

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
APRIL 5, 2007**

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I. ACTION ITEMS

**A. Expenditure Recommendation for Physical Education and Carruthers Center
for Inner City Studies Fire Alarm System Improvements**

Item Description:

This project provides improvements to the fire alarm systems in University buildings. Major improvements are required in the Physical Education Complex and at the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS). The existing fire alarm systems in these buildings, 117,360 gsf and 65,070 gsf respectively, require modifications to meet the City of Chicago code requirements for a Class 1 system. Minor improvements include updating existing systems in other buildings.

Project Cost:

Base Bid	\$540,510
Additional funds if needed*	<u>54,000</u>
TOTAL COST:	\$594,510

Source of Funds:

University Operating Funds

Recommended Vendor:

Block Electric
7107 N. Milwaukee Ave...
Niles, Illinois 60714

Summary of Bids:

	<u>Base Bid</u>
Block Electric	\$540,510
Loyola Electric	\$547,000

* For unforeseen conditions that may be discovered during the work

B. TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Specific recommendations for Tenure will be presented at the April 5, 2007 meeting

II. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Proposed Amendment of Bylaws to the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University Relating to Section II Meetings – for First Reading April, 5, 2007

Whereas, the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University (the "Board") at its April 7, 1998 meeting adopted Bylaws for the governance of the meetings and affairs of the Board; and

Whereas, the Bylaws adopted by the Board provide in Section II for the number of regular meetings to be held annually by the Board, for the place for all such regular meetings and for special meetings by telephone conference; and

Whereas, the Board desires to amend its Bylaws to enhance and provide flexibility for its meetings and to bring them into conformity with provisions of the Open Meetings Act that became effective on January 1, 2007;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves for the first reading the attached revisions of Section II of its Bylaws.

SECTION II. MEETINGS

- A. Meetings of the Board shall be held and a quorum determined in accordance with 110 ILCS §680/25-25 and 5 ILCS §120/2.01 of the Illinois ~~Revised~~ Compiled Statutes.
- B. The Board shall hold five regular meetings each year. The regular meeting held in June shall be the annual meeting. The Board, by vote of a majority of a quorum, may omit or cancel any meeting provided the Board meets at least once each quarter as required by statute. The date of any setting may be changed by vote of a majority of a quorum or by order of the Chair.
- C. The Board may hold special meetings as called by the Chair of the Board or by any 3 members of the Board. Ordinarily, notice of a special meeting shall be mailed to all members at least five days prior to the date of the meeting. ~~Special meetings may be held by telephone conference call at the discretion of the Chair of the Board.~~
- D. Four of the five regular meetings of the Board shall be held ~~All meetings of the Board shall be held~~ on the campus of Northeastern Illinois University.
- E. All meetings of the Board shall be conducted and notice thereof provided in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS § 120/1, et seq.
- F. The President shall sit and participate with the Board at each regular and special meeting of the Board.

B. Report of Approved ERP-Related Contracts

At its April 6, 2006 meeting, the Board of Trustees granted the President the authority to approve expenditures and contracts directly related to the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) project in order to assure the timeliness of implementation. The Board would receive a report at its next regularly scheduled meeting of any expenditure or contract for the ERP project that normally would have required Board approval. Since the February meeting two contracts were approved by the President:

1. A contract with Cognos Corporation was approved that will provide the software and necessary training for end-user and advanced reporting for the NEIUworks project.

The Cognos Application Tool Suite will provide a comprehensive reporting solution to satisfy the University's reporting needs as well as make full use of the tools, services and datasets already purchased from Sungard Higher Education (SGHE). This software and training will allow the University to use one integrated suite of tools to satisfy all reporting needs and take full advantage of all SGHE delivered data reporting functionality and models.

Cognos Corporation	
Software and Training	\$318,450

2. A contact with Simplesoft Corporation to provide identity management software, hardware and professional services in support of the NEIUworks project was also approved. The Identity Management System provides a secure way to manage student, faculty and staff system accounts. It provides a method for allowing a consistent login identifier and password to be used on all the major end-user systems, including e-mail, the NEIUport portal, file shares, and the Blackboard course management system.

