obligations to NIU and other universities, this item provides interim approval from the Board to allow continued operations after July 1 until we are able to gain a better sense of the actual payment schedule from the State in Fiscal Year 2012. I anticipate bringing a formal internal operating budget approval item to the Board's September meeting. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the FY12 Internal Operating Budget Interim Approval. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Iosco. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.a.(2) – Fiscal Year 2012 Gasoline 10 Percent Ethanol Blend

Agenda Item 10.a.(3) – Fiscal Year 2012 Materials Management Central Stores Commodities Contract Renewal

Consent Agenda items..

Agenda Item 10.a.(4) – Fiscal Year 2012 ITS Telecommunications Services Cellular Services Open Order

Agenda Item 10.a.(5) – Fiscal Year 2012 ITS Telecommunications Services Communication Services Open Order

These two items are similar, President Peters said. Agenda Item 10.a.(4) requests permission to issue an open order for voice data cellular services and equipment that the university departments may rent for use by faculty and staff on university business. Agenda Item 10.a.(5) requests permission to use an

open order to provide NIU with local landline communications services for telephone, Internet and inbound and outbound services. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the FY12 ITS Telecommunications Services Cellular Services Open Order and the FY12 ITS Telecommunications Services Communication Services Open Order. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Sorsby. The Chair then asked for a roll call vote on the motion which was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Butler	Yes
Trustee Iosco	Yes	Trustee Marshall	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Trustee Sanchez	Yes
Student Trustee Sorsby	Yes	Chair Strauss	Abstain

The motion was approved with seven voting yes and one abstention.

Agenda Item 10.a.(6) – Fiscal Year 2012 ITS Telecommunications Services - Telephone Hardware Maintenance Contract Renewal

Agenda Item 10.a.(7) – Fiscal Year 2012 Waste Management and Utilities Solid Waste Removal and Recycling at NIU DeKalb Contract Renewal

Consent Agenda items.

Agenda Item 10.a.(8) – School of Nursing Fee for Off-Campus Nursing Degree Completion Program

School of Nursing Fee for Off-Campus Degree Completion Program.

Regional delivery fees are charged for classes offered at off-campus locations to help defray the cost of travel and other expenses associated with serving students in the region, Dr. Peters said. There has been a skyrocketing demand for nursing degrees in our region. The increased regional demands for the program require an increase in personnel for course coverage at off-campus sites and the proposed fee will enable the School of Nursing to hire regular faculty rather than relying on adjuncts for course coverage at off-campus sites. The proposed fee increase for the School of Nursing Off-Campus Degree Completion Program will support faculty travel to community college sites and further online course development. The fee increase will be effective January of 2012. Chair Strauss requested a motion to approve the School of Nursing Fee for Off-Campus Nursing Degree Completion Program. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Iosco. The motion was approved.

Making sure that we have enough nurses to provide healthcare when we are seeing a new delivery system coming about in the next several years is critical, Trustee Murer, commented, so I commend the university for this action.

Agenda Item 10.a.(9) – One Card Upgrade

Consent Agenda Item.

Agenda Item 10.a.(10) – College of Engineering and Engineering Technology ICDM Program Research and Manufacturing Services Amendment

This item has been rewritten since the Board's discussion at the committee level, Dr. Peters said, and I want to extend a special thanks to Dr. Alden, Lisa Freeman and Dean Vohra for developing this new template to bring complicated and complex academic grant purchase subcontract issues to the Board. I am requesting that all future Board items involving these types of contract and grant issues be brought in a similar manner for the Board's review and approval. The combined ROCK and ICDM Programs have had significant involvement with 25 Rockford area companies and 22 other companies in the greater northern Illinois region. The work completed by Spider Company has exceeded expectations; however an expanded scope is required to complete the work required by the NIU contract with DOD. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology ICDM

Program Research and Manufacturing Services Amendment. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.a.(11) – Department of Geology and Environmental Geosciences WISSARD Project Support

Agenda Item 10.a.(12) – Projects Related to Campus Noninstructional Modernization and Capacity Improvement Construction Budget Approval

Consent Agenda items.

