

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

February 11, 2010

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, February 11, 2010, at 2:12 p.m., in the Golden Eagles Room at Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis, Chicago, Illinois. Walter W. Dudycz, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order.

Roll was called and the following trustees answered present:

Carlos Azcoitia, Secretary
Grace Dawson
Walter Dudycz, Chair
Edward Dykla
Marvin Garcia
Jin Lee, Vice Chair
Jose Fulgencio

The following trustees were absent:

Carole Balzekas
Omar Duque

Also present were the following:

Sharon Hahs, President
Tom Arkell, Legal Counsel for Mark Dunn
Mimi Crespo, Assistant Secretary

University Provost, Vice Presidents and Staff

Announcements

Chair Dudycz announced that Mark Dunn was not able to attend the Board meeting; however, Tom Arkell was able to sit in for Mark.

Chair Dudycz introduced Marvin Garcia, new member of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Garcia was appointed by the Governor effective December 29, 2009. Mr. Garcia earned a Bachelor's degree in History and a Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Northeastern and another Master's degree in Adult Education from National-Louis University. During the 1980s and 1990s, Mr. Garcia served as a high school teacher and then as principal of the Dr. Pedro Albizu Campos High School. Since 2001, Mr. Garcia has held the position of Director of the Praxis Project, Alternative Schools Network.

Approval of Minutes

Written Minutes of the meeting of November 19, 2009 and the Minutes of the Confidential Executive Session dated November 19, 2009 were prepared and submitted. Chair Dudycz said that hearing no corrections, the Minutes stand as written.

President's Report

The entire President's Report is incorporated herein by reference.

Announcements

1. The Department of Music was recognized for achieving accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music. Dr. Shayne Cofer, Department Chair, and faculty and staff members present were commended for their hard work and successful outcome, reflecting the national quality of our Music programs.
2. The Audit report was provided to the Trustees.
3. President Hahs reported preliminary official spring enrollment numbers. Total enrollment in head count has increased by 4.6% and total credit hours have increased by 6.6%. For credit hours to have grown more than head count means that every student on average is taking more courses and this will help students graduate sooner.

Action Item I.A. Fiscal year 2011 Tuition and Fee Rates

President Hahs provided a brief PowerPoint synopsis on tuition and fees, giving historical trends and future limitations on state appropriations and income funds. In planning for the loss of one-time stimulus funds, tuition and fee levels were proposed to maintain current funding levels in order to move forward on our Strategic Plan.

Dr. Azcoitia expressed his concern with the need to increase tuition each year and asked, what would be the implications on student services if tuition is not increased? President Hahs explained that if tuition is not increased at the suggested rates the implications will depend on whether the State provides the base appropriation minus the \$4.2million in stimulus funds. This means the University may have to cut course sections, furlough or layoff employees. Also, the University may receive another hit if MAP funding is not funded next year at its current level.

Dr. Azcoitia also asked if an increase in tuition rates would lead to higher graduation rates because students would prefer to graduate sooner due to higher tuition. President Hahs explained that when the legislature passed the four-year guarantee tuition plan they had hoped this plan would motivate students to graduate sooner. For many of our students who work and have many responsibilities the plan is not realistic. President Hahs recognized that increasing tuition too much would be irresponsible, but, tuition has to be increased enough to keep services going and classes available for students.

Dr. Azcoitia also asked if administration costs/expenses have been cut as a result of decreased revenue. President Hahs responded that throughout the University offices have eliminated positions and have seriously considered whether to fill vacancies. The President's Office, for example, has eliminated two positions over the last two years.

Trustee Lee addressed the Board with his concerns regarding tuition increases and the current economic tough times. NEIU has no choice but to responsibly increase tuition; keeping them affordable to lessen the financial burden on students. At the same time, NEIU must seek other alternatives to reduce expenditures and do what it can to collect the \$22million in outstanding State funds.

Dr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Dykla, moved to approve the **Fiscal Year 2011 Tuition and Fee Rates** as follows:

Tuition and Fee Proposal

Table 4 provides proposed tuition and fee rates for fiscal year 2011. The proposed tuition rates attempt to balance the needs of the University, the continuing commitment to keep the costs of attending the University affordable, and the ongoing fiscal challenges resulting from the lack of significant new state funding.

In fiscal year 2011, in compliance with state statute, there will be five different tuition rates for in-state undergraduate students, depending on the date of first enrollment at Northeastern. For three of these rates there will be no increase; for those students entering in fall 2007, fall 2008, or fall 2009. This level tuition will be in place for approximately one-half of our undergraduate students. For students entering prior to fall 2006, the tuition rate will be \$210 per credit hour, an increase of 10.5 percent. The latest cohort with an expiring tuition guarantee, those first enrolling in fall 2006, will see tuition increase by \$35 per credit hour, to \$210, or 20.0 percent. The in-state, undergraduate tuition rate for new students would be \$260 per credit hour.