Simplesoft Corporation	
Software, hardware and professional services	\$225,000

C. Planning

1. Development of Group of NEIU Peer Institutions

The purpose of a set of peer institutions is to provide a basis for benchmarking. Benchmarking is a part of planning a framework for comparing various institutional factors such as student outcomes. The NEIU Peer group was developed through an iterative and collaborative process:

The Administrative Team was asked to brainstorm a wide array of institutional characteristics that could be used in identifying a peer set. The President's Council discussed and selected the most significant and available factors.

The Office of Institutional Studies and Planning, using the agreed-upon criteria, identified a list of 29 potential institutions.

The President's Council narrowed the criteria, resulting in a list of 12 institutions. The list was reviewed by the Administrative Team, and approved by the President's Council on March 28, 2007.

The criteria include institutions which are public, masters degree granting, mid-sized, urban, with a high percentage of part-time students, a high percentage of minority students (many of the institutions are designated Hispanic Serving Institutions), and similar admission standards. (List to be provided at meeting on April 5)

2. University Day 2007: "NEIU Values and Their Role in Strategic Planning"

Strategic planning in higher education typically is based on guiding statements of Mission and Values. While NEIU has a well-understood Mission Statement, and a strong sense of values, it has no Statement of Values. Accordingly a process was begun to develop that statement on University Day.

This year's University Day was held on March 15, 2007, and provided faculty, staff and students the opportunity to discuss, in an open forum, those values they considered to be at the very core of NEIU as an institution. This discussion is the first step the university community has taken as it begins to articulate its "Statement of Values" which, when finalized and affirmed, will signal to its various constituencies the fundamental concepts and ideals on which we will base all of our plans and actions. It will serve as a basis for next year's strategic planning efforts. The Statement of Values will be finalized by the end of the Spring 2007 semester, after several opportunities for feedback from the university community.

In addition to a very productive discussion with participation from more than three hundred members of the faculty, staff and student body, the Office of the Provost hosted a well attended reception in honor of President Hahs. The "Afternoon with

President Hahs" offered many in the community the opportunity to wish her a warm welcome to NEIU.

D. Campus News and Events

1. Black History Month Activities – February 1-28

This year's theme is "The Global Impact of Africa: Reaching All Four Corners of the Earth." The opening ceremony was held February 1 in the Golden Eagles room and featured historian, writer, research specialist, and world traveler Runoko Rashidi as keynote speaker. Approximately 1079 people attended over 18 events. The programs included: the Black History Month Awards Ceremony and Dance (Feb. 23), Black Colleagues Reception (Feb. 26), and two art exhibits. The following awards were presented:

- Administrator Award of Excellence - J. Marshall Jennings, Director of Financial Aid, NEIU
- Alumni Award of Excellence - Willie "Patt" Patterson
- Community Service Award of Excellence - Lillie Crump-Hales
- Faculty Award of Excellence – Dr. Nicole Holland, Associate Professor of Education Leadership and Development, NEIU
- Student Awards of Excellence
 - Gerald Chaney, English and Secondary Education Major at NEIU
 - Rachón Thomas - Spanish major at NEIU
- William "Doc" Speller Lifetime Achievement Award – Dr. Donn Bailey
- Honorary Staff Award of Excellence - Patricia Johnson, Admissions Officer, NEIU

The Sankofa Awards, presented to individuals who embody the philosophy of Sankofa through mentoring and teaching, were as follows:

- Murrell J. H. Duster, Dean of Academic Development/Diversity and Multicultural Programs
- Dr. Barbara M. Scott, Professor of Sociology, African and African American studies, and Women's Studies
- Dr. Melvin Cleveland Terrell, Vice President for Student Affairs and Professor of Counselor Education
- Dr. Conrad Worrill, Director of the Jacob H. Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies
- Professor William Speller

