

Minutes of the
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
June 19, 2014

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Butler at 9:04 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, Anthony Iosco, Robert Marshall, Cheryl Murer, Marc Strauss, Student Trustee Elliot Echols and Chair Butler. Trustee Wheeler Coleman joined the meeting in progress. Also present were Board General Counsel Jerry Blakemore and President Douglas Baker. 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 moving to approve the agenda, Trustee Strauss proposed the creation of a Consent Agenda that would immediately precede the beginning of the President's Report for today's meeting and move President's Report No. 92, action items 8.a. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (10) and (11) and information items 8.b.(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) to that Consent Agenda. Chair Butler asked for a second to approve the consent agenda. Trustee Boey seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MARCH 3, 2014 AND MARCH 27, 2014

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 3, 2014 Board of Trustees Special Meeting with the Higher Learning Commission. Trustee Strauss moved to approve the minutes and Trustee Boey seconded. The minutes were approved.

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2014 Board of Trustees Meeting. Trustee Boey moved to approve the minutes and Trustee Marshall seconded. The minutes were approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed the University Advisory Committee Representatives: Alan Rosenbaum, Deborah Haliczner, Andy Small, Greg Waas, Rosita Lopez and Dan Gebo. Dr. Rosenbaum announced the end of his term limit as the Executive Secretary of the University Council and offered his thanks to the Board. He went on to say that for the past five years it had been his privilege to have worked with the Board on so many important issues and to have gotten to know many of you in the process. I leave confident that, despite the many obstacles confronting us, you will continue to work on behalf of the students, faculty and staff to protect this university and support and preserve its mission. Know that the UAC and the three employee councils stand ready to work with you.

The Chair thanked Dr. Rosenbaum for his service and asked if any other members of the University Advisory Committee wished to address the Board at this time. Small announced that he is stepping down as President of the Operating Staff Council and offered his thanks to the Board for the opportunity to

represent the staff. I have placed invitations to our Staff Fest event at the Board members places, and I invite everyone in the room to that particular event.

Trustee Boey shared his pleasure in working with Rosenbaum and Small through search committees and thanked them both for their contributions. Trustee Murer expressed her privilege to have worked with Rosenbaum as the co-chair with Trustee Boey on the Presidential Search Advisory Committee and thanked both Rosenbaum and Small for their interactions. Trustee Marshall shared his appreciation for Small in his commitment to attend a 10 a.m. meeting in Urbana, IL. Trustee Marshall commended Rosenbaum for his ability to work with students and other constituencies. President Baker explained his relationship with Rosenbaum as being open and honest. President Baker thanked Small and Rosenbaum for their insights and wisdom which have helped him to learn about the institution. Chair Butler echoed the kind comments and thanked Rosenbaum and Small for their service.

Chair Buttler introduced his mother, Sharon Butler, welcomed her to the meeting and told her I hope you're not disappointed in your son. Welcome Paul Julion, Student Trustee-Elect, thank you for being here. Paul will be sworn in at the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee meeting on August 28.

This consent agenda that we just approved will cause us to affect the tenure and promotion of several members of our faculty. On behalf of the Board I would like to express our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of these faculty members. Along the same line, we accept through the consent agenda the recognition of faculty and staff who've received recognition for their exceptional teaching, research and service. On May 29th we heard directly from the President of our student government regarding a significant campus improvement initiative and from the Mayor of DeKalb expressing his commitment to continued cooperation between the University and the City. We also received an extensive amount of information on the University's operating budget and strategic capital reserves that is moving through on the consent agenda. It was a moment of graceful transparency and candid discussion led by our CFO Nancy Suttentfield; a revelation of a great deal of hard work by our senior leadership team to attend to the business and financial side of the house.

Today we have a busy agenda that lays itself out in front of the backdrop that was presented at those committee meetings and continues our progression as an institution operating in a very challenging environment for higher education. I want to also report that Trustee Strauss and I attended a multi-jurisdictional first responder exercise held on campus on May 30th where NIU hosted over 300 members of the first responder community and observers from other institutions. It was a sobering exercise to observe and I left the exercise with great confidence in our university police and the regional first responder community. In particular I thank our Chief of Police, Tom Phillips, and the Chief of the DeKalb fire department who kept me informed throughout the exercise. I want to express my appreciation, not only for myself, but on behalf of the Board for all of that activity.

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 stated that no requests had been received.

REPORTS OF BOARD COMMITTEES AND BOARD LIAISONS

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee did not meet.

Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee

Committee Chair Marshall reported that the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee met on Thursday, May 29, 2014. At that meeting the committee considered and endorsed the following action items: Recommendations for Faculty Promotions, Tenure, and Promotions with Tenure for 2014/2015 Academic Year. The following were also listed as action items: A request for a new Emphasis and Educator Licensure for Environmental Science within the B.A./B.S. degree in Environmental Studies, and a new Concentration in Financial Economics within the M.A. in Economics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The committee also heard informational item reports for the following: Residence Hall Housing and Dining Incentives on the Second Year Residency Policy Update, Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff for the Year 2014, and the Higher Learning Commission Accreditation updates.

Compliance, Audit, Risk Management and Legal Affairs Committee

Committee Chair Bob Boey reported that the Compliance, Audit, Risk Management and Legal Affairs Committee met on Thursday, May 29th. The committee focused on compliance matters and the student athlete. Jerry Blakemore, Board General Counsel, provided us with a summary of the legal issues associated with the Northwestern University football players collective bargaining litigation, and Sean Frazier, Associate Vice President for Intercollegiate Athletics, and his staff made a presentation to the committee on the current status of the NIU compliance findings on athletics and national comparisons. A special thanks to Christian Spears, Senior Associate Athletic Director, and Lindsey Hicks, Associate Athletic Director Compliance and Student Services, who assisted Sean with the presentation.

Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee

Committee Chair Strauss reported that the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee met on May 29, 2014 where extended consideration was given to the FY2015 operating budget; the review of available funding for strategic capital investments and efforts to streamline the procurement process by altering delegated presidential authority. The committee passed along a variety of items for consideration at this meeting including resolutions to use Build America Bond funds to pay for the Douglas Hall demolition, the approval of a budget for design work at the Holmes Student Center, the approval of a differential tuition request from the College of Health and Human Science, and the Huskie tram route, among others. All action items were passed by unanimous vote except the Huskie tram which received one negative vote.

Legislation and External Affairs Committee

Ad Hoc Committee on Sponsored Research Activity and Technology Transfer

Committee Chair Murer reported that due to the unusual length of the Finance Committee and the extreme lateness of the hour, it appeared prudent to cancel both the Legislation and External Affairs Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee on Sponsored Research Activity and Technology Transfer. We will defer business to our scheduled meeting in August.