Agenda Item 10.a.(13) – Agreement with Northern Illinois University Foundation

Agenda Item 10.a.(14) – Agreement with Northern Illinois University Alumni Association

Much work has been put into drafting these proposed agreements between the university and the NIU Foundation and the NIU Alumni Association, President Peters said. Both organizations are separate and distinct entities from the university and have their own boards and independent corporate status. They are by state statute and Legislative Audit Commission Guidelines considered University-Related Organization (UROs). Therefore, the importance of formal agreements between the university and both the Foundation and the Alumni Association Boards is significant and considered best practice within Illinois and higher education in general. I want to thank everyone over the years who has worked on this to bring it to this point.

I want to compliment both of these UROs, Trustee Sanchez commented. Over the last several decades, the incredibly important role that both organizations play, especially in these economically challenging times, has been extraordinary. To see in the last couple of decades the cooperative efforts that both organizations bring for the benefit of the greater university family has been extraordinary. I am pleased that this is now finite in agreements so that it is crystal clear that they have their individual missions, yet their broader missions for this university, from which we all benefit. This is a wonderful development and one that I strongly support.

It has taken a long time to complete these agreements, Chair Strauss said. I want to second the thanks to all of those who made this happen. On a going forward basis, since we now are recognizing the separateness of the Alumni Association, I want to request that we also allow them the same opportunity we allow the Foundation to provide a brief report at our regular meetings beginning with the meeting of the full Board on September 15.

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the Agreement with the Northern Illinois University Foundation and the Agreement with the Northern Illinois University Alumni Association. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Iosco. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.a.(15) – Recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotion with Tenure for 2011-2012 Academic Year

It is a privilege for me to bring the Recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotions with Tenure annually, President Peters stated. The Board knows what a long and arduous process it is to evaluate our faculty and make these determinations. This year there are 41 members of our faculty on the list. Chair Strauss requested a motion to approve the Recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotions with Tenure for the 2011-2012 Academic Year. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Iosco. The motion was approved.

This is the essence of who we are and what we do here, Trustee Murer commented. We appreciate the review of these individuals and that each of them has risen to the bar set by the Provost and the deans.

Agenda Item 10.a.(16) – Reorganization in the College of Education

The university is requesting approval of a reorganization within the College of Education, the President said. This involves a departmental name change from the Department of Teaching and Learning to the

Department of Special and Early Education, the relocation of several degree programs and certificates to other departments within the college, and transfer of the tenure and tenure track location of several faculty within those departments. The Academic Affairs Committee heard a very detailed presentation from Dean Neal, and I want to commend the College of Education faculty in these units and their leadership for their careful analysis and recommendations through our academic system of approvals. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the Reorganization in the College of Education. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.a.(17) – Request for a Change in Degree Designation

There was also considerable discussion and follow up on this request for a change in the current degree designator from the Ed.D. in Educational Psychology to a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology within the Department of Leadership, Education, Psychology and Foundations within the College of Education.

Trustee Murer mentioned that she had asked for further clarification at the time of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee (AASAP) meeting, and deferred to AASAP Committee Chair Butler on what information had been received.

The Provost's Office, with the help of the College of Education, prepared a supplemental information briefing, which I subsequently returned to them after talking to some Trustees and asked for further clarification on a group of subjects Trustee Butler stated. I have that document with me, and it was emailed to the Trustees prior to the meeting. It contained answers to a number of the questions that were asked at the AASAP Committee meeting, as well as several questions that I added later.

Also, Trustee Murer commented, since I posed the question at the committee meeting, I would like to hear from the Provost on whether or not he feels that the questions I posed during the committee meeting have satisfactorily been responded to and whether or not this is his recommendation.

Yes, Provost Alden said, I believe this will benefit the students in our region. We are moving towards providing a degree that will be much more marketable for the graduates of that particular program simply because of the direction that field is taking in this country. The supplementary document indicates that 93 percent of all programs in Educational Psychology are Ph.D. rather than Ed.D., and we wanted to make sure that our students had that advantage.

In answer to a query posed on whether the university had sufficient capability to move forward with the transition from an applied to a research based degree, the Provost stated that the department had been planning this transition for a number of years, has the courses in place, and has the requirements and the faculty in place. The external review, which my office has done of all new doctoral programs, he said, had external experts concurring that the college is ready to make the move and that they had the financial resources and human resources to make that transition. I am convinced that they are poised and ready to go.

