

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
FEBRUARY 9, 2012**

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**I. A. ACTION ITEM: FISCAL YEAR 2013 TUITION AND FEE RATES**

**Executive Summary**

Annually, the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University sets tuition and fee rates for the next academic year. The setting of these rates is a complicated process. State law requires that tuition rates be set for incoming students for six academic years, complicating rate setting among the various levels of students attending NEIU. In setting tuition rates, the goals of enhancing student access and keeping student costs reasonable must be considered within the context of assuring that students make an appropriate contribution to the cost of their education and the financial needs of the University. Financial challenges in fiscal year 2013 will include unpredictable and likely decreased state funding, academic program improvements, critical increases in institutional need-based aid, support for recruitment and retention efforts, the relocation and expansion of our El Centro facility, and negotiated and non-negotiated salary increases.

This report discusses the net price to students – the costs students actually pay for their education after available student financial aid. For the typical NEIU students with the greatest financial need, financial aid will pay all tuition, fee and book costs. For typical dependent students, financial aid will pay approximately 80 percent of their educational costs. Finally, this report presents national data that show Northeastern produces more degrees per student enrollment at a significantly lower cost than our peer institutions, indicators of both effectiveness and efficiency.

The report shows that the average tuition for Northeastern undergraduate students is 15 percent, or \$43 per credit hour, below the average tuition for all Illinois public universities. The proposed tuition increase for students entering Northeastern is 3.8 percent, the lowest tuition increase since the implementation of the tuition guarantee program in fall 2004. This report provides more detailed information and rationale for the proposed tuition and fee increases. It is with this discussion that the proposed tuition and fee rates are presented to the Board of Trustees for approval.

## FISCAL YEAR 2013 TUITION AND FEE RATES

### Overview

Setting tuition and fee rates is a complicated process which requires a balance between several, seemingly competing, factors. These factors are critically important in framing the tuition discussion and eventually determining tuition rates for the coming year.

*First, students are the constituents most affected by tuition increases, and the ability of students to access higher education is encouraged and enhanced when the cost to students is held to a reasonable level. At the same time, students are the constituents who benefit directly from a full complement of academic offerings taught by highly qualified and energetic faculty in an environment conducive to learning and supported with the best technology.*

*Second, tuition rates must be examined and established in an environment of continuing uncertainties. Because tuition and State of Illinois funding comprise the University's total operating budget, tuition rates must be established when funding from the State of Illinois is unreliable at best and, at worst, steadily and permanently declining. In addition, new and expensive state mandates, including the possibility of new and significant university pension costs, are made more challenging by declining state support.*

*And third, tuition must be analyzed in terms of its contributions to the strategic, programmatic priorities of the University and the value of a degree from Northeastern. This year, in particular, new programmatic needs, such as a new and expanded El Centro program and campus, retention efforts, undergraduate recruiting, and strengthening graduate programs will all require additional resources.*

The Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University is required by its enabling Act to adopt tuition and fee rates for students attending the University. Each year, the Board reviews and adjusts those rates to recognize the budgetary needs of the University and the appropriate contributions students should make to meet those needs. Historically, given the University's ongoing commitments to access and to providing a high-quality affordable education, the Board has adopted tuition and fee rates that are among the most affordable of the Illinois public universities. Equally important, the Board adopts tuition rates that reflect a fair and appropriate contribution from students to the cost of their education.

It is with the Board's continuing commitments to access and quality education, and in consideration of the factors outlined above, that this report presents the fiscal year 2013 tuition and fee rates to the Board for approval. At its November meeting, the Board and the University community were presented with these tuition and fee rates for review and discussion. At the time this report was prepared, the President and Vice Presidents are planning to engage students and the entire University community in a discussion of the tuition and fee rate proposal and the underlying rationales at the Student Government

Association meeting on January 31, 2012. The results of that discussion will be brought to the Board at the February meeting.