Illinois Board of Higher Education

President Baker reported that the presidents and chancellors met prior to the Higher Education Board Meeting. A conversation at that meeting then rolled into the IBHE which dealt largely with common core and then the PARCC assessment. The PARCC is an assessment of readiness for college and careers. That test, which is actually still in development, has become quite controversial around the country. Some on the political spectrum are concerned about the federal government dictating what goes on in local school districts. It has become quite controversial with a number of states pulling out of it. My sense, listening to my colleagues there as well as the state Board of Higher Education, is that they support the common core. The curriculum and the content have been developed around the country and at the core people seem to have some confidence in what we're trying to do. It seems that the assessment tool, at least in Illinois, is the controversial piece and in some other states. We are being asked in Higher Education to take on the PARCC assessment tool as a placement tool for students coming out of high school based on their scores in the junior year of high school. Without the test and without any reliability and validity

assessment of it, those in higher education are a little bit antsy. Laurie Elish-Piper, from our College of Education, who's actually written a book on a portion of this common core and its assessment, delivered an excellent presentation that educated the presidents and chancellors. We then met with the leadership of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and discussed the same issues and they were in congruence with us. My sense is they don't want us to do things that are not going to be reliable, valid, or are not going to help students, their parents, and higher education through the process. The IBHE invited Laurie to go to a conference in New Orleans where these issues were discussed. Governor Jindal from Louisiana pulled out of PARCC shortly after that meeting. I do have confidence that there's good dialog going on at this point between the Board of Higher Education and higher education in an inclusive process. We will see how it develops.

Universities Civil Service Merit Board

Trustee Marshall reported that the Merit Board of the State Civil Service System met on May 21, 2014. Action items included the following: Affirmation that the executive directors review the final decision and order of the Merit Board in an appeals case, authorization for the Executive Director to implement and administer the Fiscal Year 2015 budget, approval for the continuation of the public officials errors and omissions insurance coverage which provides insurance when a mistake is made, and approval for the sponsored programs demonstration project or pilot study program for a period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2017 at the University of Illinois at Chicago. A key goal of the project is to allow the state universities to end the bumping process in civil service positions caused by grant funding running out or even a number of the employees being hired soon after the grant starts but that money is then not usable and is returned to the funding agency. This should raise the morale of everybody who works for the state across the state of Illinois. Reports were received from the Human Resources Directory Advisory Committee via Maureen Parker, the State University Civil Service Advisory Committee via Andy Small, the Administrative Advisory Committee via Executive Director Morelock, Legal Services and Legal Counsel Report via Legal Counsel Mary Martinelli. A date is being finalized for a merit board retreat in July or August at the Urbana office.

NIU Foundation

Vice President Malone reported that the Foundation Board met in early June. A note about our investments as of May 31st with a month left in our fiscal year. The expendable pool has earned a return of 7.8 percent in those eleven months. That is against the target of five percent so an earnings of 7.8 percent with a month left to go. The endowed pool has earned 15.8 percent as of May 31st and that is against a target of 8 percent in the endowment. The 8 percent allows us to return a four percent expendable every year to be spent for scholarships, program support, and faculty support. It allows us to contribute to the funding of the development effort and the costs to maintain our financials and investment advisors with a 1.5 percent fee. The remainder of that eight percent is intended to be reinvested into the individual accounts to provide for generational equity protection against inflation. Anytime we are able to exceed that 8 percent we are able to direct more back into the principal and protect against any downturns in future years. Endowment is currently at \$71 million and in the expendable pool is a little over \$19 million. A bequest intention of 3.5 million has been signed by Jim and Leslie Lawson who are both alumni. It will go to support the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology and the College of Health and Human Sciences. Thanks to Dean Promod Vohra, who is here today, and our Gift Officer, Todd Burns.

Telemarketing has been responsible for more than 80 percent of all our acquisitions this year. It is much more effective to get new donors who have not given before to make their first gift to Northern when there is a student on the other end of the line talking. About 53 percent of the total donors have come this year through telemarketing. All of that has been tweaked over the last couple of years and finding the right mix is really critical. Telemarketing, e-mail, social media, web presence, etc. The annual fund stands at over a million dollars as of May 31st which increased by 17 percent over last year. Alberta Solfisburg and Sandi Yandle worked hard to reshape our strategies and sought expert national advice to inform our efforts. The Foundation held the following elections: Dennis Barsema, Chair, and Jack Tierney, Treasurer of the Foundation Board and Chair of the Finance Committee.

The Foundation Board made available more than \$83,000 to fund priorities emerging from Bold Futures as determined by President Baker. This timely and useful gift is a result of an endowment that was secured a little more than a year ago of \$2 million from the estate of Howard and Evelyn Lanan. They set some general restrictions as to its use and directed the Board of Directors of the Foundation to oversee the distribution of the expendable funds in a pretty extraordinary show of support. The Board turned those decisions over to President Baker in support of the Bold Futures initiative.

Northern Illinois Alumni Association

Associate Vice President of University Advancement and Executive Director of the Alumni Association Joseph Matty was unable to attend the meeting due to travel. We will hear from him at our next regular meeting.

Northern Illinois Research Foundation

Provost Freeman is working through her transition to the Northern Illinois Research Foundation and did not have a report.

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Before beginning the President's Report, Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve the items earlier placed on the consent agenda that include President's Report No. 92, Action Items 8.a. (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), (10) and (11) and information items 8.b.(1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7). The Chair asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda as now proposed. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The motion was approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 92

We have been working hard on the approval of expenditures and whether or not our limits are appropriate. They haven't been changed for a very long time and any time you put a number in and time passes that number falls out of date and isn't a significant enough level. So we've really tried to take over another examination of this and Jerry's been working hard on this and I've asked him to review the edits that we've made in the overall effort based on our conversation since the last committee meeting.

