

Minutes of the
NIU Board of Trustees
Of Northern Illinois University
Special Meeting
April 14, 2016

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 2:28 p.m. by Chair Marc Strauss in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Kathleen Carey conducted a roll call. Members present were Trustees Robert Boey, John Butler, Robert Marshall, Tim Struthers, and James Zanayed. Members absent Trustees Wheeler Coleman and Cherilyn Murer. Also present: President Doug Baker, Board Liaison Mike Mann, General Counsel Jerry Blakemore, and Executive Vice President and Provost Lisa Freeman, Vice President Al Phillips.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

General Counsel Blakemore indicated the appropriate notification of the meeting has been provided pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Mr. Blakemore also advised that a quorum was present.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Butler so moved and Trustee Boey seconded. The motion was approved.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were not additional comments or announcements.

PUBLIC COMMENT

General Counsel Blakemore indicated that there was one request for public comment by Mike Pittsley.

Speaker Mike Pittsley: Actually I was just driving down the street. I'm sort of happy today my daughter got accepted into Speech Pathology (at another university) which is a very demanding program, but I'm kind of disappointed in my alma mater. My kids are third generation NIU students. My mother got her master's degree in nursing here. I graduated in 1976. I probably have been involved longer than everybody but maybe Tim because he was actually my first loan officer. After I was in business for myself, Tim called and said would you please bring your car in, you're not making your payments. Believe me; I've been around here for a very long time. I can say now I've always said that NIU is my family. Dr. Boey is my neighbor. I live down the street. He thinks that we have so many cars - I live next to the pink house. But Marc, Jerry and I have been on committees together so I kind of know everybody here. I came here to talk to President Baker and I saw the door open and I asked if I could come in here and just see what was going on. So anyway my daughter got accepted into two universities, Northern Arizona, she's a straight A student; Northern Arizona and Midwestern University. Two years she's been on the wait list at NIU. I'm a great supporter of NIU, but do you know how it leaves a bad taste in your mouth when you're third generation and you can't get into your alma mater and your kid's got straight A's. That's why I'm here. Let's do a different business model. The university needs more money. Why don't you raise tuition on these programs that are in high demand? Right now I'm going to be paying \$30,000 a year for a program I could get in here. I didn't come in here to speak to you, but I came in here because I'm not a happy alumni and I do donate to the university every year and I call them my family so I feel like I'm getting stabbed in the back for my support.

Mr. Pittsley continued, I came to talk to President Baker and I went there and asked to have an appointment with Doug and they said we don't give appointments unless we know the topic and I said well, just have him call me. I'm not going to give you my topic because I don't want to give you my topic. Now I can express to you that I am involved with the university. We rent 700 apartments to college kids. I probably rent to 2000 colleges students every year. I know what's going on in the university. I know the pulse of the university. I think I can help the university.

Chair Strauss responded, we appreciate your interest in taking the time to come in to talk to us.

Mr. Pittsley continued, when I came here, I didn't know there was a meeting going on but I did see the signs out front there on the parking meters where my flashers are going, it said Marc Strauss, Tim Struthers, so I just figured I'd stop in and say hello. Thank you very much.

Trustee Boey responded, thank you for the chance to come and talk to us.

Trustee Struthers asked, I'd be interested in knowing the facts behind that. Not that I could solve anything but this is a pretty raw, a pretty real situation. This is a real situation with real people and we should be small enough to kind of feel this. We should be stinging too in my opinion.

Mr. Pittsley responded, I'm just saying as an alumnus, I'm going I don't want to donate anymore to that university. But my kid deserved to go here, I believe my kid deserved it. She got straight A's.

Trustee Marshall asked, I believe we've had some discussion on the issue of legacy and students. Perhaps there's some additional conversation that may take place. I'm not totally familiar with our legacy, but I know that it's been mentioned.