### **Setting Tuition and Fee Rates**

In Fall 2004, a state law took effect requiring all Illinois public universities to guarantee new undergraduate students level tuition for four consecutive academic years. In Fall 2011, the eighth cohort of undergraduate students attending Northeastern entered the University under the tuition guarantee program. In the spring 2010 legislative session, the General Assembly and Governor approved an extension of the tuition guarantee program so that students in their fifth and sixth years of enrollment also have guaranteed tuition rates. The rates for those students in their fifth and sixth years are now at the rates for the cohorts enrolled in the following year. For example, students who first enrolled at Northeastern in Fall 2007 had their tuition guaranteed at the same rate for four years. Under the new law, they have tuition guaranteed in their fifth and sixth years at Northeastern at the rate charged to students who first enrolled in Fall 2008.

One result of the tuition guarantee program is the effect on tuition comparisons among institutions. Prior to Fall 2004, most universities had one basic tuition rate for undergraduate in-state residents and it was much easier to compare and assess tuition rates among public universities. Now, because of this legislation, all Illinois public universities have at least five different tuition rates for in-state undergraduate students. This complicates tuition comparisons. The Illinois Board of Higher Education developed a methodology for comparing tuition rates that involves weighting each university's various tuition rates by the number of students paying the corresponding rates. Those rates and comparisons are included in this report.

### **Student Tuition and Net Cost**

Tuition comparisons are important because they provide a means to assess student costs among somewhat similarly financed institutions. Table 1 presents fiscal year 2012 weighted average tuition rates at Illinois public universities for new undergraduates and for all undergraduate students and compares those rates with the previous year.

The fiscal year 2012 tuition rate for new undergraduate students enrolling at Northeastern was 5.8 percent more than the rate for students entering Northeastern the previous year. This increase was one percent less than the 6.8 percent average increase for all Illinois public universities. Only three public universities adopted a smaller tuition increase than Northeastern. The tuition for new full-time undergraduates at Northeastern is \$8,250, 87 percent of the statewide average of \$9,245. Given Northeastern's location in Chicago, having a tuition rate for new undergraduates 13 percent below the average tuition rate for Illinois public universities is reasonable and consistent with our affordability goals.

For all undergraduate students, Northeastern's current year average tuition rate is \$7,462, based on 30 enrolled credit hours. Northeastern's overall undergraduate tuition

rate is 15 percent below the public universities' average of \$8,740. Stated differently, on average, full-time undergraduate students at Northeastern pay \$1,278 less per year for tuition, or \$42.60 less per credit hour, than the average for all Illinois public universities.

Table 2 provides comparison data for graduate tuition and shows that the fiscal year 2012 rate for students at Northeastern is \$6,600 based on 24 enrolled credit hours, 71 percent of the statewide average of \$9,349. The current year graduate tuition rate increase at Northeastern of 5.8 percent is very close to the statewide average of 5.7 percent. Six public universities have higher average graduate tuition than Northeastern and five have a lower average graduate tuition rate.

Table 3 provides a comparison of the tuition costs for undergraduate and graduate students at Illinois public universities. Because graduate education is more costly than undergraduate education, it follows that graduate students should not pay less for their education than undergraduates. For the past five years, Northeastern has established graduate tuition at the rate paid by the entering undergraduate students. This assures that no undergraduate student pays more per credit hour for their education than graduate students and the majority pay less. Statewide, graduate students pay 23.1 percent more than undergraduate students. However, these data should be interpreted with caution because graduate costs at several campuses are inflated due to the high cost of certain graduate programs, for example, medical education.

The discussion on published tuition rates does not reflect the fact that a majority of students at Northeastern, and most other higher education institutions, pay less for their education than the stated tuition and fee costs. Nationally, there is increasing discussion and analysis of the net price of a college education. Net price is generally defined as the price a student pays for higher education after financial aid is considered. This discussion is important for several reasons. First, given the increases in available student financial aid at all levels – federal, state, and institution – it is critically important to know how, or if, financial aid programs are improving access to higher education. Second, given the increases in tuition and fees at higher education institutions, it is important to know how much students are actually paying for their education. This discussion is of such importance that federal legislation will require all higher education institutions administering federal financial aid programs to publish on their websites the net price students actually pay to attend the institution.

Using the net price calculation on the University's website, net price illustrations were calculated using two financial aid scenarios for typical NEIU students. These examples are shown in the following table based on academic year 2009 to 2010 tuition, fees, books, and supplies and available financial aid.