Agenda Item 8.a.(9) – Contracting & Procurement Resolution to Approve Modifications

Board General Counsel Blakemore remarked, this proposal reflects the consensus as the Office of General Counsel saw from the May 29th Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee discussions and it requests specific direction from the Board. We are not requesting final action at this meeting but we are looking for further consensus and direction so the Office of General Counsel can provide a proposal for the Board's consideration. Please note that there are substantive differences between the May 29th proposal and today's proposal. This no longer is a change in the Bylaws; it is a change in the Regulations. The difference being that your Bylaws require first reading; changes to regulations do not. The distinction is of no difference because we are proposing that you not take final action until obviously you have had more opportunity to review it. Regulation is a stronger position for the Board to be in. We have also proposed a change from two reporting periods to quarterly reporting. Board General Counsel seeks direction from the Board on what the threshold point for Board approval would be; an increase from the current \$250,000 to either \$500,000, \$750,000 or the original proposal of \$1 million. Board General Counsel also seeks specific direction from the Board on whether change order approval would be at 10 or 20 percent. For clarification purposes, the language clearly states that the aggregate would not allow for a change order or a series of change orders to go beyond 10 percent of the original contracting. This relates to any area of contracting grants, contracting, etc.

Board General Counsel Blakemore explained in your draft language under Item 8 you will see that, at the request of the Chair and various members, that nothing in the provision shall authorize the university to

make expenditures or enter into contracts that are inconsistent with or outside the scope of the university mission or which create a debt or substantial long term expense that is not otherwise authorized by the Board. This was a request made for clarification purposes. Trustee Strauss suggested that the language would be clearer if it was explicit that the provision after 2.a.(8) referred to all of a.(1) through (8). My preference for the general limits is \$500,000 and the change order limit is 10 percent. Board General Counsel Blakemore agreed to add parenthesis which will lay out section 5.b.2.a.

Trustee Murer agreed that this discussion is very timely and appropriate to review. I feel strongly as to a limit of \$500,000 but I also would recommend a 20 percent modification which would take then the limit to \$600,000. That would be appropriate in terms of the responsibilities of the Board in this time of transparency and also the time of such a focus on financial management and financial issues that relate to the State of Illinois and to other transactions. Trustee Boey is concerned that the limit of \$250,000 is way too low in times of inflation like this and prefers a limit of \$750,000 with a 10 percent limit for change orders. Trustee Coleman expressed his support for the \$500,000 limit and asked for clarification on the change order limits. Blakemore advised that the change order limit would have to be below the overall Board limit, the \$500,000 as an example, would still need to come back to the Board. A change order should never circumvent the total Board approval amount. If you approved \$10 million and it goes above the \$500,000 limit, for example, it would have to come back to the Board. For larger contracts that get into the \$10 millions, etc. Board General Counsel Blakemore advised that it would need to come back to the Board. So the 10 percent or the 20 percent, if that is above that threshold, then I still think it needs to come back. The Board could, when it approved that original contract, say we increase our threshold for this particular contract but I think it would require specific authorization of the Board to do so. Trustee Coleman requested an overspend cap for change orders in the final proposal to which Board General Counsel Blakemore agreed.

Trustee Strauss raised concerns for some language at the end of 2.b. referring to timely informing the Board of personnel actions creating an obligation that has significant operational, financial and reputational implications. The question posed was whether timely notification would imply that the notice occurred before the obligation was entered into or would it be an after the fact. Board General Counsel Blakemore clarified that under the current rules, the Board is responsible for the actual hiring. It was agreed that "Prior to final action being taken" should replace the "timely notification" language as described.

Trustee Boey raised the concern of a change order coming to the Board's attention that is above the 10 or 20 percent limit but significantly lower than the Board limit. It defeats the purpose of getting things done and we certainly have some competence in our staff in terms of controlling matters as well. Board General Counsel Blakemore clarified that, depending on the threshold Board limit, it is possible to run into smaller amounts. 10 percent vs. 20 percent can be significant in terms of what the obligation of the university is to come back to the Board. Trustee Murer asked Board General Counsel Blakemore to revise and clarify the language for determining the percentage limit on change orders. Trustee Butler expressed his preference for the \$500,000 limit and raised the question for section 7.F.1., would the requirement to report quarterly affect the same obligation that the Board currently has in the present system for quarterly reporting of expenditures? Board General Counsel Blakemore clarified that this does not change current practices and suggested that a discussion for another day would be to determine whether the Board should have bylaws and regulations or just one or the other. Trustee Marshal is on record favoring the \$500,000 and 10 percent limits.

Trustee Strauss moved to defer further consideration of this agenda item to the next Board meeting and to direct the Board General Counsel to prepare a revised draft consistent with our conversation. Trustee Boey seconded and the motion passed.

Chair Butler called for a ten minute break to reconvene at 10:30 a.m.

UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES

- Agenda Item 8.a.(1) – Overview and Approval of FY15 Interim Operating Budget**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(2) – Douglas Hall Demolition funding to BABs**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(3) – Plan for HSC Improvements**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(4) – CHHS Differential Tuition**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(5) – Athletics FY15 Secondary Student Health Insurance**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(6) – FY15 Waste Management – Solid Waste & Recycling**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(7) – DuSable Hall Concrete Beam Repair**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(8) – Graduate Application Fee Increase**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(10) – Faculty Promotions, Tenure & Promotions**
- Agenda Item 8.a.(11) - Request for a New Emphasis and a New Concentration**

Consent Agenda Items.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECONVENED {at 10:30A}

Chair Butler reconvened the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

UNIVERSITY REPORTS FORWARDED FROM THE BOARD COMMITTEES

- Agenda Item 8.b.(1) – Summer Improvements Update**
- Agenda Item 8.b.(2) – Quarterly Summary Report of Transactions**
- Agenda Item 8.b.(3) – Period Report on Investments**
- Agenda Item 8.b.(4) – Semiannual Progress Report of Active Capital Projects**
- Agenda Item 8.b.(5) – Residence Halls/Dining Housing & Dining Incentives**
- Agenda Item 8.b.(6) – Professional Excellence Awards for Faculty and Staff**
- Agenda Item 8.b.(7) – Higher Learning Commission Accreditation Update**

Consent Agenda Items.

ITEMS DIRECTLY FROM THE PRESIDENT

Agenda Item 8.c.(1) – FY15 State Budget Status & Legislative Update

President Baker reported that on May 31st the General Assembly passed its Fiscal Year 2015 state budget of \$35.7 billion and adjourned. It has been passed by both chambers and is currently being reviewed by the Governor. The higher education piece of the budget reduces NIU's general funds appropriations from \$93.5 million to \$93.1 million with an overall reduction of \$223,000. The General Assembly also passed a capital budget right before adjourning, but the billion dollar capital budget provides funding to the DOT for roads and bridges and includes no funding for vertical construction which would be buildings. We are right at the top of the list for the next building and we would love to have that but it may be evidently another year at the earliest before we get that. As we discussed a few weeks ago, the 2015 budget that was passed does not rely on revenues provided by an extension of the temporary tax increase, but it does rely on one-time revenues. Monies and special funds and inter-fund borrowing to offset the impact of the partial year tax revenue loss. There are indications the assembly may come back after the November election and try to solve these problems; it seems likely that some combination of revenue enhancements and spending reductions will be needed to address the budget. If the tax increase does not pass it could have dramatic impacts on us causing more than a \$20 million budget reduction if it just goes away completely. This reinforces the need for us to take control of other revenue sources like enrollment and retention and work on process reengineering and looking strategically at our hiring plans.