Chair Strauss requested a motion to approve the Request for a Change in Degree Designation from the Ed.D. in Educational Psychology to a Ph.D. in Educational Psychology within the Department of Leadership, Education, Psychology and Foundations within the College of Education. Trustee Butler so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.a.(18) – Request for a New Minor

The university is requesting Board approval to offer a Minor in Theatre Studies to be administered by the School of Theatre and Dance within the College of Visual and Performing Arts, President Peters said, in order to allow students outside the school the opportunity to gain a comprehensive introduction to dramatic literature and history, performance design and theater technology. Students enrolled in the minor would complete a minimum of 25 semester hours of study in theater design, technology, dramatic literature and performance. No new resources are required to implement this new minor. Chair Strauss

asked for a motion to approve the request to offer a Minor in Theatre Studies. Trustee Sanchez so moved, seconded by Trustee Iosco. The motion as approved.

Agenda Item 10.a.(19) – Bringing NIU Policies and Regulations into Compliance with Public Act 96-1513

This Board has spent considerable time over the past 18 months discussing the university's policies, practice and Board *Regulations* as it relates to the benefits available to people in civil unions, President Peters stated. Governor Quinn signed into law the Illinois Religious Freedom Protection and Civil Union Act on February 1, 2011. The new act took effect June 1, 2011 and provides procedures for certification and registration of civil unions, and outlines obligations, responsibilities, protections and benefits of individuals entering into a civil union. Dr. Steve Cunningham and General Counsel Jerry Blakemore have developed the necessary amendments to the Board *Regulations* in order to comply with Public Act No. 96-1513. The item before the Board today reflects changes made to the proposed amendments distributed to the Board at its Legislation, Audit and External Affairs (LAEA) Committee in May.

To reiterate what Dr. Peters said, Chair Murer commented, we have spent an extraordinary amount of time being very sensitive to these issues and trying to be as inclusive as possible in responding to not only the letter of the law, but more equally, the spirit of the law in Illinois regarding civil unions. So I am pleased that we were able, through our LAEA Committee, to present this today.

I am able to speak entirely positively on this subject, Trustee Butler remarked, and I want to start by thanking Trustee Murer. Had she not facilitated such a civil and democratic Board discussion of the domestic partner issue at our LAEA Committee meetings, during which many important nuances of benefits and residency status were revealed and the complexities of them made clear to the Board, we would have a far less comprehensive and thoughtful set of policy changes. That process stemmed from some earlier work by the President's Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, which had some time ago put forward a set of amendments much like those we have today. That was then taken on by Steve Cunningham, Deborah Haliczner, Jerry Blakemore and Norden Gilbert to produce this final document, which is probably the most impressive inclusion of the civil union concept in higher education in the State of Illinois. I am very pleased with this and want to thank the Board for joining with me in a tough and difficult conversation. My thanks goes to the university, and particularly to President Peters, for making things much clearer about what is and is not covered and what we do.

I want to add my gratitude to my colleagues on the Board, Chair Strauss commented. This has been an example of how a subject matter that was not native to all of us was dealt with in a very thoughtful way that evidenced the commitment of the people on the Board. We had excellent support from all of the people who provided us with information to reach a successful conclusion. Chair Strauss requested a motion to approve the proposed NIU Policies and Board *Regulations* amendments in compliance with Public Act 96-1513. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Sanchez.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES

Agenda Item 10.b.(1) – Center for Governmental Studies Content Management Software Package

Agenda Item 10.b.(2) – Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000

Agenda Item 10.b.(3) – Periodic Report on Investments

Agenda Item 10.b.(4) – Semiannual Progress Report of Active Capital Projects

Agenda Item 10.b.(5) – The Higher Learning Commission Off-Campus Site Visit

Agenda Item 10.b.(6) – 97th General Assembly Report

Agenda Item 10.b.(7) – Congressional Report

Agenda Item 10.b.(8) – Summary of Audit Findings and Corrective Actions implemented-Fiscal Year 2010

Consent Agenda items.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 10.c.(1) – Fiscal Year 2012 Tuition Recommendations