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**NET PRICE TO STUDENTS  
TWO SCENARIOS BASED ON FY2009-10 COSTS AND AVAILABLE FINANCIAL AID**

	<u>Student #1</u>	<u>Student #2</u>
<b><u>Student Characteristics</u></b>		
Dependency Status	Independent	Dependent
Income Level	Less than \$30,000	\$40,000 to \$49,999
Age	25	18
<b><u>Student Educational Costs (excluding living and transportation)</u></b>		
Tuition and Fees	\$ 7,082	\$ 7,082
Books	1,440	1,440
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 8,522</b>	<b>\$ 8,522</b>
Estimated Financial Aid	\$ 9,080	\$ 6,915
Net Price for Tuition/Fees/Books	-0-	\$ 1,607
Percent Paid by Financial Aid	100%	81%

The first scenario illustrates the net price for an independent student with no dependents and income under \$30,000 per year. In this example, the student's entire cost for tuition, fees, and books would be covered by financial aid and a refund of \$558 would be provided to the student to assist with living and transportation costs. In the second scenario, a dependent student living at home with family income between \$40,000 and \$49,999, the student would have 81 percent of direct educational cost covered by financial aid.

These scenarios show that, because of available financial aid, tuition increases have a smaller effect on tuition and fee costs for many Northeastern students because all, or a portion, of their tuition, fee, and book costs are covered by financial aid. Because the analysis of net cost is so important for students to make informed decisions about the cost of attending higher education, the federal government requires higher education institutions to make the net price calculator available to students on each institution's website.

**Setting Tuition in an Uncertain Fiscal Environment**

The fiscal climate in the State of Illinois has had a direct impact on tuition and fee rates at Northeastern and all other Illinois public universities. The following table summarizes changes since fiscal year 2002 in state appropriations and Northeastern's Income Fund (created by state law to account for student tuition). Fiscal year 2002 represents the high-water mark in state higher education funding in Illinois.

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**NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
STATE GENERAL FUNDS AND UNIVERSITY INCOME FUNDS  
UNIVERSITY BUDGETS - FISCAL YEARS 2002 TO 2012**

	<u>General Funds</u>		<u>Income Funds</u>		<u>Total</u>	
	<u>Dollars / % of Total</u>		<u>Dollars / % of Total</u>		<u>Dollars/% Change</u>	
FY 2002	\$ 45,396,800	( 69% )	\$ 20,626,100	( 31% )	\$ 66,022,900	
FY2011	40,695,200	( 48% )	44,921,000	( 52% )	85,616,200	
FY2012	40,228,500	( 44% )	50,292,700	( 56% )	90,521,200	
<u>Change</u>						
FY 2011 - 12	(466,700)	(1.1) %	5,371,700	12.0 %	4,905,000	5.7 %
FY2002 - 12	(5,168,300)	(11.4) %	29,666,600	143.8 %	24,498,300	37.1 %
FY2002 - 12 Average change		(1.2) %		9.3 %		3.2 %

In fiscal year 2002, state appropriations to Northeastern totaled \$45.4 million and accounted for 69 percent of the University's operating budget. The same year, student tuition totaled \$20.6 million and accounted for 31 percent of the operating budget. In the fiscal year 2012 operating budget, for only the second time, student tuition (56 percent) exceeds the state of Illinois' contribution (44 percent) to University operations. During this period, fiscal year 2002 to fiscal year 2012, state funding decreased \$5.2 million while student tuition, through a combination of enrollment growth and tuition increases, increased \$29.7 million. Stated differently, each year, on average, state funding decreased \$516,830, tuition revenue increased \$3.0 million, and the average net revenue increase was \$2.4 million per year.

Not reflected in these state appropriations are additional state funding requirements of the University that must be funded within these available resources. In addition, reserve requirements were imposed in several years on public universities by the Governor that reduced available spending of state funds.

What this means for tuition in the State of Illinois is that not only are public universities challenged by decreasing state appropriations, they also are experiencing a pattern of being required to pay additional state expenses out of these decreasing state resources. Because the University operating budget has two primary funding sources – state appropriations and student tuition revenue – any reduction in available state funding results in either greater reliance on student tuition revenue to fund University operating expenses or greater pressure to reduce University services and programs.