Several pieces of legislation impacting the university also passed the General Assembly and are moving to the governor for his signature. One is a smoke-free campus which has passed and is awaiting the governor's signature. If it is signed we will need a policing system set up to ban smoking on campus. Trustee Coleman suggested that we set up a non-smoking support group to help smokers quit. Dean Block was assigned to work on ways to offer such support. A minimum wage referendum question will be placed on the November ballot as well. There's a MAP pilot program for dislocated workers that will

take money off the top for dislocated workers and provide them funding. The Illinois Board of Higher Education is meeting here on campus on August 5th. We had a number of people from the Board including the executive director, Jim Applegate, here earlier this week where we had regional K-12, community college, higher education, community college State Board representatives, and industry leaders talking about regional partnerships in the K-20 pipeline and how we can collaborate more closely to make that a more efficient and effective pipeline and help more students be more successful. There is much to do which will be discussed in the next meeting.

Agenda Item 8.c.(2) – State Universities Retirement System/Pension Update

The State Universities Retirement System/Pension issue is likely to remain in litigation for a year. We had potentially 800 eligible employees for retirement and ended up having 200 retire over the course of the year. We have also had 156 resignations throughout the course of the year totaling in 356 employees who have left over the course of this past year. This has allowed us to be flexible as we begin to address our budgetary challenges and as we look at hiring. Many of these positions are critical and will need to be refilled. However, some are not as critical and will not be refilled or will be held for consideration.

Agenda Item 8.c.(3) – Federal Relations Report

Lesley Rigg reported that Federal Relations has moved into the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships in the past year. They are currently developing the office and have hired a federal relations intern from the Political Science Department; the program is currently structured to pull all interns from the Political Science Department. They have developed briefs called BOLTs (Briefs on Legislative Topics) that highlight important legislative issues. Representatives from Federal Relations have attended Council for Government Affairs meetings in DC as well as their monthly phone call meetings. There is now a Federal Relations Website available where you can find updates and electronic lobbying reports in the near future.

Federal relations has been working with APLO, Senator Durbin's office, the University of Illinois and other Illinois institutions in writing delegation and writing to the Senate Judiciary Committee expressing concerns about the nature of the proposed legislation which does not seem to be amenable to universities and innovation. As it currently stands it would impact our ability to really entice our faculty and students and staff to submit patents. Immigration reform is another pressing issue for which Lesley Rigg and Mike Mann attended a referendum in Chicago last week. Those in attendances ranged from the Governor, the Mayor of Chicago, and Congress representatives Tammy Duckworth, Bill Foster, Robin Kelly. The overlying topic was the importance of immigration for college campuses and for Illinois in general. President Baker along with several other Illinois university and higher education institution presidents actively wrote to Congress and various individuals on the issue of immigration. These same leaders have partnered in writing a letter that was printed as part of the Illinois Science Technology Coalition newsletter which has been published and broadcast widely. Currently, about one in four of our students in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in Illinois are immigrants. Whether they are here permanently or temporarily, they represent a very significant portion of our innovation future. It is important for us to promote student career success for all our students. The bill is currently struggling as its supporters are losing power but there is still bi-partisan talk to sort of try to keep that bill alive. We will continue to push for our students to maintain their support in the US Legislature.

President Obama signed into law the Violence Against Women Act and amendments to the Clerly Act which will call for new obligations to colleges and universities. Given the federal involvement and the university's desire to make NIU a safe and welcoming campus, we've been tasked by the President to form a task force to look at all the new impacts that the Violence Against Women Act will have on the way we report crimes, how they are dealt with, what support services we have for students, and how we promote a safe environment on our campus. Many people in the room are going to be on that task force including Alan Rosenbaum, Eric Weldy, and a number of people from across the campus will be represented. The goal is to have a report ready by October 1st that will detail exactly how NIU plans to react against to the Violence Against Women Act.

Agenda Item 8.c.(4) – Grant and Contract Awards

Lesley Rigg described the different grants and contracts that have been awarded; applied research, basic research, public service, instructional programs. She highlighted on work in Haiti and Bolivia, NIU's prestigious National Science Foundation career award which is ongoing, and two of the National Endowments for the Humanities. Of the seven given to the state of Illinois, NIU received two of them. The National Science Foundation REU (Research Experiences for Undergraduate students) grant is important particularly with regards to STEM. This grant was PI'd by Lisa Freeman and David Changnon and we are in our final year of the program but we will be moving towards renewing the grant. The PI's will be changing but the grant and the environment, ethics, economy and engineering activities of the grant will be remaining largely the same. Trustee Murer suggested that these topics should be discussed in more detail in the next committee meeting not looking at grants simply as an accumulation of money but focusing on how they can piggyback onto one another.

Agenda Item 8.c.(5) – Appointment of Executive Vice President & Provost

President Baker announced his recommendation to appoint Lisa Freeman as the new Executive Vice President and Provost. Dr. Freeman has been serving in that role on an interim basis and has a strong background in research and graduate education; formerly being the Vice President for Research. She served on related committees around the state and has shown statewide leadership in the Illinois Innovation Council. She's worked with various leaders appointed by Governor Quinn to improve support for innovation and align public and private resources and serves on the boards for the Fermi Research Alliance, the Chicago Council on Science and Technology, and the Illinois Manufacturing Extension Partnership. Dr. Freeman came to Northern Illinois University from Kansas State University where she worked for 16 years and was a full professor and held a variety of administrative positions. She holds degrees from Cornell and The Ohio State University and is very well respected across campus. President Baker recommended a motion to appoint Dr. Lisa Freeman to the position of Executive Vice President & Provost. Trustee Murer motioned and was seconded by Trustee Boey. Chair Butler stated that he enjoyed participating in the original search that hired Dr. Freeman for the position of Vice President of Research and Graduate Studies, marveled at the work that she has done since then, wished her luck and, on behalf of the Board, congratulated her. Chair Butler called for a vote and the motion passed.

