

Minutes of the
NIU Board of Trustees
FINANCE, FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS
COMMITTEE MEETING
March 3, 2011

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Robert Boey at 10:08 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 John Butler, Cherilyn Murer, Barbara Giorgi Vella, BOT Chair Marc Strauss and Committee Vice Chair Robert Boey. Not present were Trustees Manuel Sanchez and Myron Siegel. Also present were Student Trustee Robert Sorsby, Committee Liaison Eddie Williams, President John Peters and Acting Board Parliamentarian Gregory Brady. With a quorum present, the meeting proceeded.

VERIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Confirmation of Open Meetings Act notification compliance was given by Acting Board Parliamentarian Gregory Brady.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Trustee Strauss made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

It was moved by Trustee Murer and seconded by Trustee Vella to approve the minutes of August 26, 2010. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's agenda includes items of particular importance to the students and the university community as a whole, Vice Chair Boey said. Those action items include: recommendations for student fees and room and board rates for the upcoming year. These recommendations have been developed through a process involving students and staff, and the proposed fees and rates reflect the budget challenges that the university faces in Fiscal Year 2011-2012. Other action items on the agenda include 12 spending authorizations and contract renewals, a grant revision, a contract amendment, authorization for three campus capital projects and a lease renewal. Today's information items include reports on the salary stabilization initiative, Quarterly Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000, Periodic Report on Investments, and Update on the First Year Residence Hall Project.

The Vice Chair then recognized the presence of University Advisory Committee Representative Dr. Alan Rosenbaum.

PUBLIC COMMENT

The Chair asked Board Parliamentarian Gregory Brady if any members of the public had registered a written request to address the board in accordance with state law and the Board of Trustees *Bylaws*. Mr. Brady noted that no timely requests had been received to address this Board Committee meeting.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Agenda Item 7.a. – Fiscal Year 2012 Student Fee Recommendations

Again this year, Dr. Williams said, our process leading to the recommendations for Fiscal 2012 Student Fees includes, for each fee area, a representative committee that includes students and staff for the purpose of reviewing that fee area, evaluating expenditures and the needs of the area, and then to make some determination as to whether or not a fee increase or decrease is warranted. Those recommendations then are sent to Finance and Facilities where we coordinate and review them and then provide a summary analysis for the President. The President in turns meets with student leaders to review the recommendations, and then forwards the various fee increases or changes to this committee. Guidelines consistent with his commitment to keep the cost of attending NIU as low as possible were established by the President. Affordability is one of our major goals, with access a second and very much related one. As such, he has asked us to minimize the total increase within a range of three to four and a half percent, though costs and other impacts beyond our control are involved in establishing the fees. The overall package is a 4.31 percent increase, but that is heavily skewed by the fact that our health insurance contract required an increase. Omitting the health insurance increase, the total for students who pay health insurance is about a 2.73 percent increase. For those who do not pay health insurance, it translates to a 3.97 percent increase. Dr. Williams and Dr. Peters allowed me to vet all my questions and concerns in relation to the student fees, Student Trustee Sorsby said, and I want to thank them for that.

Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2012 Student Fee Recommendations. Trustee Butler so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.b. – Fiscal Year 2012 Room and Board Rate Recommendations

The recommendations regarding room and board rates also have been evaluated through a joint representative committee consisting of representatives from the Residence Hall Association, which is a student organization, as well as staff that work with the residence halls, and then reviewed further when the recommendation came forward to Finance and Facilities, Dr. Williams explained. This year, the committee has requested a 5.2 percent overall increase. Board rates are being held at zero, so averaging the room and board rates gives an overall 5.2 percent increase. Part of this increase, obviously, is due to increased utility costs. Also, we have been wrestling with an unfunded mandate by the State of Illinois to provide sprinklers in all of our residence halls. A portion of the requested fee increase will cover those particular costs. Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2012 Room and Board Rate Recommendations. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler.