For in-state graduate students, the proposed tuition rate is \$260 per credit hour, an increase of \$15 per credit hour, or 6.1 percent. For each in-state tuition rate, there is a corresponding non-Illinois resident tuition rate that is twice the in-state rate.

In fall 2010, there will be three cohorts that have had their four-year tuition guarantee expire; those cohorts first enrolling in fall 2004 through fall 2006. When the tuition guarantees expire, the tuition charged those students will revert to the rate charged students who enrolled at Northeastern prior to the implementation of the tuition guarantee program, referred to as the "continuing rate" that is subject to annual adjustment.

The setting of the continuing rate in relation to the rates for students with a tuition guarantee has been a continuing challenge. Intuitively, it seems that the rate for

continuing students should be the average of the four guaranteed tuition rates. However, when analyzing the guaranteed rates it was determined that the increase for the continuing students to reach the average would be too large. In addition, with the large number of transfer students at Northeastern, the number of students using the four-year guarantee is less than at more traditional public universities. As a result, the tuition proposal this year starts a three-year plan to bring the continuing student rate to the guaranteed tuition rate for the third year cohort by fiscal year 2013.

The tuition and fee rates provided in Table 4 are presented to the Board for consideration and approval.

Table 4

**NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
Schedule of Proposed Tuition and Fees
For Discussion Purposes Only**

	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	Change FY10 to FY11	
				Dollar	Percent
<u>TUITION (per credit hour)</u>					
Undergraduate - continuing	\$ 170.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 210.00	\$ 20.00	10.5 %
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2004	155.00	190.00	210.00	20.00	10.5
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2005	160.00	190.00	210.00	20.00	10.5
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2006	175.00	175.00	210.00	35.00	20.0
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 ¹	195.00	195.00	195.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 ¹	220.00	220.00	220.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 ¹	-	245.00	245.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2010 ¹	-	-	260.00	n/a	n/a
Graduate	220.00	245.00	260.00	15.00	6.1
Non-resident Undergraduate - continuing	340.00	380.00	420.00	40.00	10.5
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2004	310.00	380.00	420.00	40.00	10.5
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2005	320.00	380.00	420.00	40.00	10.5
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2006 ¹	350.00	350.00	420.00	70.00	20.0
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 ¹	390.00	390.00	390.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 ¹	440.00	440.00	440.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 ¹	-	490.00	490.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2010 ¹	-	-	520.00	n/a	n/a
Non-resident Graduate	440.00	490.00	520.00	30.00	6.1
<u>MANDATORY FEES</u>	47.00	49.85	51.90	2.05	4.1
Activity Fee	3.60	3.70	3.80	0.10	2.7
Student Union Fee	6.75	6.75	6.75	-	-
Campus Recreation Fee	3.60	3.60	3.60	-	-
Performing Arts Fee	0.70	0.70	0.80	0.10	14.3
Student Health Service Fee	1.65	1.65	1.70	0.05	3.0
Computer Resources Fee	12.50	14.50	15.75	1.25	8.6
Academic Enhancement Fee	7.50	7.50	7.50	-	-
Parking Fee (waivable)	10.70	11.45	12.00	0.55	4.8
Green Fee - rate per semester	3.00	3.00	3.00	-	-
Health Insurance Fee ²	474.00	528.25	528.25	-	-
<u>TUITION AND FEES (based on 15 credit hours, excludes health insurance fee)</u>					
Undergraduate - continuing	\$ 3,258.00	\$ 3,600.75	\$ 3,931.50	\$ 330.75	9.2 %
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2004	3,033.00	3,600.75	3,931.50	330.75	9.2
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2005	3,108.00	3,600.75	3,931.50	330.75	9.2
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2006	3,333.00	3,375.75	3,931.50	555.75	16.5
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 ¹	3,633.00	3,675.75	3,706.50	30.75	0.8
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 ¹	4,008.00	4,050.75	4,081.50	30.75	0.8
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 ¹	-	3,730.50	4,456.50	726.00	19.5
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2010 ¹	-	-	4,681.50	n/a	n/a
Graduate	4,008.00	4,425.75	4,681.50	255.75	5.8
Non-resident Undergraduate - continuing	5,808.00	6,450.75	7,081.50	630.75	9.8
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2004	5,358.00	6,450.75	7,081.50	630.75	9.8
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2005	5,508.00	6,450.75	7,081.50	630.75	9.8
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2006	5,958.00	6,000.75	7,081.50	1,080.75	18.0
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 ¹	6,558.00	6,600.75	6,631.50	30.75	0.5
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 ¹	7,308.00	7,350.75	7,381.50	30.75	0.4
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 ¹	-	7,405.50	8,131.50	726.00	9.8
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2010 ¹	-	-	8,581.50	n/a	n/a
Non-resident Graduate	7,308.00	8,100.75	8,581.50	480.75	5.9

¹ Per Public Act 93-0028, Illinois undergraduate students newly enrolled starting Fall 2004 will have their tuition held constant for a period of four continuous academic years. This policy was extended at NEIU to non-resident undergraduate students.