Lisa Freeman shared that she is deeply honored by this appointment made by a Board of Trustees whom she respects tremendously. She is excited by the opportunity to serve an institution by providing a positive impact on all aspects of NIU's mission, teaching and learning, research and artistry, outreach and service and I could not be more enthusiastic about supporting a vibrant, inclusive and collaborative academic community that promotes the excellence of our students and faculty and staff and that reflects our core value of shared governance. I'm particularly excited about assuming the position at NIU at this point in time so that I can play an active role in operationalizing President Baker's agenda focus on student career success and ethically inspired leadership, thriving communities, and financial sustainability. I'm also particularly pleased to accept the position at this time as we begin the quest to search for an Associate Vice President for Academic Diversity and a Chief Diversity Officer. Thank you very much for the opportunity and for your support.

Agenda Item 8.c.(6) – Appointment of VP for Research & Innovation Partnerships

President Baker announced his recommendation to appoint Lesley Rigg as the new Vice President for Research & Innovation. Dr. Rigg has served as interim in this position and holds the rank of full professor in the Department of Geography. She has strong foundations in both physical and human geography and has received funding from grants issued by various institutions including the National Geographic Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Science Foundation. Dr. Freeman has been moving forward with government relations, innovation partnerships, safety issues, laboratory safety issues, compliance issues, strategic partnerships at a great pace. President Baker recommended a motion to appoint Dr. Lesley Rigg as the Vice President for Research & Innovation Partnerships. Trustee Boey moved and was seconded by Trustee Murer. Chair Butler added that prior to assuming the interim position, Dr. Rigg was the Associate Dean for Research and Graduate Studies in the

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and has been with NIU since 1998. Chair Butler called for a vote and the motion passed.

Dr. Lesley Rigg thanked the President, the Board, and the faculty and staff at NIU for this opportunity. I'm very excited and very honored. This is where I grew up academically and I'm looking forward to moving into this administrative role and being able to make a difference at that level. We're examining a plethora of ways to build the innovation ecosystem in Northern Illinois. We've completed a recent review of our Office of Sponsored Projects Grant Fiscal and the Office of Compliance and Research Integrity by the National Council on University Research Administrators. We're really looking forward to continuing the important work of drilling down on the research enterprise. The work of Trustee Murer on the ad hoc committee is something that we're very much engaged in and excited to be working on. As a unit in conjunction with the President's office and the Provost's office along with the colleges, we're going to be looking at ways of bringing research clusters, areas of excellence to fruition on campus. I'd also like to note that we'll be putting out a formal announcement shortly, but Associate Vice President Stone will be leaving us for the next year as he takes on a prestigious Ace Fellowship. I think we're in a great position to move forward and I'm very much looking forward to it. Thank you so much.

Agenda Item 8.c.(7) – Search Firm for VP for University Advancement

President Baker started by saying a few words about Mike Malone. Prior to my coming to the University, Mike had announced his retirement. He in fact announced it to leave some time ago and was seduced into staying a couple more years. I think the University asked him to do that because of the great contributions and wisdom he has and what he was bringing to the University. That agreement expires this next summer, a year from now. In preparation for that and in knowing of his exit, Mike has taken on important steps to prepare the University for the next person and for our next campaign. He has brought in consultants this spring to look at our readiness for a campaign; looking at our donor base, looking at our organizational structure, and looking at how we operate now. In that analysis it has been made clear that our development staff is not big enough to go into the next campaign. We currently have four development officers. Our consultant tells us that we are significantly understaffed for an institution our size. It is better to allow the new Vice President to build his or her team than it is to stock up now. Our consultant advised that we have a strong donor base, all of whom are anxious to work with us. We met with the Foundation President, the Foundation Executive Board, the full Foundation Board, and the Alumni Board and we are in agreement with the direction we need to take which is why this item shows up on our agenda here to retain an executive search firm for the appointment of a Vice President for University Advancement. Mike has positioned us for this next campaign to be hugely successful with a couple hundred thousand alumni and the assessment that has already been done and more assessments to do on our donor base. Trustee Strauss moved to approve the agenda item. Trustee Boey seconded. Trustee Murer commented that it is through the foundation that she came to this Board of Trustees. The leadership that Mike has given to this University has been outstanding. Thank you for the leadership that you are showing in encouraging that we go forth with an executive search about 12 months before the transition. Trustee Coleman stressed the importance of Mike being able to develop relationships and our ability to maintain those by having someone on board that Mike can train and introduce to our donors. Trustee Iosco wished Dr. Malone a happy retirement and questioned why we need to retain an executive search firm. Over the years I've seen Mike build a great team and he's got a great gentleman by the name of Joe Matty working with him right now. Mike and Joe are a great team. Joe and I were a team when I was the President of the Alumni Association. I hate to spend what I think will probably be \$125,000 or \$150,000 to make this search. I'd rather see us spend the money in some other ways. President Baker explained that the Foundation wanted to go through that search process and look nationally. Trustee Boey reminisced on how hard it was to keep donors back when our football team was not as successful as it is now and commended Dr. Malone for his success in building the Foundation program into the successful program we see today. Trustee Butler asked President Baker if he intends to construct this search committee be certain that it contains proper representation from the Alumni Association and the Foundation. President Baker and Foundation President, Dennis Barsema, discussed keeping the committee smaller, around 10 or 12 participants, with representation from the Alumni Association, the Foundation, the faculty and staff of the university, students, and community members.

We plan to have a co-chair from the Foundation and the University who will put together a representative board and then have broad inclusion as we go through the process. Trustee Iosco offered opposition to the motion and Trustee Marshall offered Abstention. Chair Butler called for a vote and the motion passed.