**2. Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges –
February 20**

A ceremony was conducted on February 20 in Golden Eagles for Northeastern Illinois University undergraduates who were inducted into the Class of 2007 of *Who's Who Among Students at American Universities and Colleges*. Fifteen inductees, their guests, and nominators were present at the ceremony. Twenty-one NEIU students received the *Who's Who* distinction this year. The program began with a welcome by President Sharon Hahs and greetings by Vice President for Student Affairs Melvin C. Terrell, followed by the presentation of award certificates to the honorees in attendance by Dr. Terrell, Dean of Students Michael Kelly, and President Hahs. The ceremony concluded with a reception at which light refreshments were served. The total attendance for the event was approximately sixty people.

Nominations for *Who's Who* were made during the fall semester by Deans, Faculty, and Administrative personnel. Honorees are selected for their academic achievement and service to the University and community at large. Biographies of the award winners are published in a compendium that is distributed nationally. Since spring 2000, over three hundred Northeastern students have been inducted into *Who's Who*. The program is coordinated by the Office of the Dean of Students and the Office of Student Affairs.

3. Reception for Scholarship Donors and Recipients – February 20

On February 20, 2007, in the Golden Eagle room, the NEIU Foundation hosted a reception to honor recipients and donors of scholarships at NEIU.

The reception gave scholarship recipients the opportunity to meet the donors who made the scholarships possible, and the donors welcomed the chance to get to know the students for whom their philanthropy made a difference. Sixty guests attended the event, which included welcoming remarks by President Hahs, Terry Bush and Dr. Bernard Brommel. Jiming Zhang, recipient of the John & Eva Krump Family Scholarship in Music, performed the Chopin etude that he played for his scholarship audition.

4. Mid-America Educators' Job Fair – March 2

The annual Mid-America Educators' Job Fair was held on Friday, March 2, 2007 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the small gym at NEIU's Physical Education Complex. Eighty-five (85) schools and school districts were present representing 14 states. Fifty-four (54) schools and school districts were from Illinois and 31 were from other states including Arizona (5), California (5), Florida (4) and North Carolina (5). A total of 319 applicants participated in the event. Fifty-two percent (167) of the participating applicants were NEIU students or alumni. One hundred and fifty-two applicants (48%) were from other Chicago area colleges and universities.

5. Jewel Box Series – February and March

On February 16, The Verdehr Trio performed on NEIU's Jewel Box Series. The Clarinetist of the Trio also gave a master class on Saturday, February 17th for NEIU students and was attended by NEIU faculty and students as well as high-school and college students from the surrounding communities. An acknowledged leader in the field of new music, the Verdehr Trio for over thirty years has concentrated on molding and defining the personality of the violin-clarinet-piano trio. The Trio has over the years created a large repertoire by commissioning over 170 new works from some of the world's most prominent and exciting composers--known and unknown, young and old, from this country and abroad.

Friday, March 16 The Ritz Chamber Players performed on NEIU's Jewel Box Series. The Ritz Chamber Players is an ensemble comprised of accomplished musicians spanning the African Diaspora. It brings a fresh, new energy to the classical music genre. The program featured music by African American composers Coleridge-Taylor Perkinson and Adolphus Hailstok as well as music by Mozart and Tchaikovsky.

6. Mostly Music at NEIU

Mostly Music at NEIU Series featured the Euclid String Quartet, pianist Junghwa Lee, and violinist Rachel Barton Pine on Sunday, March 25, 2007, Evanston, IL.

7. HACU Student Exchange Program

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities [HACU] has notified NEIU that it has been chosen to participate in a HACU/IOHE [Inter-American Organization for Higher Education] pilot project aimed at enhancing opportunities for students to take part in international exchange experiences. Six HACU universities and eight IOHE universities were competitively selected to participate in the pilot program based on their previous success in creating and implementing international programs and activities, thus demonstrating their capacity to implement the requirements of the pilot project. Inclusion in this international exchange project will provide NEIU students with an opportunity to study at one of nine universities located in South America, Central America, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Spain, and Canada at the student's NEIU tuition rate.