Agenda Item 7.c. – Fiscal Year 2012 Athletic Sports Camp Housing and Meal Expenditure

The Fiscal Year 2012 Athletic Sports Camp Housing and Meal Expenditure request is a pass-through expenditure, Dr. Williams said. As individuals sign up for these activities, their fees will cover the full cost of the camp. Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2012 Athletic Sports Camp Housing and Meal Expenditure. Trustee Vella so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.d. – Fiscal Year 2012 International Programs Division Expenditure

The Fiscal Year 2012 International Program Division Expenditure is a similar pass-through, Dr. Williams said. Our International Programs is one of the better and more outstanding ones in the country, with a great demand. Again, the costs for this program are paid by the fees that are collected through the International Programs offering. Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2012 International Programs Division Expenditure. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.e. – Fiscal Year 2012 NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract

The NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract is the agreement which the university enters into with the Foundation for fundraising activities. The university then is the recipient of what has now become millions of dollars of fundraising efforts on the part of the Development Office in terms of grants, of endowed chairs, scholarships for students and other types of funding the university now benefits from

because of these fundraising activities. The agreement requires the university to put forth \$611,700 in support of the Foundation activities, and in turn, we have the opportunity to reap an increasing millions of dollars in beneficial results to the campus, our operations, our students, our academic programs and our faculty.

I would like to acknowledge Mike Malone and Mallory Simpson, Trustee Murer said, because this is a real bargain for us, especially after participating in probably the best Red and Black that we have had to date. There were sponsors as well as about 500 people attending. That is immeasurable in terms of the benefit it brings to the university and in terms of the recognition and the enthusiasm that those types of events garner.

I will second Trustee Murer's comments, Trustee Boey said. She and I both sit on the Foundation Board as well. As members of that board, we know the ins and outs of their activities. In the years before the Board of Trustees was officially formed in 1996, the Foundation activities were at a minimum, and I am being kind, so it has been a great change. To both Mike Malone and Mallory Simpson, I say thank you for a great job well done. Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2012 NIU Foundation Professional Services Contract. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.f. – Fiscal Year 2012 Copy Paper Contract Renewal

The renewal of our contract for copy paper is in the third year of a five-year renewal contract, Dr. Williams said. These contracts are initially negotiated either through a direct RFP process or we have a bidding process. These are the results of that open opportunity for receiving competitive proposals. Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2012 Copy Paper Contract Renewal. Trustee Butler so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.g. – Fiscal Year 2012 Copier and Controller System Contract Renewal

This is the approval of the actual copy equipment that uses all of that paper, Dr. Williams said. Again, under this contract, the university does not own the equipment. We found it more cost effective and very much more efficient to have an outside vendor actually own the equipment and be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of that equipment. Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2012 Copier and Controller System Contract Renewal. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.h. – Fiscal Year 2012 Mass Transit Contract Renewal

The mass transit operation at NIU is one of the largest in the state of Illinois, Dr. Williams said. We have either the fourth or fifth largest mass transit system in the state, so it is not a minuscule operation in any sense of the word. Also, I want to point out that the mass transit system at Northern is controlled by the Student's Mass Transit Committee, and they are responsible for reviewing the contract, reviewing the services, the approved routes, etc. We all know what is going on around the country with fuel costs, so our contract contains a provision by which there are fuel escalators. There are also provisions that allow a modification in the contract based upon the routes and the services that may be requested by our students. Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2012 Mass Transit Contract Renewal. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.i. – Fiscal Year 2012 NIU Naperville Catering Services Contract Renewal

The Fiscal 2012 Naperville Catering Service Contract is a pass-through item, Dr. Williams said. Those who utilize the educational center and require some form of food service are obligated to pay for those services. We provide a vendor with whom they can contract for those food services. In reply to a query from Trustee Murer, Dr. Kaplan stated that annual conference surveys of customer satisfaction with the catering services at the facility have always been very positive. As our satellite facilities become larger because of all your outreach, Trustee Murer said, it would be good to have periodic reports as a check and balance on that. Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2012 NIU Naperville Catering Services Contract Renewal. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.j. – Fiscal Year 2012 Northern Star Contract Renewal

The *Northern Star* contract request is for \$254,000, Dr. Williams said. It is also a pass-through paid for through those who advertise in the paper. Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2012 *Northern Star* Contract Renewal. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.k. – Fiscal Year 2012 Radiation Oncology Physician Services Contract Renewal