Agenda Item 8.c.(8) – Appointment of Interim VP for Marketing & Communications

President Baker announced his recommendation for Harlan Teller to be appointed as the Interim Vice President for Marketing and Communications. Brad Hoey has been serving ably in that role over the last few months, but it's clear to me that we need more people in high skills in that area. We need to put together a major branding effort for the university and a communications plan both internally and externally. If we don't communicate the changes we are experiencing well we can lose our momentum. This effort will take someone with a great deal of strategic skills on the internal side and similarly externally with community relations, with building our brand identity, and bringing in people to integrate within the university, across colleges, and across units to work centrally to execute that brand platform. In that regard I have talked with a consulting firm that has formerly worked with the university to get their advice on this. Their suggestion was that we bring in somebody for a year or two who can help us move forward with this initiative. A name that emerged out of those conversations was Harlan Teller, who graduated Suma Cum Laude from NIU out of the English department and ending up having a career in communications. Harlan has won a number of awards including the PR Professional of the Year in 2009 voted so by the Chicago chapter of the Public Relations Society of America in recognition of his lifetime of achievements in the public relations industry. He's someone that we've had into the organization and he's met with the leadership of the institution as well as our marketing and communications group. He's been very well received and worked as a lecturer in higher education and other universities such as Northwestern, Columbia College, and DePaul. I would like to move that we appoint him for that two-year term and the Vice President. Trustee Iosco moved and was seconded by Trustee Boey. Trustee Murer offered support to President Baker and requested that Mr. Teller meet with the Board and present his vision of the University. Trustee Coleman questioned the interim title. President Baker is hesitant to hold on filling this position for 6 months while a search is established with the University Counsel as it is a critical need for the University. It was further clarified that the contract is restricted to two years of service. Chair Butler emphasized that it is the Board's obligation to respect the shared governance process and as long as Harlan is acceptable to the title, and he obviously must be, I think we need to respect the process. Trustee Murer commented that the sense of urgency that the President has expressed should be respected as well as Chair Butler's indication with never diminishing our commitment and our loyalty to the concept of shared governance. This is not the ordinary or customary way of handling things but under the circumstances the situation is such that it may be prudent to move forward with the individual. Chair Butler called for a vote and the motion was approved. This concludes the President's report.

CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 63

Agenda Item 9.a. – FY15 Election of Board Officers

The Board Bylaws and NIU law requires the elections of officers annually and prior to the July meeting of the Board. As such we today elect a Board Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, a Fourth Member of the Executive Committee and a Representative to the Illinois Civil Service Merit Board. These elections take place by secret ballot. We begin with the position of Chair and work our way through the positions in the order I have stated them. Mr. Blakemore has prepared ballots which contain the names of all the members of the Board who are eligible for each position. A majority of the Board or five votes regardless of the number of Trustees present is required to elect an officer. If a majority of the votes cast is not achieved by one member for the office in the first balloting, I'll explain the procedures that will follow in such a situation if that becomes necessary. Ms. Bank-Wilkins will distribute the ballots and Mr. Blakemore will tally the votes and report to the Board whether a majority of votes have been cast for a member of the Board for each respective position. Once we have elected members to serve in each of these positions, Mr. Blakemore will certify the election and I will officially announce what is already known to the officers for the 2014-15 term because we will be announcing them as we go along. Once we have

completed the balloting for each position, I'll provide an opportunity for each of the elected officers to address the Board if they wish and those elected will assume the duties of the office on July 1st. We begin with the office of Chair and the Bylaws permit an opportunity for Board members to make public expression of interest, vision, or acknowledgements of willingness to serve in the position. Nominations are not required nor is any expression of interest but Trustees may address the Board at this time if they wish in regard to this position.

After distribution of ballots for the office of Chair, collection and tallying, Board General Counsel Blakemore announced that Chair Butler has been reelected as chair. Chair Butler shared I look forward to another successful year working with a new president with the existing incumbent Board. You are outstanding colleagues. I have deep respect for all of you. I think we've done an excellent job of beginning this new era for the university and I welcome the opportunity. Thank you for not embarrassing me in front of my mother.

Ms. Banks-Wilkins distributed and collected the ballots for the position of Vice Chair. Board General Counsel Blakemore announced that Vice Chair Strauss has been re-elected as Vice Chair.

Ms. Banks-Wilkins distributed and collected the ballots for the position of Secretary. Board General Counsel Blakemore announced that Trustee Coleman has been re-elected as Secretary of the Board.

Ms. Banks-Wilkins distributed and collected the ballots for the position of the Fourth Member of the executive committee. Board General Counsel Blakemore announced that Trustee Murer has been re-elected as the Fourth Member of the Executive Committee.

Ms. Banks-Wilkins distributed and collected the ballots for the position of Representative to the Civil Service Merit Board. Board General Counsel Blakemore announced that Trustee Marshall has been re-elected as the representative to the Civil Service Merit Board. Trustee Marshall thanked his fellow Trustees and all of the members of the NIU family who kept him informed of problems that needed to be addressed at the Civil Service Commission. As reported earlier, there is an upcoming retreat where many of those problems hopefully will be solved or at least moved progressively forward.

Chair Butler certified that the Board has reelected the incumbents in all of the positions that included John Butler, Board Chair; Marc Strauss, Vice Chair; Wheeler Coleman, Secretary; Cherilyn Murer, Fourth Member of the Executive Committee; and Robert Marshall, Representative to the Civil Service Merit Board. This concludes the board's annual process of officer election.

Action Item 9.b. – Amend BOT Bylaws Article VI, Section 4

Chair Butler stated that this item concludes the work of an ad hoc committee that he put in place about 10 months ago chaired by distinguished colleague, Trustee Murer, and commences the work of a newly designated standing committee; the Legislative Affairs Research and Innovation Committee or LARI. Chair Butler asked for a motion for the second reading and the reading which will be approved to constitute the new standing committee. Trustee Strauss motioned to approve the item seconded by Student Trustee Echols leading to discussion. Chair Butler described the Legislative Affairs and Research Innovation Committee as a modification to the work of the current Legislation and External Affairs Committee which includes the subject areas of the ad hoc committee and overall subjects of the Division of Research and Innovation. LARI will retain the subjects of state and federal relations that derive from the Legislation and External Affairs Committee and will no longer receive regular reports in Marketing and External Communication. This being the second reading, the Board is voting on whether to make the changes contained in the meeting packet thereby producing this standing committee. Chair Butler shared his plan to retain Trustee Cherilyn Murer as the Chair of this newly formed standing committee. Trustee Murer thanked Chair Butler his vision to look at research in its singularity because it is so important first and foremost to the scholarship of this university as well as being a critical element of our financial viability. I couldn't be more enthusiastic and delighted to chair this committee. Chair Butler called for a vote and the amendment was passed.

Action Item 9.c. – Executive Session Minutes Release

Chair Butler stated that the Illinois Open Meetings Act requires the semi-annual review of minutes of executive session business to determine what parts of minutes should be made available to the public because they no longer require confidential treatment. The action item recommends no additional release for confidentiality of any previously unreleased sections of the executive session minutes at this time and that we consider these sections in subsequent meetings again in six months. This is a recommendation of the Board General Counsel. Chair Butler called for a motion to approve this recommendation. Trustee Strauss motioned and was seconded by Trustee Murer. The motion passed.