E. Seminars/Workshops/Conferences

1. Native American Conference – February 8

Sessions of the Native American Conference included the *Influence of the Iroquois on American Society and Government* presented by Bob and Lee Nitsch who travel around the world sharing their traditions and culture.

A workshop on spiritual healing through human energy, *The Art of Reiki*, was presented by Ajit Telang, Reiki Master Teacher from Mumbai, India.

Momfeather Erickson, director of the Mantle Rock Native Education and Cultural Center presented the *History of the Black Cherokee and Cherokee Traditions*.

Bruce Hardwick, Firekeeper, Rapid River, MI and Duane Kinnart, Firekeeper, Gladstone, MI discussed the importance of the ancient peace fire which has been carried around the world to unify all cultures.

Cynthia Walker and Julaju Keme Aj'ik from the Friends of the Indigenous Elder, presented a video and discussion on the Solidzin Ceremony.

2. South Pacific Business Conference – February 26-28

Northeastern Illinois University's College of Business and Management (COBM) held its 6th annual International Business Conference (IBC) from February 26th through the 28th. This year's conference focused on the business issues of Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific Islands.

Presenters and participants included scholars, business leaders and diplomats. The conference is planned and organized by COBM students with guidance from business faculty, providing leadership and teamwork skill development opportunities for students. Additionally, the conference is part of an integrated COBM international theme effort, linked where possible each year with a study abroad program to the conference region and with the "One Book Per Semester" book selection. For instance, this year, two COBM faculty members are currently leading a study abroad program to Australia and Fiji, with NEIU students visiting businesses and studying the regional business climate. Although partially supported by NEIU funding, the conference is also significantly funded internally through COBM entrepreneurial revenues.

In response to the increasingly global nature of business, as well as students' need for an enhanced familiarity with international business issues (as indicated by outcome assessment and student feedback), COBM implemented annual international conferences, each highlighting a different region of the world. Past conference foci have included the European Union, South Asia, Latin America and East Asia; conference enrollment has grown significantly, from an initial attendance of 450 in 2002 to 1582 in 2007.

3. ILACHE Conference – March 9

On March 9, 2007 Northeastern Illinois University hosted the Fifteenth Annual Illinois Latino Council on Higher Education (ILACHE) Professional and Student Development Conference entitled, "*Latino Leadership: Passing the Torch*". Over one hundred participants from public and private higher education institutions, as well as, K-12 and community representatives attended the conference.

ILACHE is a statewide organization comprised of concerned educators. ILACHE's mission is to promote understanding and advocate on behalf of the needs of Illinois Latino population as it pertains to higher education and to provide a statewide forum for Latino and non-Latino educators and community persons with a professional and/or personal commitment to Latino issues in higher education.

The conference agenda included policy-focused panels, professional development workshops and forums that promoted discussion and networking opportunities for educators and students. The keynote speaker was Dr. Luis Alberto Urrea, Author and Professor at the University of Illinois-Chicago. Dr. Urrea is a 2005 Pulitzer Prize finalist for nonfiction and a member of the Latino Literature Hall of Fame. Dr. Urrea is a prolific and acclaimed writer who uses his dual-culture life experiences to explore greater themes of love, loss and triumph. ILACHE also presented the 2007 Leadership Award to the Honorable State Senator William Delgado and NEIU alumnus for his tireless commitment and contributions to the Latino community.

Northeastern Illinois University has always been a strong supporter of ILACHE and Latinos in the State of Illinois. Conference participants rate NEIU campus facilities such as meeting rooms and parking and dining services very high. In addition, they often refer to NEIU as a campus with "friendly staff" and a "family atmosphere".

As a result, of the fifteen ILACHE conferences, at least half of them have been held at NEIU. NEIU and ILACHE share a common mission of providing educational opportunities and support to the Latino community in the State of Illinois.

