

Minutes of the  
**NIU Board of Trustees**  
**Of Northern Illinois University**  
**Special Meeting**  
May 18, 2017

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 12:28 p.m. by Chair Butler in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Kathleen Carey conducted a roll call. Members present were Trustees Dennis Barsema, Robert Boey, Wheeler Coleman, Veronica Herrero, Matthew Holmes, Tim Struthers, Eric Wasowicz, Board Chair John Butler. Also present: President Doug Baker, Board Liaison Mike Mann, Acting General Counsel Greg Brady, Executive Vice President and Provost Lisa Freeman, Acting Chief Financial Officer Larry Pinkelton and UAC Representatives Greg Long and Holly Nicholson.

**2. VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

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

**3. MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL**

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

**4. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

After a brief discussion, Acting General Counsel Brady verified that all trustees will vote on approving minutes for all meetings, including those who were not serving on the board at the time of the December meetings.

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the BOT Special Meeting of December 2, 2016. Trustee Coleman so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The minutes were approved.

Chair Butler continued, with approval for the minutes from the Regular Board Meeting of December 15, 2016. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. The minutes were approved.

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the BOT Special Meeting of February 14, 2017. Trustee Wasowicz so moved, seconded by Trustee Barsema. The minutes were approved.

Chair Butler ended with the approval of the minutes from the BOT Special Meeting of February 16, 2017. Trustee Barsema so moved, seconded by Trustee Wasowicz. The minutes were approved.

**5. CHAIR'S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Butler commented on commencement ceremonies held the previous weekend, thanking trustees who attended and President Baker for his remarks. In addition, Chair Butler added condolences for the loss of current student Sai Kumar Adluru, killed in a car accident along with three other people were injured in a head-on collision caused by an intoxicated driver. The deceased student, Sai Kumar Adluru was also active in the Indian Student Association and was an energetic Cricketer representing the university in the Midwestern championships and was quite well respected and revered by his friends and colleagues. He was

also an excellent student who needed only six hours to graduate, Also, seriously injured were Charishma Dudde, who was a master's student in Computer Science. We've got a number of people on our faculty and the Division of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs and International Programs who have been helpful in providing support to the student's families and friends and so we continue to send our best wishes to the injured and our condolences to the family. I would now like to recognize yet again today to our special meeting the representatives of the University Advisory Committee, Holly Nicholson, Greg Long, and Cathy Doederlein.

Holly Nicholson began, thank you very much. I did want to welcome Sol Jenson, the new Vice President of Enrollment Management, Marketing Communication. I had the privilege of serving on the search committee for this position and in my role as Operating Staff Council President, and from the standpoint of someone who works in the division, I am really excited about his expertise in both enrollment management and marketing and communications which we all know is a rare trait; and the amazing achievements that he's been able to accomplish in his former positions and also his focus on making data driven decisions. I think that's going to be integral in moving our division forward. From an operating staff standpoint, I'm very impressed by his leadership and communication styles and I really look forward to Sol building on the relationships and communication systems that Harlan has already started to put in place. So I'm hoping at the end of the day he will be approved as our new Vice President and I look forward to our division moving forward together. I wanted to thank Mike Mann for his excellent and tireless service to NIU. He has done so much for the university in Springfield and he's been a great partner to shared governance. I have a lot of respect for Mike. You will be missed and I wish you all the best in your future. Thank you very much.

Greg Long commented, Holly was far more eloquent than I will be. I would just add to that, thanks to Mike. I know how much time well beyond the 40 hours a week that you've put in and the value that you've given to the university, so thank you very much.

## **6. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Acting General Counsel Brady indicated there was a request for public comment from Professor Virginia Naples.

Professor Virginia Naples began, usually I plan ahead to talk to you with a little bit more foresight, but a couple of issues arose when I was looking at the agenda last night and then from things that I've been hearing today, I have two rather quick observations I would like to present to the Board of Trustees and other members of the audience. I am particularly troubled about both of these issues. The first issue is that I am very concerned about is the engagement of executive search firm services for hiring at the department chair level. I understand that this is a practice that is typically allowed for hiring university presidents and that has been done here in the past, but also, in the recent history they have used executive search firm services for, I believe, four additional of the highest level positions and I'm also thinking that there was about \$816,000 spent for those services and my tally is that two of the occupants of those positions have left within just a few years of their being employed here. That seems to me to send a very sad message to the constituency, the faculty, the staff, the students, and the other employees. I have just been informed that a lot of the custodial staff who are working in the Biology Department, Montgomery Hall, are no longer going to be with us and they are very unhappy about their lack of employment or loss of their jobs. Many of these people we don't really see exactly what it is they do, but what they do is as mission critical as going into a classroom and teaching students or working in a research lab or in a library facility. We really need these people and I would urge the Board of Trustees to eliminate as much as possible using the executive search firm services. Instead look for home grown talent here at the university. We've got very highly qualified individuals and among the faculty and the staff would could be promoted or take on additional other opportunities. As well we've got people who attend professional meeting and society associations and journal and there are list serves and web pages; there are many, many opportunities to alert people that positions are available other than hiring executive search firm services from outside for the positions and now going down to hiring chairs. It seems as though this process is expanding at a time