² Assessed to all Undergraduate students enrolled in 12 or more credit hours who do not show evidence of other health insurance coverage. Final fee calculation for fiscal year 2011 is contingent on the results of negotiation with the insurance carrier. Amount shown is the charge per semester. Note that the Spring semester fee now provides insurance coverage during the Summer semester.

Note: Tuition and fees, other than health insurance and the Green Fee, are charged on a credit hour basis for each credit hour enrolled per semester up to 16 credit hours. There will be no tuition and fee charges for credit hours enrolled above 16 hours per semester.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Dudycz	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Abst.
Lee	Yes
Fulgencio	Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I.B. Expenditure Recommendation: Physical Education Complex

Dr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Dykla, moved to approve the **Expenditure Recommendation: Physical Education Complex Skylight and Wall Replacement**
as follows:

This project replaces the existing 220 foot long sloped skylight and supporting wall in the Physical Education Complex. The skylight was installed as part of the original construction of the building in 1988. In past years the skylight has leaked and, more recently, the wood wall that supports the skylight has begun to fail. The wooden support will be replaced with a structural steel support. The skylight will be replaced with a new skylight utilizing thermo pane low e glass. Work also includes partial demolition and rebuilding of masonry support walls; cutting with patching and replacing of existing roofing; and rebuilding the interior soffit/wall below the skylight with metal studs and gypsum board. Board of Trustees approval is requested for this project.

PROJECT COST:

Base Bid	\$255,450
Additional funds if needed	<u>25,500</u>
TOTAL COST:	\$280,950

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

University Operating Funds	\$280,950
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RECOMMENDED VENDOR:

Chicago Commercial Contractors
11921 Smith Drive
Huntley, Illinois 60142

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes

Dudycz	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Fulgencio	Yes

The motion carried.

Information Item II.A. Required Report for the Higher Learning Commission

President Hahs discussed an information item, the Required Report for the Higher Learning Commission. This report on Northeastern's strategic plan was submitted to the Learning Commission in mid-January and a response was received in just three weeks. In a letter, the Commission said, "Northeastern's report was concise and thorough and the university is commended for the excellent progress it has made not only in strategic planning, but as well in integrating the various functions of the university in a holistic approach to planning." The report has been accepted, no further reports are required. NEIU's next comprehensive evaluation will be in 2016-17.

Board Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds – Chair Dykla gave the Construction Update as follows:

Education Building: The General Assembly included, and the Governor approved, funds in the fiscal year 2010 capital budget for the planning and construction of the Education Building. The University is seeking release of these capital funds so building design can begin.

Latino Cultural Center: The General Assembly also included, and the Governor approved, funds in the fiscal year 2010 capital budget for the planning and construction of the Latino Cultural Center. The University also is seeking release of these capital funds so building design can begin.

Science Engagement: The University received federal grant funds for the planning and construction of the Science Engagement Center and remodeling of four laboratories. Bids for the construction of this work will open February 23, 2010.

Admissions and Transfer Center: The University received Title V grant funds for the planning and construction of an Admissions and Transfer Center. We are currently beginning Schematic Design for these spaces. The design process will review and redesign current available space to improve services to students and use the space more efficiently.

Physical Education Complex Skylight and Wall Replacement: This project is an action item for today's Board meeting. This project replaces the existing 220 foot long sloped skylight and supporting wall in the Physical Education Complex. The estimated completion date for this project is July 2010.

Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Arkell explained to the Board that the Legal Counsel Report No.74 was distributed and he would be happy to answer any questions. There were no questions.

Old Business

Dr. Azcoitia restated the update on the doctoral program that was discussed during the Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting. The doctoral program committee will complete their work and submit their recommendations to the Board by the end of the school year.

Trustee Dykla shared with the Board a visit from Mr. Lech Walesa. Mr. Walesa was in town a couple of weeks ago on other business and he made a point to tell his chauffer to stop at Northeastern so he can visit his building again.

New Business

Dr. Dawson introduced to the Board information she received from the Association of Governing Boards (AGB). Dr. Dawson mentioned that since 2007, the current Board of Trustees has not been involved in any type of external training program. Dr. Hahs explained that the AGB membership idea has been researched and the reason Northeastern is not a member is because of the high annual membership fee of \$5,000. Chair Dudycz agrees that the Board needs a refresher course on proper rules and procedures and added that other options are being explored. Trustee Lee added that he has received information from ACTA (American Council of Trustees and Alumni) that might be useful in the search for an organization.