4. Research Grant Development – March 9

The seminar which was hosted by the Office of Sponsored Programs and attended by NEIU faculty and graduate students, provided training and information regarding the basic components of a competitive research grant proposal, and strategies to maximize the appeal to the basic components of proposal review; Significance, Approach, Innovation, Investigator and Environment. Participants learned about the dual system for peer review and awards utilized by the NIH. This covered the processes of submission, the roles of the Center for Scientific Review with specific information regarding the running and function of Study Sections, including mock study section proceedings, and the subsequent role of the Institutes. The presenter for the seminar was Dr. Anthony DePass, Associate Dean for Research and Director, MBRS Program

at the Brooklyn campus of Long Island University. The seminar was supported by the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology (FASEB).

5. Multicultural Workshops – March 27

A two-part workshop was presented by Dr. Suzette Speight from Loyola University Chicago on diversity issues: one for the curriculum level and one for the classroom level.

The first part was on “Multicultural Transformations of the Curriculum.” Dr. Speight engaged a small audience of mostly administrators in a dialogue around issues of diversity at NEIU in order to examine how to effectively develop and enhance the educational benefits of diversity.

The second part “How to Incorporate Diverse Cultural Perspectives across the Curriculum” addressed itself mostly to faculty and instructors. The session discussed the characteristics of a multicultural classroom and provided suggestions around issues of instructional delivery, content, and teaching and learning materials.

The workshop was sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Learning and paid for by the Center’s Title V grant. It took place on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, and was attended by a total of 17 NEIU faculty and administrators.

6. National Science Foundation Workshop – March 29

This workshop was designed to inform university faculty of opportunities that the National Science Foundation can offer to institutions of higher education. The presenters for the seminar were Dr. Pratibha Varma-Nelson and Dr. Eileen Lewis of the National Science Foundation. The event was hosted by Sponsored Programs and attended by local community colleges, Columbia College, Loyola University, Roosevelt University, North Park College, and NEIU faculty. The programs that were discussed were as follows: Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (S-STEM)

This program makes grants to institutions of higher education to support scholarships for academically talented, financially needy students, enabling them to enter the workforce following completion of an associate, baccalaureate, or graduate level degree in science and engineering disciplines. Grantee institutions are responsible for selecting scholarship recipients, reporting demographic information about student scholars, and managing the S-STEM project at the institution.

The Course, Curriculum, and Laboratory Improvement (CCLI) program seeks to improve the quality of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education for all undergraduate students. The program supports efforts to create new learning materials and teaching strategies, develop faculty expertise, implement educational innovations, assess learning and evaluate innovations, and conduct

research on STEM teaching and learning. The program supports three types of projects representing three different phases of development, ranging from small, exploratory investigations to large, comprehensive projects.

7. The 12th Annual Asian American Heritage Conference – April 5

The 12th Annual Asian American Heritage Conference, “The Silk Road to Chicago: A Journey to Global Understanding” is being celebrated at NEIU during the week of April 2-7th, April 9th and 18th, 2007.

The Asian conference features twenty eight presentations and brings to our students, faculty, staff and the university community, a range of topics of research interest, popularity, and relevance.

Additional information on the conference can be found at *NEIUport*, under “My NEIU” tab, Featured events.

E. Upcoming Events

1. Mostly Music at NEIU – April 10, 2007

Mostly Music at NEIU will partner with the music department on April 10th for a concert of the music of George Gershwin and featuring faculty and student performers.

2. Presidential Lecture Series – April 12, 2007

The Presidential Lecture Series presents two evenings with renowned pianist and author Charles Rosen. On Thursday, April 12 at 8 p.m. Mr. Rosen will give a free lecture titled *Musical Ambition in the 18th Century*. On Friday, April 13 at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Rosen will perform a concert of music by Mozart (Sonata in A Major, K. 331), Beethoven (Sonata in C Minor, Op. 111) and Chopin.

3. Student Awards Ceremony – April 24, 2007

4. Academic Honors Reception – April 26, 2007

5. Commencement – May 13, 2007