when funds are very restricted. So I would urge you to be very aware that this is potentially a cost that can be eliminated or curtailed dramatically and I think that would send a very good message to the public because when they see these things they look at it as business is continuing as usual. The other thing that also concerns me was that I was looking at the issues with the athletics budget. I was in on the budget meeting that was held in this room a couple of weeks ago, and I was very concerned that the athletics budget was anywhere variably presented from \$28 to \$31.5 million. I'm not entirely clear and from some of the numbers today they were talking again variably that income was 3 to 4 and I've also heard up to \$6 to 8 million for gate receipts and things of that nature. It seems that that's a very large expenditure. Athletics is an enhancement to a university life. Many people enjoy athletics, but the problem is that when we are in a severe fiscal constraint, this becomes a burden. Our students pay \$800 or \$900 a year for an athletics fee. I've had many students complain to me that that is an additional, unaffordable dollar amount; and in 2015 the university offered a semesters worth of I believe it was tuition to a student if 6000 students attended the six football home games and remained present throughout the entire game. There were not enough students that were at each of those six games for that scholarship to be awarded and it was only a single scholarship. So I'm very concerned about the amount of money that is spent on the athletics program and about a third of that money that is student's fees is what goes towards the athletics program. Most recent numbers that I'm aware of are about \$18 million is the shortfall that is made up from the university budget. I recognize that people say that they like to see athletics, but when I have asked students about reasons to come here, the athletics as a branding issue is not what draws them to NIU. I would very much like to see that this is an unsustainable kind of expenditure and ask that those monies be diverted to things that are more essential such as things like heating and cooling the buildings in the winter and things of that nature. Thank you.

Larry Pinkelton responded, I would like to share with the group that the Athletics Department has been considered an integral part of this campus community for many, many years. Beyond that, I would also share with the group that Athletics did receive a proportionate cut in their budget going into the fiscal '18 planning process as did every division that makes up NIU. To call out Athletics as an outlier suggesting that they are not participating in the efforts to become good stewards and maintain becoming good stewards and fiscally sound does not have the appropriate substance to back it up. Thank you.

Provost Freeman added, I'd like to address the use of external search services, particularly in the context of the College of Health and Human Sciences. I want to start out by saying that I completely share the concern about the expense particularly of executive search using a typical executive search model. I'd like to point out for the two deans that we confirmed their appointments today, for the Dean of the Libraries, we did not use any search assistance, and for the Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology we used a new unbundled model that greatly reduced the cost relying on the firm only for the passive recruitment of talent. The strategies that Professor Naples speaks about are strategies that generally work, but in the very competitive market place of health professions faculty, student in Computer Science. We will again do the best of our ability to keep the cost down not using an executive model, but trying at the lowest possible cost to get the assistance that we need to ensure the integrity and future of these important academic programs.

Greg Long responded, I just wanted to make a brief comment with regard to the Resources, Space and Budget Committee. We did, as Professor Naples said, had a meeting recently and the issue of athletics funding was part of that discussion, but also in terms of Larry Pinkelton's comments want to support that as well because during that meeting we did talk about Athletics, but there are multiple other divisions that we are going to look at a little more granular in terms of what each division's doing and how things are being cut.

**7. PRESIDENT'S REPORT NO. 114**

**UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS FORWARDED BY THE BOARD COMMITTEES**

### **Agenda Item 7.a.(1) – Tuition Masters of Accountancy**

President Baker introduced agenda item 7.a.(1) Tuition Masters of Accounting. Since we've just discussed these, I will read the recommendations and if you have questions we can go back to those. The university requests approval to offer the Master of Accountancy at the same tuition rate previously approved for the Masters of Accounting Science and ask that I forward it through this report to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 7.a.(2) – Reappointment of Dean, College of Health and Human Sciences**

President Baker continued, the second item is the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee has endorsed the request to reappoint Dr. Derryl Block to a four-year term as the Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences and that would take effect July 1, 2018. I move that she be approved.