Agenda Item 9.d. – Resolution Honoring Student Trustee Elliot M. Echols

Chair Butler explained typically each year at the June meeting we bid farewell to the dynamic student who has been sent to us by his or her student peers by election to serve on this Board. Our current Student Trustee, Elliot Echols, did not depart from our Board in June of last year because he was re-elected for another term and we are so much the better for that fact. But today is, I'm sad to say, Elliot's last meeting. I have a resolution to present to, Student Trustee Echols, who will remain in his position until the end of the day June 30, 2014 at which point the Student Trustee-Elect, Paul Julion, will become the new Student Trustee. We will swear Paul into his office as soon as we meet again as a Board. Paul will join us legally and we may begin to treat him and welcome him as a Trustee on July 1st. Elliot, once I've read this resolution you may if you wish make some remarks and then I'll entertain a motion to adopt the resolution and your colleagues may wish to say some things as well.

The Chair invited Student Trustee, Elliot Echols, to join him at the podium and presented him with the following resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N **HONORING** **STUDENT TRUSTEE ELLIOT ECHOLS**

WHEREAS, Elliot Echols has faithfully served as a student member of the Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees for two terms from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, prior to his election as Student Trustee, Elliot served as Director of Athletics & Recreation for the NIU Student Association from 2009 through 2011, and as President of the NIU Student Association during the 2011-2012 academic year; and

WHEREAS, during his leadership Elliot consistently embraced the critical importance of unity among diverse student organizations, developing safe communities, and honoring the legacy of exceptional student leaders and mentors; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Board of Trustees, Elliot contributed valuable insight and information regarding the student perspective on the rising cost of tuition, maintaining NIU's affordability despite state fiscal constraints, and ensuring a vibrant future for recreational wellness as an integral part of student life; and

WHEREAS, Elliot served as an active and engaged member of the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee; Legislation, Audit, External Affairs and Compliance Committee; and Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee; and

WHEREAS, Elliot served in the distinguished position of Vice Chair of the Finance, Facilities and Operations Committee in 2013, the first such responsibility assumed by a Student Trustee; and

WHEREAS, Elliot joined his Board colleagues in the august responsibility of selecting the 12th President of Northern Illinois University, Dr. Douglas Baker, in 2013; and

WHEREAS, we, as his colleagues on the Board of Trustees, want to express our appreciation for Elliot's service to the NIU students and community, and regard for his achievement of both a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in May 2012, and a Master's of Education in Adult and Higher Education in May 2014; 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 Elliot Echols 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 Elliot Echols 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 Elliot Echols.

Adopted in a regular meeting assembled this **19th** day of **June 2014**.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

John Butler
Chair

Wheeler G. Coleman
Secretary



A summary of Student Trustee, Elliot Echols', remarks follows:

Thank you so much. I don't have anything written down so I will speak from the heart and I won't be long. I'll start off by saying this isn't goodbye; this is just I'll see you guys soon. My experience on the Board has been one that I'll never forget. The way the Board has allowed me, as a young man, to be a part of such large conversations and has brought me in to mentor me, not as just a Board member, but as a person and has allowed me to already be employed. I've been working for about a week now and the things that I've learned here at the institution and at the Board level have allowed me to articulate my ideas and thoughts and it has made me successful. It's bittersweet though. I'm joyed to be working now, but at the same time I would love to be here with you again and making this place better each day. I'm a legacy here at NIU. My brother, aunts, and a host of cousins have attended NIU and I've been around NIU since I was 16 years old. Lesley, I completely understand where you're coming from. This is what I call home as well. I've made so many connections and so many relationships; I'm indebted to NIU and I'll never forget where I came from. I'll always love NIU. I want to thank everybody, especially the Board, for your help, your support, your guidance, your commitment to me and your commitment to students. I am NIU. I'm homegrown and I wanted to tell you all that I want to continue to fight the fight. Right now, in higher education, we're seeing things that we've never seen before. It's going to take special people who really care about this place to see it continue. Thank you for everything that you've done for me. John, thank you very much. Bill, and everyone else, thank you very much. I really appreciate it and I'll see you guys soon. Go Huskies.

The Chair asked for a motion to approve Elliot Echols' resolution. Trustee Murer so moved, seconded by Trustee Coleman.

Trustee Murer shared her sentiments, I sit here and remember that I'm first and foremost a mother and when you see someone like Elliot who we have had in our midst for two wonderful years and watched the growth of a young man, but now it's time for you to do great things, Elliot, and you can come back and sit in on these sessions, but we want you to go and achieve wonderful things. You have a great job. Thank you for involving the Board in the process. You will be back because Mike Malone has your phone number and you know we spoke of his great attributes as a development officer. You will always be a part of NIU but I just want to say you earned the respect of this Board and you earned your place at the table; congratulations. President Baker thanked Elliott for teaching him about the students, student

perspective, the challenges students face. They're not always easy challenges and so thank you for bringing me up to speed. We hope to address those issues and move this institution forward. You've given us momentum and you will see your efforts echo out over the next few years; Paul you got big shoes to fill. Trustee Strauss shared his reflections on Elliot's growth over the last two years. He's much more confident, self-assured, he's been a student of the environment that he operates in and he's been a great colleague. That doesn't even count when he served as my chauffeur. So I would echo the comments made by everybody else. I know that you've been well prepared by your experience here and I'm looking forward to tracking what happens over the next ten years. I know you're going to be successful. Board General Counsel Blakemore shared I know it's unusual for the Board General Counsel to speak about a Board Member but Elliot is my fraternity brother and he was one of the first people that I met three years ago when I joined NIU. He was not on the Board at the time but he was with a group of my fraternity members who were welcoming me to NIU and since they were students I said to Elliot and others I could be your best friend or your worst enemy; Elliot oftentimes tells that story. I am especially proud of Elliot and I'm especially proud to say that I've never had to have him as an enemy but as a true friend and colleague. I had the opportunity to serve as a reference for him and I used the examples of his leadership on this Board to point out the jewel, and he understands that word very well, that they would be receiving as he takes on his next position. I am so proud of you and proud to be your friend and your brother.

Finally, the Chair summarized as Trustee Murer said this is your chance to go out and do great things and Trustee Coleman said the same thing; be a success in the corporate world. But as a fellow traveler in the student government world who also served two terms on this Board, you can come back. You just have to get appointed by the governor and that process really starts right away. You've got to work on that over years and years and years. But you've been a joy to work with. I also met you when you were not yet the trustee when you were the President of the Student Association and we went out to lunch and we had a great conversation and from that very beginning, you were very forthright, honest and a clear advocate for the interests that were important to you. I've enjoyed getting to know you and becoming your friend. The resolution was approved.