Each year the university carefully reviews and evaluates tuition charges in order to recommend tuition rates that will generate adequate resources necessary to support the quality of academic programs and services provided by the university and yet remain consistent with our commitment to affordability and access, President Peters stated. As a state institution, our tuition costs are directly correlated with state support for NIU's operating budget, which has been a challenge. Despite the fact that NIU is owed \$101 million from the State this fiscal year, \$43 million of those funds, as I indicated previously, have not yet been transferred to NIU. With only two weeks left in the fiscal year, how are we going to keep our doors open, our lights on and our students learning? Only through creative budgeting, extensive internal reallocation and the use of every last tuition dollar our students pay. Gone are the meager reserves we were able to set aside for a rainy day. We cannot possibly raise tuition to a level to offset the State's delinquency in State support levels, nor should we ever contemplate that. NIU is a State university. We used to be a State-funded university, then we were State supported, now we are State-assisted. Our role and mission in the region is to provide a high-quality, first-rate higher education at the baccalaureate, masters and doctors level for the people of Illinois. We will not fail them, despite the State's problems. Today's tuition recommendation represents a 6.8 percent increase for incoming students only. This is hard for the people of Illinois, even policymakers, to understand. That represents approximately 28 percent of our student body. Nearly 72 percent of NIU students are considered continuing and will not see their tuition increase one penny, yet the media will not report that. Currently, NIU guarantees tuition rates for up to nine consecutive semesters and then makes a slight adjustment, extending similar tuition rates for another two years to all students. That means a family can plan. They know what their rate is going to be for nine-plus semesters. So our new rate is equivalent to a 1.6 percent increase in tuition each year. The rate of inflation for a higher education price index is higher than the CPI, and that also must be figured into the tuition rate.

With the new Truth-in-Tuition regulations, tuition rates are virtually guaranteed for six years, which makes this recommended tuition increase approximately 1.1 percent per year. This, by no means, covers even our annual increases and operating costs, much less provides opportunities for NIU to enhance or invest in new initiatives that students are seeking. A 6.0 percent increase in tuition for incoming students will generate approximately \$4 million in new revenue at NIU. Where will NIU allocate these funds? If we allocate every cent of the new tuition revenue to relieving the burden of our major State unfunded mandates, this new money will not cover even one-half of the State's annual \$11 million tab for new and continuing mandates with which we are required to comply. Or, we could apply the funds to help offset the State's lack of appropriated fund payments where \$4 million is not even 10 percent of what is currently owed to us, and that is about a week's worth of payroll. Or, we could offset the annual increases and operating costs in commodities and utilities where we spend millions annually keeping the lights on and the temperature comfortable. You now see the challenge NIU administrators face to stretch our precious dollars to cover critical operating expenses that the university faces daily. Also, the need for a much deserved salary increase for our top notch faculty and staff has not been addressed.

I bring this recommendation of a 6.8 percent tuition increase today with a sense of determination. We cannot and will not balance our operating budget on the backs of our students and their families. We are called upon to make hard decisions in allocating our scarce and meager resources. Fiscal Year 2012 will be even more challenging than our current fiscal year because the \$43 million the State now owes us will roll forward. There is no magic pot of new money coming in on July 1. Instead, we anticipate the problems to compound monthly unless the State revenues increase. NIU will do its part in making the hard decisions and focusing on the future. We will invest in key and current new areas where students have told us they want and need programs and facilities. We will invest in beautification. We will cut back in areas where demand is low. We must do our part as we ask students to do theirs, and together we must work to convince our policymakers in Springfield to provide for revenues to fund the role and mission of the State's public universities.

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the FY12 Tuition Recommendation of 6.8 percent for incoming students. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.c.(2) – New Appointments

President Peters stated that the university wishes to appoint Dr. Bradley Bond as Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for Graduate Studies, and to appoint Mary Pritchard as Interim Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences effective immediately. Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve these two new appointments. Trustee Boey so moved, seconded by Trustee Iosco. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 10.c.(3) – Collective Bargaining Agreement

Agenda Item 10.c.(4) – Grant and Contract Awards

Consent Agenda items.

CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 50

Agenda Item 11.a. – Executive Session Minutes Release

The Illinois Open Meetings Act requires public bodies to review the minutes of their executive sessions on a semiannual basis and determine what parts of the minutes they should make available to the public because they no longer require confidential treatment. Upon review and advice of the Board's General Counsel and Parliamentarian, Chair Strauss reported, no further minutes from executive session meetings will be released at this time. Those sections which are still subject to confidentiality, together with sections from subsequent meetings, will be considered again in six months. The Chair then asked for a motion to approve this review and determination as stated in the action item. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Student Trustee Sorsby. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 11.b. – Resolution Honoring Student Trustee Robert Sorsby

This item contains a resolution honoring Robert Sorsby, our outgoing Student Trustee, the Chair said. I want to personally thank you again, Robert, for your leadership and service to this Board of Trustees. You have been a valued member of this Board, and a good representative for the students. Their viewpoints have been heard because of your insight and perspective. On behalf of my colleagues, I request a motion to approve the Resolution before you today honoring Robert's contributions to the Board. Chair Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