Our radiation oncology program is part of our neutron therapy facility and institute at FermiLab, Dr. Williams said, and this is a renewal for physician services. I want to thank John Lewis who serves as our coordinator with this institute. This institute is really supported through grants, institutional funds and generated revenues. The item indicates “appropriated,” but the sources actually are grant funds, institutional funds and generated revenues. That correction will be made in the full Board item. This effort includes the research of our faculty in the neutron area. It has been a very positive relationship with FermiLab and builds upon other relationships that we have with them. Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2012 Radiation Oncology Physician Services Contract Renewal. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Vella. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.l. – Fiscal Year 2012 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Contract Renewal

Again, Dr. Williams said, there is a representative committee of students and staff who work together to review the health insurance program that we offer. In all estimations, NIU offers one of the better if not the best health insurance package for its students. Students who have alternative insurance and bring proof of such insurance can opt out of our program. It is for 12-month coverage, so even during the summer, our students are covered under this program. We are very much watchful of the potential for cost increases. I want to commend the committee for a great job in the negotiating of the contract. I, too have heard about the quality of the insurance here, Trustee Boey said, and the rate of \$415 per semester is a very good rate. The Vice Chair then asked for a motion to approve the Fiscal Year 2012 Student Accident and Sickness Insurance Contract Renewal. Trustee Butler so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.m. – Broadband Technology Opportunity Northwest Project Grant Revision

At our previous meeting, Dr. Williams said, the Board approved the Broadband Technology Opportunity Northwest Project. It is a grant that we received from the U.S. Department of Commerce and National Technology Information Agency. The recipients of the grant have met and need to do a reorganization of how they will administer the grant. It has been recommended that they establish a not-for-profit organization which can not only manage the construction but also oversee the grant activity. Within the grant, Northern Illinois University plays a key role. We are, in a sense, managers as well, and will work hand-in-hand with the not-for-profit. This structure was approved by the granting agency as a better way to proceed. Because of the way the grants are written, our Board of Trustees is required to confirm and approve the restructuring.

Trustee Butler stated that this, obviously, is a very sound move and has been thought out. However, he had several questions: What does this mean in terms of how the Board will interact with this project going forward? Will this be the last time we hear about this? Will it produce annual reports that we will be receiving? How will we interact now under this structure?

First, Dr. Williams replied, in terms of formal interaction as far as the campus is concerned, we are involved to the extent that the grant actually came to the university. As the recipients of the grant, we are very much involved. The granting agency will be looking to the university, not just at the outset, but throughout the life of this grant. The performance under the grant will be, therefore, something that we must attest to so that the granting agency knows that what was proposed was actually what was performed under the grant. Our involvement will be very intimate throughout this whole process. In terms of information, reports and so forth, we will have the standard reports that the university would do for the granting agency. The question is whether there will be periodic reports to the Board. I am sure that John Lewis, who sort of oversees this as well, will be very happy to make periodic reports. In answer to a query from Trustee Vella, Dr. Williams stated that the members of the iFiber (Illinois Fiber Resources Group) are NIU and its three partners – LaSalle County, Blackhawk Hills RC&D and the City of Rockford.

These four entities form the not-for-profit, and the board of directors for iFiber is made up of two representatives from each of the four entities. The iFiber group was created specifically for this, Dr. John Lewis added, and it was created after the award. When the partners sat down to talk, it was becoming complicated and they thought it would be better from an operational perspective to create a not-for-profit of which all four organizations were a part.

The grant for the subcontractors is approximately \$68 million, Dr. Williams said. Out of the total grant funds, NIU will receive \$3 million-plus for being involved in the activity. That is a very positive thing for the institution. It brings in dollars and it involves our people. Sometimes we do not acknowledge the skill, professionalism and creativity of our people; but we were very much the catalyst by which this whole grant occurred. Wally Czerniak and his people and John Lewis and his staff working together put this whole concept together and brought these other people in. They have done a marvelous job and should be commended.

When asked how many similar grants were given on a national basis, Dr. Lewis stated that there were about 70 or 80 grants throughout the United States. About \$7.4 billion was put into the broadband development project from the Department of Commerce and NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration). There are six grants in the state of Illinois.

Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Broadband Technology Opportunity Northwest Project Grant Revision. Trustee Vella so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.n. – ITS-Telecommunications Services Communication Services Amendment

This item is an amendment to a contract out of our ITS area. We initially wanted trunking services provided through a creative approach that Verizon Business provided. We were not satisfied with those services, plus Verizon basically sold out interest to certain parts of its operation to Frontier. Our people in their evaluation have decided to move our contract to Frontier, and there are some modified services involved.