Trustee Dykla expressed his thoughts on the subject of money. The Trustees serve on the Board at the will of the Governor without a salary or stipend because they like the students, the school, and they enjoy seeing people educated in the United States.

Dr. Azcoitia again shared with the Board the online report from *Excelencia* in Education.

Announcements

Chair Dudycz reminded the Trustees of the upcoming spring events. Dr. Dawson volunteered to attend the Student Awards Ceremony on Tuesday, April 20 at 1:40 pm in Alumni Hall. Dr. Azcoitia will attend the Academic Honors Ceremony on Thursday, April 29 at 5:00 pm in Alumni Hall and the afternoon Commencement Ceremony on May 8 at 2:00 pm.

Opportunity for Public Comment in Accordance with Public Act 91-0715

Chair Dudycz provided an Opportunity for Public Comment. A request for Public Comment was received in advance to address the Board regarding the change in activity hour from 1:40-2:40pm to 3:00-4:00pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Several students approached the podium and addressed the Board.

Victoria Tullock, Student Representative and Editor of the Independent Newspaper, expressed her concerns. Ms. Tullock would like to see more research and student representation before a change is made. The main concern in her view is that the proposed time at 3:00 pm is not a popular time for student activities and student life on campus may be lost. During the 3:00 pm time slot, students are leaving campus to go to work and pick up children, for example. Ms. Tullock suggested that the Board postpone the time change until the Vice President for Student Life position has been filled. Ms. Tullock submitted to the Board a petition with an estimated 411 signatures and comments from students who opposed the activity hour change. Chair Dudycz reminded Ms. Tullock that Provost Frank met with the Student Senate and other students in November and January for input and received a tepid response.

Miguel Loeza, President of Student Government Association (SGA), explained that the SGA was not given enough time to survey the student body and provide Provost Frank with an informed decision. The SGA members voted and decided that they do not support the change in activity hour.

Marilyn Adler, student, understands the need to change activity hour. Currently, there aren't enough sections or classroom space and students are waiting to get into classes. On the other hand, Ms. Adler suggested that Administration take a democratic approach and survey the student body to let the students decide.

Jason Garcia, student, argued that the current activity hour works for students and should not be changed. Activity hour is used for recruitment and retention purposes and improves graduation rates. Fiscal strength is also improved when students return and donate to the university.

Stephan McCollom, Vice President for SGA, explained the content of the student survey that was circulated. Two questions were asked on survey, 1) Would students be interested in online classes and 2) Which student activity hour would you prefer. There was an 80% consensus for the 1:40 – 2:40 pm activity hour and over 50% of students polled would register for online classes. The question regarding online classes serves as a positive alternative to changing the activity hour to 3:00 pm.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Dudycz thanked all students who addressed the Board and encouraged their participation.

Convene in Executive Session

At 3:48 p.m., Mr. Lee, seconded by Dr. Azcoitia, moved to convene in executive session

to consider: 1) collective negotiating matters, as permitted by Section 2. (c) (2) of the Open Meetings Act; 2) pending, probable or imminent litigation, as permitted by Section 2. (c) (11) of the Open Meetings Act; and, 3) discussion of minutes of meeting lawfully closed under this Act, as permitted by Section 2. (c) (21) of the Open Meetings Act.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Dudycz	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Fulgencio	Yes

The motion carried.

Reconvene in Open Session

At 4:43 p.m., Mr. Lee, seconded by Dr. Azcoitia, moved to reconvene in open session and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Garcia, seconded by Dr. Dawson, moved that the **confidential written minutes of the executive session dated February 11, 2009, no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection.**

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Dudycz	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Fulgencio	Yes

The motion carried.

Mr. Fulgencio, seconded by Mr. Dykla, moved to approve the **destruction of verbatim records for the meeting held June 12, 2008 as follows:**

Whereas, 5 ILCS 120/2.06(a) requires public bodies to keep verbatim records of all closed meetings in the form of a video or audio recording; and

Whereas, 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c) provides that these verbatim records may be destroyed after eighteen (18) months but only after: 1) the public body approves destruction of a particular recording; and 2) the public body approves Minutes of the closed meeting that meet the written requirements applicable to open meetings; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees has reviewed written Minutes of the closed meeting held on **June 12, 2008** and those written Minutes meet the written minutes requirements; and

Whereas, the Board of Trustees believes that the destruction of the verbatim records is appropriate:

Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University approves 1) the written Minutes of the closed meeting held on **June 12, 2008** 2) the destruction of the verbatim records of the closed meeting held on **June 12, 2008** and, 3) directs the Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trustees to destroy said verbatim records.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Dudycz	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Fulgencio	Yes

The motion carried.

Adjourn

At 4:49 p.m., the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Walter W. Dudycz, Chair
Mimi Crespo, Assistant Secretary