The resolution read as follows:

RESOLUTION HONORING STUDENT TRUSTEE ROBERT SORSBY

WHEREAS, Robert Sorsby has faithfully served as a student member of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 and

WHEREAS, prior to his election as student trustee in 2010, Robert Sorsby served in many capacities at Northern Illinois University, including President of the Student Association, Director of Mass Transit for the Student Association and Student Association Senator; and

WHEREAS, Robert has received the Student Involvement and Leadership Development Junior Leadership Award and Institutional Waiver, the Student Association Distinguished Senator of the Year Award and other awards and honors during his time at Northern Illinois University; and

WHEREAS, Robert Sorsby invested much time and energy in his studies at Northern Illinois University as an undergraduate student, as well as in service to students; and

WHEREAS, Robert has contributed valuable insight and information to the Board of Trustees regarding the student perspective on the rising cost of tuition, and striving to maintain NIU's

affordability despite budget reductions from the state; and

WHEREAS, we, as his colleagues on the Board of Trustees, want to express our appreciation for his service to the NIU students and community; and

WHEREAS, we are proud of his graduation from Northern Illinois University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in May 2011; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University in formal meeting herein assembled, extends its grateful appreciation to Robert Sorsby for his leadership and service to Northern Illinois University students and the Board of Trustees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this **RESOLUTION** be presented to Robert Sorsby and a copy of this document be placed in the official files of the Board of Trustees as part of the permanent record of the university and the great State of Illinois and as a lasting tribute to the accomplishments of Robert Sorsby.

Adopted in a regular meeting assembled this **9th** day of **June 2011**.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

Marc J. Strauss
Chair

Robert T. Boey
Secretary



The fact that Robert Sorsby had a job waiting for him before he graduated speaks volumes to who he is today, Trustee Boey remarked. Congratulations once again.

Agenda Item 11.c. – First Reading - Amendment to *Bylaws* of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University

As soon as our new General Counsel arrived on campus, Trustee Strauss said, President Peters and I requested that Mr. Blakemore conduct a thorough review of the Board's *Bylaws* to ensure they are consistent with changes in state statutes, university policy and practice, and administrative restructuring over the last decade. I also asked Mr. Blakemore to review comparable university Board *Bylaws* in the areas of Board committee structures, responsibilities of each committee, election of Board officers, and selection and future evaluation of a President, to name a few.

Mr. Blakemore has now completed such a review and determined that several of our Board *Bylaws* require updating to maintain compliance with statutory, regulatory and university structural changes over the last decade. Mr. Blakemore has drafted a revised set of Board *Bylaws* for our review and discussion. The suggested topics may not be exhaustive, and there may be other topics the Board wishes to consider as part of this review. The Board may choose to consider some changes now and others later. The Board may also decide not to spend time in a review. In making this request of Mr. Blakemore, it was my intention simply to afford the Board the opportunity to, in an organized way, consider topics related to the *Bylaws* that have presented issues over the last six years that I have served on this Board, and perhaps even longer than that. This draft is meant only to provide a framework for discussion.

Unless there is a suspension of the *Bylaws*, the bylaw changes require two readings in order to take effect. These are substantial issues that will govern our Board in the coming years and should be duly considered and discussed. Therefore, the proposed amendments to the Board *Bylaws* are included in your agenda materials today as an information/discussion item. It is my assumption that the Board is not prepared to act on any changes today. However, if my assumption is incorrect, we can discuss with Mr.

Blakemore how we should proceed. The Chair asked the Board members if there were any questions or comments related to the proposed amendments to the Board of Trustees *Bylaws*.

Trustee Butler stated that he had not been through a first reading of the bylaw changes in the past and asked what the appropriate procedure should be to talk about them. The Chair stated that discussion could be done line-by-line basis, or in a more general fashion with the expectation that there would be some response based on the subject areas of concern to Board members. If Board members have substantive areas that they wish to discuss today, that would certainly be possible as well. Mr. Blakemore did a good job of summarizing the major topics that I asked him to focus on. Some of those are in the text of the proposed bylaw revision.

In light of the fact that we will have two readings, Trustee Murer said, my suggestion is that we take the time to review the recommended changes which would allow the Trustees to dialogue with the General Counsel over the summer and be prepared with a stronger position for discussion in September. She also asked if what precipitated this was the need to assure that we are in compliance with any changes in Illinois law and also what is now custom and usage with state universities in the State of Illinois.