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Coleman so moved and Trustee Boey seconded. The motion was approved.

### **Agenda Item 7.a.(3)- Appointment of Dean, College of Engineering and Engineering Technology**

President Baker added, the next item, the Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee endorsed this morning the request for Dr. Donald Russell Peterson to be appointed as Dean of the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology with the rank of Professor and tenure in the Department of Mechanical Engineering effective July 1, 2017. I would move that forward for approval.

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Coleman seconded. The motion was approved.

General Counsel Brady noted that Trustee Holmes who serves as a student trustee has abstained from the vote based on the inclusion of tenure in the appointment.

### **Agenda Item 7.a.(4) – Appointment of Dean, University Libraries**

Chair Butler noted, the next two motions we're going to have an abstention from our student trustee because of the matter of tenure of those two appointments. In the future, we'll split those motions so that the student trustee can vote on the appointment but can abstain on the tenure. But for today for efficiency purposes our student trustee has agreed to abstain so I'll be calling for that and that is of course the only reason why he's going to do that.

President Baker continued, the next item is the appointment of the Dean of the University Libraries. The Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee endorses this request that Professor Frederick Barnhardt be appointed Dean of the University Libraries with the rank of Professor with tenure in the University Libraries effective July 1, 2017.

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Coleman so moved and Trustee Boey seconded.

Chair Butler called for a roll call vote:

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes  
Trustee Veronica Hererro: Yes  
Trustee Tim Struthers: Yes  
Vice Chair Wheeler Coleman: Yes

Trustee Robert Boey: Yes  
Trustee Matthew Holmes: Abstain  
Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes  
Board Chair John Butler: Yes

Motion Approved.

### **Agenda Item 7.a.(5) – Appointment of Vice President for Enrollment Management and Marketing Communications**

President Baker continued, the next item is the appointment of the Vice President for EMMC. The Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee endorse this request to appoint Mr. Sol Jensen as the Vice President for the Division of Enrollment Management, Marketing and Communications effective June 16, 2017. We move that forward for approval.

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Herrero seconded.

General Counsel Brady added, for clarification, this does not involve tenure, the student member can vote upon this and it is my understanding that even though we did a roll call vote on the one dean item, you did not place a vote on the other dean item. For the record, the student has done exactly what he was supposed to do and abstained on the tenure issues related to those two dean items. Thank you.

Chair Butler called for a vote and motion passed

### **Agenda Item 7.a.(6) – Authorization to Retain External Search Services for the Recruitment of Nursing Chair, Nursing Faculty, and Physical Therapy Faculty**

President Baker continued, we're on to item 7.a.6, recommendation from Academic Affairs, Student Affairs and Personnel Committee, which was endorsed this morning, that the President be authorized to select executive search services for the searches of Nursing Chair, Nursing faculty and Physical Therapy faculty and ask that I forward this to you for approval.

Chair Butler asked for a motion to approve. Trustee Boey so moved and Trustee Herrero seconded. The motion was approved.

## **8. CHAIR'S REPORT NO. 78**

### **Agenda Item 8.a. – Amendment Regarding Bylaws to the Executive Committee**

Chair Butler began, now we move to the Chair's Report No. 78. The first item is an amendment regarding the bylaws to the Executive Committee. The proposed amendment before you to the Board bylaws serves two primary functions. I'll explain those and then ask for a motion. First the amendment adds a fifth member of the executive committee making it a five-member committee under the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Five member bodies have a quorum of three members, it's very expressively stated, and a majority for purposes of holding a meeting and taking action is also three members. Second, the amendment establishes a mechanism by which any two or more members of the full board may object to an item that is up for consideration before the Executive Committee in order to bring the item then to the full board instead. Do I have a motion to approve these amendments? So what we're doing is we're receiving this item as a notice of intent to propose the bylaw change so that we can proceed on this motion today. I'll ask that one of my colleagues now motion that we waive provisions in Article 10 of the Board bylaws that requires that amendments of bylaws be voted on at regular meetings of the Board and that notice of the intention to amend the bylaw shall have been presented in writing at the special meeting immediately preceding the meeting at which an amendment is adopted. So may I have a motion to that affect?

Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Boey seconded the motion.

Chair Butler called for a roll call vote:

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes	Trustee Robert Boey: Yes
Trustee Veronica Hererro: Yes	Trustee Matthew Holmes: Yes
Trustee Tim Struthers: Yes	Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes
Vice Chair Wheeler Coleman: Yes	Board Chair John Butler: Yes

Motion approved.