Mr. Czerniak explained that trunking services refers to the communications pipe that connects NIU telephone systems to the world, and you have to go through a telephone company to do that. Over a year and a half ago, we went out to bid the services and Verizon Business won the bid, he said. They were going to use a unique way of doing it that was going to save the university money. During the course of the year when we tried to implement it, they had delays, they had problems, and on the first cutover, we actually had problems. These were simple services and they failed, so we decided to rebid the services. Frontier has agreed to continue our old services for a longer period, which is why we are requesting more capital. We are going to rebid the entire process again, and will be back in the future to request approval for whoever wins the bid.

Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the ITS-Telecommunications Services Communication Services Amendment and the assignment of the contract to Frontier. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The Vice Chair then asked for a roll call vote, which was as follows:

Trustee Butler	Yes	Trustee Murer	Yes
Trustee Vella	Yes	Trustee Strauss	Abstain
Chair Boey	Yes		

The motion was approved with four yes votes and one abstention.

Agenda Item 7.o. – Electrical Infrastructure Campuswide Replacement – Phase I

This item brings to the Board a real concern that we have regarding our electrical infrastructure and distribution systems, Dr. Williams said. We have cable, electrical boxes and systems as old as 60 years in the ground and they are beginning to fail. He asked Jeff Daurer to give a brief overview regarding this situation.

On November 9, 2010, Mr. Daurer reported, the high voltage line under Anderson Hall parking lot went to ground and power was temporarily lost in Anderson, Wirtz, McMurray, Still and Altgeld Halls, and the East

Heating Plant. A month later on December 6, the 1962 vintage switch in Swen Parson failed in a power outage for four major classroom buildings, including the loss of power to the main campus computer room in Swen Parson. Because the problem was initiated at the switch, we were unable to transfer power from our redundant loops. Workmen quickly responded and installed temporary backup power, but the battery backup at the Swen computer room did not allow enough time, and the system went down. The crash resulted in costly damage to our network equipment, and for a full day, the campus was without network connections. To be sure, we do not want to repeat this experience. The university has since purchased a 400 kW temporary generator that is on campus and ready for service, and an automatic transfer switch is being installed at the Swen Parson transformer. The existing conditions of the electrical distribution system have served their life span and are in serious need of attention.

Those that came before us created a good, solid electrical distribution system for managing power on campus. We have five substations – next to the baseball field on Stadium; on Glidden next to the Field House; North Glidden; Carroll; and the Lucinda substation – from which we distribute 4160 volt power using high voltage cable. Our predecessors installed a loop system so that we can feed power from two directions at any time, providing we manually open and close switches. This provides the university the redundancy that is critical for campus operations. Most of these cables were installed between 1957 and 1968. The insulation within the underground cables does not provide the protection level of the cable we put in today. These cables have been underground for 40 to 50 years, and that has taken its toll. To complicate matters, our electrical vaults are aged to the point where water infiltration is a constant and we must pump the water out before work can be done on these high voltage systems. Mr. Daurer showed those present an actual segment of cable that was taken from beneath Anderson's parking lot in November. When power goes to ground, it is significant. He then showed the new cabling that would replace the old lines. The layers of insulation and protection are far different and improved since the 1960's.

In order to prevent failures in the future, we need to take action now, and that action includes maintenance, repairs and replacement of our substations, distribution loops, transformers and switchgear. We have prioritized the needed work. The replacement of the Stadium Drive Substation located next to the baseball field is included in this emergency phase. Our Keltron system at the Police Department was installed in the early 1970's, and there are no longer parts available nor is service available for repairs. This is where our police receive all information about fire alarms and security. Also two of the high voltage cabling here on the east side of campus will be replaced. As we replace those, we will enhance the integrity of our system.

Five major equipment upgrades that need to take place as part of Phase I will also be made. These include the switchgear and transformer at the Field House; the switchgear at Lincoln and Douglas Hall; the permanent generator at Swen Parson; and extensive building preventative maintenance efforts for general campus buildings. In the years that follow, we intend to return to the Board to seek approval for three future phases of upgrades to our electrical infrastructure.

