

Minutes of the  
**NIU Board of Trustees**  
**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
May 29, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 2:12 p.m. by Chair John Butler in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Sharon Banks-Wilkins conducted a roll call of Trustees. Trustees Robert Boey, Robert Marshall, Cheryl Murer, John Butler, Marc Strauss, Anthony Iosco (phone), and Elliot Echols were present. Absent was Trustee Wheeler Coleman. Also present were President Douglas Baker, Board General Counsel Jerry Blakemore and Board Liaison Bill Nicklas.

**VERIFICATION OF APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

Confirmation of Open Meetings Act notification compliance was given by Board General Counsel Jerry Blakemore.

**MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

Chair Butler called for a motion to approve the agenda with the modification that President's Report Item A1 be removed. Trustee Strauss made the motion to approve the agenda and Student Trustee Elliot Echols seconded. The motion was approved.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None.

**CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

At this time we move to the Chair's Comments. We are very pressed for time, so I'm not going to make any comments except to say that once again I would like to point out how much the Board is aware of and cognizant of the challenges that some of the faculty and staff are going through with respect to the pension issue and the retirement issue. We know that many of you are having to make choices you did not expect to make at this time and we wish you well in that very difficult process of decision-making. I would like to then welcome the members of the University Advisory Council, who are present this morning, excuse me, this afternoon. I never expected to be speaking in the morning these are some flawed notes here. The UAC members are Alan Rosenbaum, Deborah Haliczzer, Andy Small, Greg Waas, Rosita Lopez, and Dan Gebo. Mr. Rosenbaum, is there anything you or any of your colleagues would like to say to the Board? Mr. Rosenbaum had no comment and Chair Butler asked Ms. Haliczzer if she had any comment to make.

**Deborah Haliczzer:** Yes. Chair Butler, thank you for reflecting the sentiments of our faculty and staff. I promised Rosita Lopez that I would give you her regards. She is one of those faculty who decided to retire under pressure and has since rescinded and appreciated the flexibility of the university in allowing her to do that since her plan was not to retire this year. And so, regards from Rosita.

**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 the Board of Trustees Bylaws. Mr. Blakemore noted that no timely requests had been made to address this Special Board Meeting.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 91**

### **Agenda Item 6.a. (2) – Authorization to Retain Executive Search Firm for the Appointment of a Chief Diversity Officer**

President Baker: We've discussed these issues this morning and why don't we move through the action items. The first one regards the authorization to retain an executive search firm for the appointment of chief diversity officer. I will note that we have a diversity task force working this summer looking at best practices for structure of policies around diversity and at the end of that we will design that position and go out and search for it. This is the request to retain the search firm for that position. Trustee Strauss made the motion to approve and Trustee Murer seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 6.a. (3) – Authorization to Retain an Executive Search Firm for the Appointment of a Senior Associate Vice President for Human Resource Services**

President Baker: The second item is again for a search firm. This one is for a senior associate vice president for human resource services. Typically at a university there's a director of human resources to oversee all of the activities and that was what this position would be. Trustee Boey made the motion to approve and Trustee Strauss seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 6.a. (4) – Fiscal Year 2015-2018 Fire Services Contract with the City of DeKalb**

President Baker: The third one is for the Fiscal Year 2015-2018 Fire Services Contract as Bill went over earlier this is a contract that needs to be redone. We haven't been with it for 3 years and it also has the purchase of part of a used fire truck that we have gotten a very good price on. And so this is a nice partnership between the city and the community to provide this level of service and of course many of the tall buildings in town are ours. Trustee Murer made the motion to approve and Trustee Strauss seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 6.a. (5) – The Huskie Tram Route Phase I – Bold Initiative – Capital Project Approval**

President Baker: Well we had a great deal of discussion this morning on the Huskie Tram. This is just for Stage I to get the first one here and to pilot test it and see how it operates and see if it is meeting our needs and so I would ask that we approve the purchase of that first one and do the infrastructure support to get it ready.