Chair Butler continued, asking for a motion to amend the Bylaws, of the Board of Trustees, Article VI. Board Committees, Section I. Executive Committee, Subsections B. C. and D. Trustee Wasowicz so moved and Trustee Coleman seconded.

Chair Butler called for a roll call vote:

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes	Trustee Robert Boey: Yes
Trustee Veronica Hererro: Yes	Trustee Matthew Holmes: Yes
Trustee Tim Struthers: Yes	Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes
Vice Chair Wheeler Coleman: Yes	Board Chair John Butler: Yes

Motion Approved.

### **Agenda Item 8.b. – Resolution Honoring Mike Mann**

Chair Butler continued, we're going to move to honoring our colleague and friend Mike Mann. The Board speaks as a body through resolutions in these cases, that does not preclude us from offering personal remarks, but what I want to do is if I can ask that the board first approve the resolution and then I'll read the resolution publically and give Mike an opportunity to address the group gathered here today. So let me first ask is there's a motion to approve the resolution you have before you.

Chair Butler called for a motion to approve the resolution honoring Mike Mann. Trustee Barsema so moved and Trustee Boey seconded. Motion Approved.

Chair Butler called Mike Mann to the podium and read the resolution as follows:

## **R E S O L U T I O N** **HONORING** **MIKE MANN**

**WHEREAS**, wise stewardship is critical to the vitality and economic sustainability of institutions of higher education in the State of Illinois, and service to others is a hallmark of strong character and excellence; and

**WHEREAS**, devoting one's professional life to responsible governance and civic engagement is a pursuit worthy of the highest praise; and

**WHEREAS**, sustaining a high standard of university governance requires intelligent and imaginative approaches to facilitate and align the work of a university with that of its governing board; and

**WHEREAS**, Mike Mann has faithfully served as Associate Vice President of State Government Relations and NIU Board of Trustees Liaison since November, 2014; and

**WHEREAS**, since coming to Northern Illinois University in 2013, Mike Mann has also served the university in the role of Assistant Vice President for Budget and Finance; and

**WHEREAS**, education has always been an important part of Mike Mann’s life, growing up as the son of a college professor and an elementary school teacher; and

**WHEREAS**, Mike Mann brought to his NIU responsibilities an extensive and impressive background as a trusted and respected public servant – having served higher education in the State of Illinois since 1986, holding positions at the Illinois Board of Regents, Illinois Student Assistance Commission, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education; and

**WHEREAS**, Mike Mann’s leadership as Board Liaison was essential to ensuring that Trustees remained steadfast in their resolve to add value to institutional leadership and decision making, focused on their essential role as fiduciaries, maintained their commitment to the covenants of shared governance, and dedicated their time to the issues of greatest consequence to the institution; and

**WHEREAS**, drawing on over 30 years of personal experience and knowledge of State of Illinois budget and legislative processes, Mike Mann has played a vital role at the university in areas impacting college and university budget and operations, and providing the Board of Trustees related updates on a regular basis and specifically through the auspices of the Legislative Affairs, Research and Innovation Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, under his guidance and through the Office of President, Mike Mann has been actively engaged in state government relations and provided support for the goals and best interests of the university, the Board, faculty, staff, and students; and

**WHEREAS**, Mike Mann has managed the development of the university’s legislative agenda and supported the university’s budget and financial interests throughout the budget development and appropriations process; and

**WHEREAS**, Mike Mann has represented the president of the university and attended meetings, hearings and proceedings of higher education agencies and other regulatory agencies and bodies, maintaining a close working relationship with staff at agencies and organizations such as the Illinois Board of Higher Education, the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget, the Illinois General Assembly, the Illinois Student Assistance Commission, the Capital Development Board, the Public University Presidents & Chancellors, and Public University Legislative Liaisons; 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 Mike Mann for his four years of distinguished service to Northern Illinois University.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this **RESOLUTION** be presented to Mike Mann 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 Mike Mann.

Adopted in a meeting assembled this 18th day of May, 2017.

***BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY***

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*John R. Butler, Chair*

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*Timothy A. Struthers, Secretary*



Trustee Holmes commented, congrats Mike. Like I said, I've been working with you ever since I joined the Board. It's an honor watching you work and put in all the hours that you do at your job and helping us out on the Board and everything you've done.