Agenda Item 9.e. – Resolution Honoring Recording Secretary Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins

When this Board was formed in 1996, shortly after I had gone to graduate school, and the Board of Regents was dissolved, Sharon Banks-Wilkins was assigned the important task of serving as its Recording Secretary. Today we recognize that this is Sharon's final meeting as she retires from the university effective June 30, 2014. Sharon was quite clear to me that she did not want the Board to engage in any extraordinary action to honor her service, but she of all people should know by now that there is very little one can do to stop this Board's fierce penchant for honoring those who have been vital to our mission and the conduct of our business. So I will also then read the resolution the Board has prepared and you may make some remarks if you wish and we have a gift for you as well and then I'll entertain a motion to adopt the resolution and your colleagues may wish to say some things as well.

The Chair invited Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins to join him at the podium and presented her with the following Resolution:

R E S O L U T I O N **HONORING** **RECORDING SECRETARY SHARON M. BANKS-WILKINS**

WHEREAS, Sharon Marie Banks-Wilkins has faithfully served as Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University since the Board's inception on January 3, 1996 through her retirement on June 30; and

WHEREAS, prior to her appointment as Recording Secretary in 1996, Sharon served as Administrative Assistant to the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the Board of Regents, NIU's former governing body, from June 1988 through December 31, 1995; and

WHEREAS, given the scope and tenure of Sharon Banks-Wilkins' service to Northern Illinois University, it is fitting and appropriate to give special notice and recognition to Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins who is retiring on June 30, 2014; and

WHEREAS, having served as Recording Secretary during two presidential searches resulting in the hiring of Dr. John G. Peters and Dr. Douglas D. Baker; and

WHEREAS, having served under the leadership of three Northern Illinois University presidents, Dr. John La Tourette, Dr. John G. Peters and Dr. Douglas D. Baker;

WHEREAS, Sharon Banks-Wilkins contributed valuable insight and information to the Board of Trustees in the conversion to electronic Board reports for use in Board of Trustees meetings;

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees wishes to officially express its appreciation and gratitude for Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins' many far-reaching contributions to Northern Illinois University.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University in formal meeting herein assembled extends its grateful appreciation to Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins for eighteen years of distinguished service to Northern Illinois University and its Board of Trustees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this **RESOLUTION** be presented to Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins 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 State of Illinois and as a lasting tribute to the ongoing accomplishments and contributions of Sharon Marie Banks-Wilkins as Recording Secretary of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University.

Adopted in a regular meeting assembled this **19th** day of **June, 2014**.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY**

John R. Butler
Chair

Attest: Wheeler G. Coleman
Secretary



A summary of Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins' remarks follows:

Mr. Chair, Members of the Board, everyone here, I'm not a public speaker. I thought a lot of times about what I would say when I came up here. I didn't write anything. What it all comes down to is, I have been very happy and proud to be employed by Northern Illinois University. It has changed my life. I have worked with wonderful people. I truly enjoyed being here. I've worked with several people on the Board throughout the years, and I can't say enough about every one of them. They've been very kind to me. I've enjoyed working with you all. (Sharon was then presented with an NIU rocking chair.) I love this. I have a few more months with my granddaughter and can rock her to sleep. After that we're done. But I want to thank everyone. It's just been a joy and a pleasure. Thank you.

Trustee Boey motioned to approve Sharon M. Banks-Wilkins' resolution and Trustee Maurer offered a second.

Chair Butler recognized Trustee Boey for his comments. Sharon came to us very young in 1996. I think I'm the last member of the original Board, but I still remember when you came to us; we needed you

badly. We were the first Board of Trustees of NIU and really just started plowing out our new grounds in front of us as to what our duties are. We know what our duties are but to try to get it together and work as a team; that took a little bit of time. Sharon was always there and I still remember, even to this very day, I would give her a call and say Sharon what happened to my notes and Sharon never failed to say well I have it here and I'll give it to you. Every successful Board of Trustees is only as good as the efficiency of Sharon Banks-Wilkins and we will miss you dearly. I'm hoping that you're not going too far away from us here and come back and visit us and continually give us good advice. Best wishes. Trustee Marshall reminded everyone in the room of the millions or trillions of things that cross Sharon's desk each year that she has to get in order and passed on. So we say it's a heck of a job. Trustee Iosco stated I don't know what we are going to do without, but enjoy your retirement, enjoy your rocking chair and hopefully we'll see you soon. Trustee Coleman commended Sharon for her ability to make folks like us look really, really good. We appreciate you. Thank you. Trustee Murer offered thanks from everyone on the Board. We appreciate everything you've done for us and I think the word that comes to my mind about you was consistency because there's always a smile on your face. Even when it can be really tough, if you come to Sharon, she's always professional and she always has a smile. I think you certainly leave some very large shoes to fill. Trustee Echols told Sharon I remember you would always call and leave a message at 7:30 in the morning and would think, oh look out; what's going on? Thank you for always calling and checking up and make sure that I had things done. Like you said Chair, she's always consistent and I appreciate it. Good luck to you; I hope to see you soon. The resolution was adopted.

OTHER MATTERS

Before we move to the next item, in the same spirit that we've just honored Sharon and because we'll be conducting no business when we return, I figure we'll lose our audience as we should. I want to thank the many people who made this meeting possible this morning. I want to thank Ms. Banks-Wilkins as I always do, the Board's staff liaison, Bill Nicklas, and the others on his team who assist with the logistics of the meeting including the hard working staff of Media Services. I want to thank the members of the University Advisory Committee for your service and to leaders who offered reports and answered questions today, particularly Dr. Baker, Mr. Blakemore, Mike Malone, Promod Vohra, Lesley Rigg and Lisa Freeman. Thank you for those people who provide us out food and drinks and their hard work for bringing those things to us and even the custodial personnel for taking care of this beautiful and historic building. The Board needs to go into closed session and will reconvene in approximately sixty minutes. Again there's no business on the agenda when we return but you're certainly welcome to be here. We've got a busy closed session agenda so the sooner we get it started the better. On that note, thank you all for coming. We appreciate you bearing witness to the work that we do here and it's important to have your input and participation.

Chair Butler called 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 sections 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. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Marshall. A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Executive Session was as follows:

Trustee Boey	Yes	Trustee Coleman	Yes
Trustee Iosco	Yes	Trustee Marshall	Yes
Trustee Murer	Yes	Trustee Strauss	Yes
Student Trustee Echols	Yes	Trustee Chair Butler	Yes

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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING RECONVENED

Chair Butler reconvened the public meeting of the Board of Trustees and the meeting was called to order.

OTHER MATTERS

No other matters were brought before this Board.

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 18, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Butler entertained a motion to adjourn. Trustee Strauss so moved, seconded by Trustee Marshall. The motion was approved. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Megan King, Administrator
VP Operations & Community Relations

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.