Trustee Butler inquired whether or not the university has particular insurance policies to manage the potential losses that come from these shutdowns in terms of cybersecurity and that nature, because he felt what was being described was a situation where we are at risk at some level related to these systems. There are some risk management insurance policies that might kick in, Dr. Williams replied, but the problem, as I see it, is not one of paying for damage after it occurs, but trying to keep our campus going in a situation where potentially we may get some reimbursement later. But if there is a case where our campus is shutdown or our operations are very negatively affected, our Risk Management area and our systems people are on top of that.

We have the challenge of finding ways to fund this \$2.8 million, and we will, Dr. Williams said in a reply to a query from Trustee Vella. There is no choice because the potential of this liability is far too great to let it go.

We have an interesting contrast this morning, Vice Chair Boey commented. We talked about fiber optic cable, which is really Internet in today's terms. Fiber optic cable is used, although there is still some copper cabling out there on old systems. Talking about power distribution means copper cable. When we talk about power, it is a very high voltage distribution. Our perimeter is 4160, but what is coming into

the campus is way beyond 4160. So when a blowout occurs, it is serious. Because it is not unusual to have old networks anywhere from 30 to 50 years old, I understand the need to replace all of these.

Trustee Strauss commented that an electrical project has been carried among the capital items submitted to the state for funding for quite some time and asked if this was a new project or if it is the same project included in what has already been submitted to the State. Dr. Williams replied that it is part of the same project that we have been trying for ten years to get the state to provide funds to upgrade and replace these systems. We have not received that support and just simply cannot wait. On whether or not there was a precedent for being able to recoup funds that we advance institutionally at a later date, or whether that process for getting reimbursement from the state is cut off if we use local funds, Dr. Williams stated that he has never heard of a recoup in the State of Illinois. However, as previously indicated, this is a multiyear project. Today's request is for the emergency phase only. The system we are designing will be here for the next 40 years-plus. There are other critical phases, but we may have a little more time, and the risk factor is not as high. So the project will remain in our capital request and, hopefully, the state will be able to fund the other phases of this important work. Dr. Williams said that as far as he knows, there is no federal money available for infrastructure.

Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Phase I of the Electrical Infrastructure Campuswide Replacement. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.p. – Campus Alert System - Capital Project Approval

An upgrade of our campus alert systems is needed in 13 buildings, Dr. Williams said, and again, I want to thank Jeff Daurer, Wally Czerniak and all of those involved. This is one of those projects that crossed many offices, divisions and units of the institution. This project upgrades our fire alarm systems, enunciators and things of that nature. Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Campus Alert System Capital Project. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.q. – Lincoln Hall Re-Caulk Building Envelope Capital Project Approval

This request for re-caulking buildings is a preventive maintenance effort that our bond revenue people, Bob Albanese and his staff, have identified as being a necessary investment, Dr. William said, otherwise we will be dealing with far more complicated and costly repairs in the near future. In this part of the country where we have the freeze-thaw cycles, we have water penetrating concrete panels, loosening and destroying them, making them dangerous. Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the Lincoln Hall Re-Caulk Building Envelope Capital Project. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Butler. The motion was approved.

Agenda Item 7.r. – NIU Outreach Lease Renewal

This item is for a renewal of the lease for our motorcycle safety program, Dr. Williams stated. This is through the Outreach Office under Dr. Kaplan. It is a pass-through expense and one of the more popular programs we offer here at NIU. Vice Chair Boey asked for a motion to approve the NIU Outreach Lease Renewal. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS

Agenda Item 8.a. – Fiscal Year 2011 Salary Stabilization Summary Report

Agenda Item 8.b. – Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions in Excess of \$100,000

Agenda Item 8.c. – Periodic Report on Investments

The Committee was asked to review the above reports. There were no questions on these items.

Agenda Item 8.d. – Update on First Year Residence Hall Project

Mr. Mark Hopkins of HKM Architects + Planners, who is the architect of record regarding this new and exciting project, Dr. Williams said, is here to give an update on our First Year Residence Hall Project. This is the project that will provide 1,000 beds for our freshmen under a private-public partnership, one of

those unique arrangements whereby the university does not put in capital for the construction of this facility. Yet, the university will manage it, it will be under our Student Affairs Division, and our people will basically provide all of the services for the facility.

On behalf of HKM Architects + Planners, Mr. Hopkins said, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be here to give you an update on the First Year Residence Hall Project. We also have to thank American Campus Communities, the selected developer; Pepper Construction; and the Division of Finance and Facilities, specifically Mr. Jeff Daurer, this morning.