A simplistic response to these trends is that the University should just continue to cut costs to address this funding shortfall. In fact, instruction and student support services account for about 70 percent of the operating budget with less than 30 percent allocated for utilities, operation of the physical plant, and administration (which includes all technology support). While the University continues to restrain hiring and watch costs, any significant budget cuts will affect instructional offerings and student services.

The national Delta Project on Postsecondary Costs, Productivity, and Accountability recently updated its earlier report, which was groundbreaking in some of the new performance measures it recommends for higher education. One of those measures is

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the number of degrees awarded per 100 full-time-equivalent (FTE) students. As shown below, even with the budget constraints, Northeastern has increased the number of degrees awarded per 100 FTE students while the average for peer comparison institutions has remained level. Germane to this discussion of costs and cost reductions, the Delta Project analyzed institutional costs as measured against degrees produced. As shown in the following chart, from fiscal year 2005 to fiscal year 2009, spending per degree produced at Northeastern increased \$1,007, or 2.3 percent, while the average cost per degree for comparison institutions increased \$8,684, or 18.5 percent.

The data indicate that Northeastern has continued to graduate an increasing number of students with a budget that provides fewer resources per degree granted than our peer institutions. These national data support the fact that Northeastern is both a productive and cost effective University.

**DELTA COST PROJECT  
STUDY ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION  
COSTS, PRODUCTIVITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY**

	Fiscal Year					Change 05-09	
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Amount	Percent
<b><u>Degrees Per 100 FTE</u></b>							
Northeastern Illinois University	22.2	23.8	24.1	23.6	25.4	3.2	14.4 %
Comparison Institutions - Mean	23.5	23.8	23.4	23.3	23.5	-	-
<b><u>Spending Per Degree</u></b>							
Northeastern Illinois University	\$ 44,511	\$ 42,178	\$ 42,691	\$ 42,875	\$ 45,518	\$ 1,007	2.3 %
Comparison Institutions - Mean	\$ 46,896	\$ 47,847	\$ 49,911	\$ 53,765	\$ 55,580	\$ 8,684	18.5 %

Source: Delta Cost Project

**Addressing the University's Strategic Goals**

Northeastern has a long history of reallocation and will support our strategic plan and goals through internal reallocation. However, as mentioned above, the University continues to be challenged in supporting these goals because of state funding shortfalls.

For fiscal year 2012, the University reported to the Board our highest strategic priorities and will continue to invest available resources in these areas. These priorities are ensuring student success, enhancing academic excellence and innovation, providing urban leadership in Chicago and the region, investing in exemplary faculty and staff, enhancing University operations and facilities, and strengthening the financial position of the University. These are the strategic goals endorsed by the Board in September 2008.

Developing appropriate fiscal year 2013 tuition rates will be critical for the University in attaining our strategic goals. The balance between declining state appropriations and increases in student tuition will be weighed against the need for resources to address high institutional priorities, the most costly of which will be faculty and staff salaries.

The salary increase costs for our five collective bargaining units and our non-negotiated civil service and professional employees will be approximately \$2.0 million. Additional state mandates are likely, as is the possibility of the University being required to pay pension costs for state funded employees – a cost that could be up to \$3.0 million.

Retention efforts include plans to allocate an additional \$400,000 to increase the University's need-based student aid program. As reported to the Board of Trustees as part of the University's fiscal year 2011 operating budget, the University implemented a modest institutional aid program to provide financial aid to high achieving (at least a 3.0 GPA) students who did not receive state of Illinois Monetary Award Program (MAP) financial aid funding because of the early cutoff for aid application processing.

In addition, the University will likely need to absorb certain grant-funded student initiatives should grant funding be eliminated, at an estimated cost of \$300,000. And finally, the University plans to open a new El Centro facility in fiscal year 2013. Operating costs for that facility are still being determined, but they will be significant.

All of these programmatic initiatives outlined above will require new resources for faculty, staff, and program support to implement.

In addition to operating budget issues affected by state funding, the University must also consider the operations and quality improvements that are supported by student fees. It is acknowledged that fee increases also contribute to increased student costs. As a result, the fee proposals are modest.

For most fees, the University is proposing that the fee be held level at the current year rate. Increases are requested for the two fee-support operations that have increasing debt service requirements – the Computer Resource Fee, which includes funding for University Technology Initiatives, and the Parking Fee, which provides funding for the debt service used to construct the Parking Facility, parking operations, and parking lot repairs.