Mr. Pittsley noted, I volunteered my time to the school this week for ethics in business and one of the students that was there is in the CPA program. I asked for detailed on how to get accepted into the CPA program? He said if you're an NIU alum you get sort of preference to get into the program. I don't have to take the CPA test to get into the program. We're above that. We got accepted. So I don't know why your other programs might not have that same. We got someone that we know that does well, that pays their tuition, that's a good community member. Maybe they would have that same type of acceptance into the university.

Chair Strauss responded, again, I want to thank you for taking the time to come speak to us and I do understand the personal pain involved.

Mr. Pittsley added, you know I poked you last year and I maybe have spoken to Tim about this topic and I don't think I mentioned it to Jerry or anything like that but it's been bugging me so I figured I might as well just talk to you guys.

Trustee Boey and Trustee Struthers thanked Mr. Pittsley for coming.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 102

Agenda Item 6.a. Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts

Chair Strauss noted, we have a single action item on our agenda today. Provost Freeman will present this item.

Provost Freeman began, I'm pleased to come before the Board today and ask for approval of the appointment of the Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts. Following a national search, Professor Paul Castle has accepted an offer to be that Dean. He's recommended concurrently for the appointment at the rank of Professor with tenure in the School of Theater and Dance. Professor Castle is currently a Professor of Theater Arts in the State University of New York at New Paltz. For those of you

who are unfamiliar with that institution, it's an excellent comprehensive university in the State University of New York system and its most known for its School of Fine and Performing Arts. Their metal work program is actually ranked third nationally and the school is in the top 100 if not the top 75. Professor Castle previously served SUNY New Paltz School of Fine and Performing Arts as Associate Dean and Interim Dean. In that capacity he was very active in creating new interdisciplinary programs, public private partnerships, community arts programs and performing arts events. He's a noted scholar and has written a text book. He's performed extensively off-Broadway, and is member of Actor's Equity and Screen Actors Guild. He holds a bachelor of fine arts in theater and communications from Miami University and a master of fine arts from Florida State University, Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training. I recommend Board approve the appointment of Professor Paul Castle as Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts.

Trustee Butler so moved and Trustee Struthers seconded.

Trustee Butler asked, can you describe how do you determine the recommendation for tenure so quickly?

Provost Freeman responded, because we are very prudent stewards of the university resources when we're doing an executive search, we instruct the search committees to insure that every candidate that's considered at the semi-finalist stage and the finalist stage has the credentials appropriate for tenure in their department within the college. To that end, if there is any question, an anonymized version of that candidate's CV is taken to the Departmental Personnel Committee for inspection before a candidate is even considered as a semi-finalist. We don't bring anyone to campus unless we know for sure that they are tenure-able in their home department. Once we have a candidate with whom we are negotiating, we ask the Department Personnel Committee and the Department Chair to go through the process that's necessary for approval at that level. As you know, we approve tenure administratively and with a faculty voice at every level. The first approval comes at the level of the Faculty Departmental Personnel Committee and the Chair. The next one comes at the Dean and the College Council. Because these things are time sensitive the Dean, Chair and DPC work very quickly. They can vote by e-mail so it can happen quickly because they've all seen credentials before or the credentials have been pre-vetted. Once it's approved with unanimity at the level of the college and department, by both the Dean and Department Chair on the administrative side and the Personnel Committee and the College Council on the college side, the recommendation that comes to the Provost and to the University Personnel Committee, the UCPC, it comes as an information item because unless there's a process error the Provost and UCPC do not overturn unanimous recommendations for tenure. In the cases of all of these deans we were able to make a phone call, or a couple of phone calls on a Monday, and have the tenure recommendation in place by Wednesday because that's really needed to close the deal. Thank you for asking and allowing me to clarify that.

Chair Strauss noted, I have a motion and a second. Is there any other discussion? Seeing none, all those in favor? Motion Carried

OTHER MATTERS

No other matters were discussed.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the BOT Committees is scheduled to begin on Thursday, May 19, 2016, 9 a.m. The next regular BOT Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2016, 9 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Strauss asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Butler so moved and Trustee Boey seconded. The motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Carey
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.