I am going to show an animated computer model while I am speaking that will end in some key still shots. This project has made it through the design and bidding phases without sacrificing any of the scope and quality that we desire for this building. Under the supervision of Jeff Daurer, the construction drawings were prepared in an intensive process of rounds of input and drawing review by the NIU stakeholders who will be using and maintaining the facility. With Pepper Construction on board, we were able to evaluate the cost of each of these line items as they arose so that we could monitor it and make sure our wish list was not growing too big for the budget.

We are about to build some very durable, long-life buildings. There will be 1,008 beds in two residence hall buildings of 180,000 square feet each. They are concrete structures with all-brick exteriors. The interior walls will be abuse resistant. The buildings will contain very high quality electrical and mechanical systems and be fully sprinklered. They are connected to campus utilities via a system of new underground tunnels. There will be card swipe access control and a first-class security system with camera monitoring for the protection of the students. Students will each have their own sleeping room and vanities, and two of these sleeping rooms will share a lavatory and shower room, which will form a suite. Six of these suites form a cluster that will they share a common living room, kitchen and laundry facility. There will be 80 such clusters, 40 in each building, and between every two clusters is a community advisor suite. The plan layout and decoration of the suites is to be perceived as homelike for security and comfort. The exteriors of the buildings are designed in the tradition of the Barsema Alumni and Visitors Center and Still Hall. Between the two residence hall buildings is a 31,000 square foot dining hall building that seats 500. It has a food court style server, multiple-purpose program rooms, an 1,800 square foot cardio room, a lounge area with fireplace, arcade and video gaming, and all kinds of seating and lounge areas throughout the building for studying and socializing. All of these spaces are served with multiple video monitors connected to video projectors and screens for coordinated presentations such as during student orientation as well as day-to-day video viewing. Students using the cardio room, for instance, can bring in their FM device and they can tune to one of the FM stations and see one of the video choices playing in that room.

The interior and exterior of this dining hall building is a little bit less traditional than the residence halls so that it infers a more contemporary, competitive, fun and state-of-the-art facility. The three building exteriors come together in an architectural theme by use of the same exterior material palette, and items like site walls and plantings that bring the whole thing together into a residential campus. On the site, is outdoor dining, various seating areas and benches as well as designated smoking areas. There are bike racks that are screened behind low brick walls. Entertainment areas such as half-court basketball, sand volleyball and built-in Baggo courts will be available. A pedestrian bridge links the project to the parking lot to the north.

Currently, the project is on budget and on time. In the past, with this project team, we have been able to deliver NIU projects on time and on or under budget. There is no reason to think this project will be any different, especially considering the management of American Campus Communities and Mr. Daurer's presence on site. Demolition of the existing married student housing buildings will occur the first two weeks of April. A groundbreaking ceremony for the First Year Residence Halls will be held on April 18. The two residence hall buildings will be ready for occupancy on August 17, 2012, and the dining hall should come on line the middle of July so it can be fitted with fixtures, furnishings and equipment.

I cannot express sufficiently the joy of seeing this, what a beautiful design and how current it is, Trustee Murer commented. We spoke in Academic Affairs this morning about the necessity of being contemporary with our courses, but the environment is almost equally important. It is the means by which the student can absorb the whole process of education.

I want to thank Mark, Dr. Williams said, and we have a very dedicated, talented team working on this project. They are very much tuned in to this campus and we have had a great experience. Mike Malone can give you some indication of the very positive success we have had with this development team. To the committee I would like to say that much of this would not have been able had it not been for the leadership of the Board Chair, Marc Strauss. I say that because I have had to go to Chair Strauss with some very difficult issues, and he has been right there giving guidance and helping us through. I want to acknowledge that because it is sort of rare, but we have a talent on this Board that is in tune to this kind of project and this kind of very complicated financing involving many different groups and attorneys. It is refreshing to be able to refer issues to our Chair, being one who truly understands. Vice Chair Boey echoed his thanks to Chair Strauss on behalf of the Board.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The Vice Chair noted that the next meeting of the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee was scheduled for Thursday, May 12.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no Other Matters, Vice Chair Boey entertained a motion to adjourn. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Strauss. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins
Recording Secretary