The major University Technology Initiative is the integrated information system – *NEIUworks*, and the University portal – *NEIUport*. A major component of this system is the continuing expansion and improvement of student services, including a significant expansion of web-based student services (e.g., on-line registration, bill payment, financial services, degree audit that provides specific information on course/major requirements on a case-by-case basis). This past year, the University implemented the electronic disbursement of refund checks to students to eliminate the need for students to wait in lines to receive their checks. Planned fiscal year 2013 technology initiatives include the redevelopment of the University website.

In response to extremely strong student demand, last year the Board granted authority to implement a new fee for a student UPass program. The UPass program was implemented in Fall 2011 and provides a CTA transit card to cover CTA transportation costs for all full-time students. The current fee includes payments to the CTA of approximately \$92 per student and \$10 per card to administer the program. An increase of \$3.00 is requested to support program and administrative costs.

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In summary, student tuition and fees are an important source of funding for University operations and the resources provided by tuition increases are even more important in an environment of declining state resources. Improvements in University programs and services increasingly rely on support from students to expand and enhance the quality of academic programs, expand advising and counseling services, strengthen student support services, and maintain needed support services.

**Tuition and Fee Proposal**

Table 4 provides proposed tuition and fee rates for fiscal year 2013. The proposed tuition rates attempt to balance the three factors identified earlier: the continuing commitment to keep the costs of attending the University affordable; the fiscal uncertainties related to continuing state funding and ongoing fiscal challenges resulting from mandated spending increases; and the strategic goals of the University, such as instructional improvements, retention efforts, and the establishment of the new El Centro facility. As shown in the following table, the proposed rate for new undergraduate students is the smallest increase since the tuition guarantee program was implemented. The rate for continuing students is modest and reflects the plan to bring the rates for those students, who are entering their seventh year at Northeastern, in line with students under the guarantee program.

**NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
CHANGE IN UNDERGRADUATE TUITION RATES**

Fiscal Year	New Students		Continuing Students *	
	Rate	Percent Change	Rate	Percent Change
FY02	n/a	-	\$ 101.00	-
FY03	n/a	-	104.50	3.5 %
FY04	n/a	-	110.00	5.3
FY05	\$ 124.00	-	115.00	4.5
FY06	160.00	29.0 %	126.00	9.6
FY07	175.00	9.4	136.00	7.9
FY08	195.00	11.4	156.00	14.7
FY09	220.00	12.8	170.00	9.0
FY10	245.00	11.4	190.00	11.8
FY11	260.00	6.1	210.00	10.5
FY12	275.00	5.8	230.00	9.5
FY13 Proposed	285.00	3.6	245.00	6.5

\* Continuing students are those not eligible for the tuition guarantee program.

In fiscal year 2013, in compliance with state statute, there will be six undergraduate student cohorts. These students will be enrolled in their first through sixth year at Northeastern and will have their tuition set by the tuition guarantee program in fiscal year 2013. New freshmen and transfer students at Northeastern account for nearly 30 percent of the undergraduate population and will have their tuition guaranteed for six academic years. Students in their second through sixth year of study at Northeastern account for over 60 percent of the undergraduate population and also have their tuition

guaranteed. The only undergraduate students at Northeastern not covered by a tuition guarantee are those students who have been enrolled at Northeastern for seven years or more, less than 10 percent of our undergraduate student population. The rate for those continuing students included in this proposal would be \$245 per credit hour, \$20 less than the average for all undergraduates, and would represent a 6.5 percent increase above the previous year.

In Fall 2011, the student cohort that began in Fall 2006 will have its six-year tuition guarantee expire and tuition for 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 Fall 2007 cohort will be in its sixth year of guaranteed tuition. The Fall 2008 cohort will have its four year guarantee end and, in accordance with State law, that cohort will see its rate increase to the rate of the Fall 2009 cohort.

The setting of the continuing rate in relation to the rates for students with a tuition guarantee has been an ongoing challenge. Intuitively, it seems that the rate for continuing students should be the average of the 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 likely is less than at more traditional public universities. As a result, the tuition proposal this year is that the continuing rate be tied to the rate of the students in the last year of their initial four-year tuition guarantee.