Trustee Barsema added, I think we left off that he's a good dancer too so we probably need to add that. Great testimony to what you've done for not only the Board but for NIU and as a new trustee helping to take us through the induction process on to the Board of Trustees. We really appreciate all of your involvement and you have left a good bar for Mr. Streb to now jump over so thank you Mike.

Trustee Wasowicz commented, Mike I'm a newbie as well. I wish I had a chance to work with you a little bit more. I was looking at your 1986, I can't image your level of frustration, how it's grown over the years I would think especially being down in Springfield. In some ways I can see where you're going to want to take a deep breath.

General Counsel Brady added, Mike I'm not a board member obviously, but congratulations, a well-deserved rest and take in a couple Cardinal games when you're out in Colorado.

President Baker commented, nobody has mentioned Mike's work with students and I've seen him mentor students and guide them along on legislative issues and he's been amazing teaching them the ropes, so Mike thank you for that. Also thank you for being a trusted colleague to everyone in the cabinet as well as the Board. It's hard to develop those trust relationships for that complex of a group of people, but you've done it well and done your job well.

Trustee Herrero added, while I haven't had the pleasure of working with you as long as some of these other folks. I have had the pleasure of working with you for at least a short period of time and I guess I'm always thankful to leaders like you who have committed so much of their time to education and issues that impact the residents of the state. So thank you for your leadership and good luck to you. Thank you so much.

Trustee Boey commented, you know it won't be the same. When I think of you I can think of reliability, honesty, and all the good things that go with it. Thank you so much for all the help you've been. It saved me a lot of time because sometimes when I'm not sure I'll call you and say what is happening here and your answer settles me right down and I can go to the bank with it. Best wishes.

Trustee Coleman added, Mike, I want to say thank you for all your services and thank you for helping us over the years. 31 years working for the state and that's a lot of sacrifice, that's a lot of commitment and the last two years have been pretty tough and we know your pain, we feel your pain, and we want you to remember all the good times that you had here at NIU and throughout the state.

Trustee Struthers commented, Mike you're a good soul. You really are. Very dependable and trustworthy. You deserve it, you worked for that and you earned it. It really hits me when you say about the last two years and of course the prior were tough as well, but for this institution the State of Illinois, I hope someday that we can make our people proud that we're going out with the arrows pointing up. We appreciate your effort. You gave it herculean try, you really did. Enjoy retirement. There's another chapter of life that you get to enjoy for a long time so the best to you and your family.

Mike Mann responded, thank you so much for all the great comments and the resolution. The resolution fails to point out that I started my career when I was ten years old. No, the past four years have been easily the most challenging and most rewarding years of my career and I appreciate so much the opportunity provided by President Baker and I've appreciated the support from the Board and President Baker and senior leadership and all of my friends here on staff. It's been a wonderful time. Things are tough in Springfield. The dysfunction is at very high levels. I'm hopeful in the next 13 days there might be some resolution and I can go out on top so to speak, but I know that NIU's got the grit and determination



needed to survive and thrive. I will be your biggest fan from afar and always be a Huskie. Thank you very much.

## **9. OTHER MATTERS**

No other matters were discussed.

## **10. NEXT MEETING**

The Regular Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on June 15, 2017.

## **11. 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, as amended personnel matters as generally described under sections 2c 1, 2, 3 and 21 of the Open Meetings Act, litigation and risk matters as generally described under sections 2c 11 and 12 of the Open Meetings Act, and closed session minutes and matters as generally described under sections 2c 21 of the Open Meetings Act.

Trustee Barsema so moved, seconded by Trustee Boey. A roll call vote of the Trustees to recess to Closed Session was as follows:

Trustee Dennis Barsema: Yes	Trustee Robert Boey: Yes
Trustee Veronica Herrero: Yes	Trustee Matthew Holmes: Yes
Trustee Tim Struthers: Yes	Trustee Eric Wasowicz: Yes
Vice Chair Wheeler Coleman: Yes	Board Chair John Butler: Yes

The meeting is now closed and will re-open at the conclusion of the closed session. No additional business will be conducted when the board returns from closed session. The Board adjourned for closed session at 1:30 p.m.

The Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University reconvened on May 18, 2017, at 8:07 p.m. Chair Butler announced they were reconvening after the closed session and asked for a roll call.

Present: Trustees Dennis Barsema, Wheeler Coleman, Matthew Holmes, Tim Struthers, Board Chair John Butler. Absent: Trustee Robert Boey, Veronica Herrero, Eric Wasowicz

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Butler asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Struthers so moved and Trustee Barsema seconded. The motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 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.*