Mr. Blakemore explained that the time taken to vote on the *Bylaws* changes was at the pleasure of the Board. In order to facilitate that, after I have had an opportunity for specific discussions with individual Board members, he said, I will have the proposed revisions redlined indicating where changes are made. The first reading is more to initiate the discussion and lay out the initial proposals.

Chair Strauss that several things precipitated these changes. The need to be compliant with State law, or options available to us under State law that we never explicitly considered, and some are things that have happened as a matter of our experience over the last six years. There are questions that have come up over the time I have been on the Board, and it was my belief that we found unsatisfactory answers to those questions within our *Bylaws*. Therefore, I thought that it would be useful for us to have an explicit conversation about those items I knew about and also open it up more generally for concerns that other Board members might have.

In reply to a query regarding whether or not any significant modifications had been made to the *Bylaws*, Chair Strauss stated that during the time he had been on the Board there had been a few minor modifications to the *Bylaws*, but no systematic review of the contents. Trustee Boey said he could attest to the fact that the major portion of the Board of Trustees *Bylaws* came from the former Board of Regents System.

I want to thank Chair Strauss, Trustee Butler said, because I think these are very important items to discuss. He and I have had extensive discussions about several aspects of what is now the First Reading of amendments that represent a new vision for how the Board can conduct its business. I am in favor of a comprehensive review of the current BOT *Bylaws* focused on the material matters of Board governance and compliance. One of the concerns I have is that we need to think very carefully about some of the decisions we make with respect to altering the dates in which we do particular things, particularly the Board officer selection process. We will soon be talking about that, and I am certain that there will be a motion to put that conversation off, which I am not necessarily opposed to. I do think that one of the proposed changes could affect the annual date of that process, whether or not we commit as a Board to doing that in June. I want to state very clearly in this discussion that I think it is vital to the success of the Student Trustee, whoever that person may be, that they have a year to participate on the Board before they are asked to vote on something that is a highly consequential and important matter.

Before we leave this subject and go into our own personal reviews, I want to say to my colleagues that you take very seriously the importance of student representation that is fully informed and has the maximum amount of time to understand the Board issues and the personalities and concerns of the Board members. I am a huge proponent for the process of officer election to occur in June, even if today we decide to postpone it.

Trustee Butler asked Student Trustee Sorsby if he was comfortable with deferring the election since he was about to lose his vote. Student Trustee Sorsby replied that in terms of the vote, he was confident in deferring this responsibility to the incoming Student Trustee to make that decision. Also, being aware of the fact that Trustees Marshall and Iosco were new to the Board, and I want to make sure they would be comfortable in making such a decision, he said.

I have talked both with new Trustees, Marshall and Iosco, Trustee Butler said, and I agree with Student Trustee Sorsby that the major issue is that these gentlemen have just joined the Board, and it is important to me that they are comfortable moving forward. Otherwise, however, I do want to say that I think postponing something that we have done consistently for 15 years without exception is a dramatic action, but it is an action that I think is warranted in this particular case.

I have read this document, Trustee Boey commented. It is comprehensive and all inclusive, but there are a lot of things to reflect on. Since we have concluded the First Reading, I would like to make a motion that the Board defer our election of officers for Fiscal Year 2012 to the September 2011 meeting so that we can have a thorough discussion of all the *Bylaws* that include the one that amends our current election of officers. My motion will further state that the Board is suspending our existing *Bylaws* as they relate to the election of officers to allow for a September 15, 2011 election of officers due to the extensive amendments and discussions necessary to properly update our governance bylaws. Chair Strauss asked for a second to Trustee Boey's motion. Trustee Iosco seconded the motion. The Chair then asked for a roll call vote of the Trustees, which follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Butler	Yes
Trustee Iosco	Yes	Trustee Marshall	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Student Trustee Sorsby	Yes
Chair Strauss	Yes		

The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 11.d. – Fiscal Year 2012 Board of Trustees Officer Elections

This item was deferred until the September 15 Board of Trustees Meeting per motion by Trustee Boey, seconded by Trustee Iosco and a unanimous roll call vote.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The Chair announced that the next regular full Board meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2011 on the main campus in DeKalb.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no Other Matters, Chair Strauss entertained a motion to adjourn. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Iosco. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins
Recording Secretary