Vice President Nicklas: May I add also the other half of that that we discussed in committee was if the President determined that the beta version was successful that we would have the Board's authority to purchase the last 3 vehicles and I also clarified in the committee meeting that we had in the long detailed take-off of the individual costs projected that we might need a storage building and some other things. We do not need that at this point. So those costs are not relevant. So it's \$270,000 for the beta version which includes the test vehicle and then \$180,000 for the 3 additional vehicles.

President Baker: And then the storage facility as Bill notes is at the very bottom of page 21. There's a \$170,000 storage and charging shed and we identified existing space on campus that could take care of that service for us.

Trustee Murer made the motion to approve and Trustee Boey seconded. Chair Butler called for any discussion of the item, and there was some discussion.

Chair Butler: There is a motion and a second. So let me clarify. This is a \$450,000 expenditure?

President Baker: Well in 2 stages. If the beta doesn't work, we're not going to go after the next phase

Chair Butler: Correct. Right. But any further expansion of this will come back to the Board provided it's within the threshold that requires it.

President Baker: Yes

Chair Butler: Yes, OK. Are there any comments from the Trustees? I know we have talked about this quite bit, but this is the time for other comments. Yes, Trustee Marshall.

Trustee Marshall: I'll try to make it short. I forgot to ask earlier. Gasoline or diesel?

Bill Nicklas: No. It's all electric.

Trustee Marshall: OK. No backup system?

Bill Nicklas: There is a solar panel on top which will add some trickle power to it on an appropriate day which will help with the time between charging.

Trustee Marshall: Thank you.

Chair Butler: Trustee Echols

Student Trustee Elliot Echols: Just to make sure I'm clear. When it comes to maintaining the system say it does work. Is the Student Association liable for any cost? Are they liable for purchasing anything else? What are they exactly liable for?

Bill Nicklas: There is nothing in this proposal that includes the Student Association's participation in the funding at this point. So if there's a 3<sup>rd</sup> phase, a 4<sup>th</sup> phase, that's a negotiation that's not included in this proposal.

Trustee Echols: OK. Thank you sir.

Chair Butler: Are there other questions or comments from the Board? I would just say that I am very sensitive to the comments made earlier by Trustee Strauss. We've talked about this quite a bit. I'm inclined to support this because I think it's an innovative and exciting idea and I share that sentiment with my colleague, Trustee Murer. I think she put it better than I will now, but I am very interested in the progress of it and I do look forward to hearing progress reports in the future. And I hope as we move forward that we don't neglect the concerns of Trustee Strauss. I hope we will work to make sure that questions are answered that he has raised, even if we move forward as I believe we are about to. Yes, Bill.

Bill Nicklas: I would just say that I will promise a status report at the August committee meetings and the Board meeting.

Chair Butler verified there was no further discussion and called for a vote. There were five ayes and one nay by Trustee Strauss but the motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 6.a. (6) – Fiscal Year 2015 Open Order for Elevator Services and Maintenance**

President Baker: This is the open order for 2015 for elevator services and maintenance. We have 107 elevators on campus that require repair and maintenance and this is to take care of those. Trustee Strauss made the motion to approve and Student Trustee Echols seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was approved.

#### **Agenda Item 6.a. (7) – Information Technology Services (ITS) Oracle and PeopleSoft ERP**

## System

President Baker: We're on to 6.a.7 which the Information Technology Services Oracle and PeopleSoft ERP system. ITS requests permission to issue orders for the renewal of the ongoing maintenance contract. So this is a continuation of the master contract we recently negotiated and it has just a continuation of that and we need to do that on this annual basis. Trustee Strauss made the motion to approve and Trustee Murer seconded. There was no discussion and the motion was approved. This ended the President's report.

### CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 65

#### **Agenda Item 7.a. – Amendment to Board of Trustees *Bylaws* Article Vi, Section 4 – Board Committees**

Chair Butler: The next item on our agenda is a single item from the Chair or me. I'm very excited about this item. Unfortunately, we were not able due to time and due to Trustee Murer's willingness to move us quickly into this meeting despite the fact that there were some things that she wanted to conclude with the ad hoc committee, but this item, I'm very happy to say, is to extend the work of the ad hoc committee and put in place a permanent place for that work. Nine months ago we created the ad hoc committee and we were to hear today from that committee a final report, but understand that that final report will be the beginning of the newly formed committee which we are talking about today. The ad hoc committee has been chaired with great skill by my colleague Trustee Cherilyn Murer and today I introduce for your consideration the Legislative Affairs, Research and Innovation Committee or LARI.

LARI is a modification of the work the current Legislative and External Affairs Committee, also chaired by Trustee Murer, to include the subject areas of the ad hoc committee and overall subjects of research and innovation as those areas are conceived as functions of the Division of Research and Innovation. LARI will retain the subjects of state and federal relations and will no longer receive regular report on Marketing and Communication. This is the first reading which means the Board should make a motion to receive the proposed amendment and consider it for a second reading at the next regular meeting of the Board. So may I have a motion to that effect and then we can have any discussion?

Trustee Boey made the motion to approve and Trustee Strauss seconded. Chair Butler called for any conversation and there was some.

Trustee Murer: I very much appreciate this discussion today and moving this subcommittee into a standing committee and I think that the folding of the legislative is at a very appropriate time. I think we saw this morning comments under Finance when it was relative to Finance when we were addressing some of the state issues and I think that federal issues are more dominant within the research area. So I think it's going to flow very well together. We're going to continue with our focus of having a trilogy as I called it, the trilogy of looking at problem-solving with greater depth so what we had prepared for the last meeting which will now be in August is the final component of our initial trilogy which looked at an overview, looked at process, looked at accountability and we use the same subject matter, same case study throughout the entire process and Dr. Riggs and Dr. Freeman are incredible colleagues to work with in this regard and I do look forward to working with them to bring to the Board and to the community greater understanding of where we are relative to research and technology and the legislation that impacts both of those. Thank you.

Chair Butler: Thank you. Other comments from the Board? I want to just point out that Trustee Murer had a clean slate when I asked her to chair this ad hoc committee and she did a marvelous job of working with then Vice President Freeman and then Interim Provost Freeman and then Interim Vice President Rigg. As we learned, as a Board in the form of an ad hoc committee, much more about the research endeavor and aspect of the university and I hope that as we move forward with this action item at the next meeting. We'll reflect on the potential of the ad hoc committee process to engage in an in-depth study of an area or an issue that is raising a significant amount of concern and something that the Board should be focused on. So I would very much appreciate the Trustees support of this and what you

have before you is a preliminary draft of a change in the *Bylaws*. I anticipate that we will going forward after the June meeting begin a process of revising the *Bylaws* so that the description of this standing committee will look, as the other standing committees will look, a lot more like what we see in the *Bylaws* with respect to the CARL committee. But this is the first step to create this merger of subject areas and to begin the work.

Chair Butler called for a vote and the motion was approved.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

Chair Butler asked for a motion to close the public meeting to conduct an executive session to discuss the following subjects authorized by the Illinois Open Meetings Act; personnel matters as generally described under section 2(c)(1), (2), (3) and (21) of the Open Meetings Act and Litigation and Risk Management matters as generally described under sections 2(c)(11) and (12) of the Open meetings act and property matters generally described under Sections 2c5 & 6 of the Open Meetings Act. A motion was made by Trustee Strauss and seconded by Trustee Murer, and the motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

Chair Butler	Yes	Trustee Marshall	Yes
Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Strauss	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Trustee Iosco	Yes (telephone)
Student Trustee Echols	Yes		

#### **MEETING RECONVENED AND ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Butler reconvened the open session of the meeting of the Board of Trustees and called for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Trustee Boey and seconded by Student Trustee Echols, and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Banks-Wilkins  
Recording Secretary

*In compliance with Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/1, et seq, a verbatim record of all Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees meetings is maintained by the Board Recording Secretary and is available for review upon request. The minutes contained herein represent a true and accurate summary of the Board proceedings.*