The earlier analysis showed that our graduate students currently pay tuition at 71 percent of the statewide average for graduate education. A modest tuition increase of 3.6 percent is recommended for those students. The tuition for graduate students will again be the same as the rate for new undergraduate students. For each in-state tuition rate, there is a corresponding non-Illinois resident tuition rate that is twice the in-state rate.

Northeastern is usually an early adopter of tuition and fee rates, typically in February of each year. Early adoption of rates allows students and their families time to plan for college costs.

The Northeastern Illinois University Board of Trustees is requested to approve the fiscal year 2013 tuition and fee rates presented on Table 4 of this report.

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Table 1  
ILLINOIS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES  
FY2012 UNDERGRADUATE TUITION INCREASES

(Annual based on 30 credit hours)	New Undergraduates				Weighted Average All Undergraduates			
	Enter Fall 2010	Enter Fall 2011	\$ Change	% Change	FY2011	FY2012	\$ Change	% Change
Chicago State University	\$ 8,070	\$ 8,310	\$ 240	3.0 %	\$ 7,002	\$ 7,386	\$ 384	5.5 %
Eastern Illinois University	7,620	8,070	450	5.9	6,827	7,323	496	7.3
Governors State University	7,110	7,290	180	2.5	6,696	7,081	385	5.7
Illinois State University	9,030	9,630	600	6.6	8,092	8,752	660	8.2
Northeastern Illinois University	7,800	8,250	450	5.8	6,879	7,462	583	8.5
Northern Illinois University	7,950	8,491	541	6.8	6,903	7,548	645	9.3
Western Illinois University	7,220	7,649	429	5.9	6,659	7,103	444	6.7
<b><u>Southern Illinois University</u></b>								
Carbondale	7,368	7,877	509	6.9	7,055	7,443	388	5.5
Edwardsville	6,201	6,630	429	6.9	5,858	6,218	360	6.1
<b><u>University of Illinois</u></b>								
Chicago	9,950	10,905	955	9.6	9,182	9,953	771	8.4
Springfield	8,108	8,670	562	6.9	7,370	7,921	551	7.5
Urbana-Champaign	12,475	13,162	687	5.5	11,124	11,922	798	7.2
Weighted Average	<u>\$ 8,890</u>	<u>\$ 9,495</u>	<u>\$ 605</u>	<u>6.8 %</u>	<u>\$ 8,111</u>	<u>\$ 8,740</u>	<u>\$ 629</u>	<u>7.8 %</u>
NEIU as a Percentage of State Average	88%	87%			85%	85%		

Source: Illinois Board of Higher Education Data

Table 2  
 ILLINOIS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES  
 FY2012 GRADUATE TUITION INCREASES

	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>%</u> <u>Change</u>
Chicago State University	\$ 5,688	\$ 6,264	\$ 576	10.1 %
Eastern Illinois University	6,096	6,456	360	5.9
Governors State University	6,216	6,840	624	10.0
Illinois State University	6,336	6,336	-	-
Northeastern Illinois University	6,240	6,600	360	5.8
Northern Illinois University	7,200	7,690	490	6.8
Western Illinois University	6,080	6,461	381	6.3
<u>Southern Illinois University</u>				
Carbondale	7,925	8,473	548	6.9
Edwardsville	6,012	6,312	300	5.0
<u>University of Illinois</u>				
Chicago	12,593	13,265	672	5.3
Springfield	6,774	6,978	204	3.0
Urbana-Champaign	12,857	13,791	934	7.3
Weighted Average	<u>\$ 8,849</u>	<u>\$ 9,349</u>	<u>\$ 500</u>	<u>5.7 %</u>
NEIU as a % of State Average	71%	71%		

Note: Graduate rates are based on 24 enrolled credit hours.

Source: Illinois Board of Higher Education Data

Table 3  
 ILLINOIS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES  
 FY2012 GRADUATE TUITION  
 COMPARISON WITH UNDERGRADUATE RATES

	FY2012 Graduate Tuition	Comparison - New Undergraduate And Graduate Tuition Rates	
		FY2012 New Undergraduate Tuition Restated to 24 Credit Hours	Graduate Tuition Percent Difference Undergraduate Tuition
Chicago State University	\$ 6,264	\$ 6,648	(5.8) %
Eastern Illinois University	6,456	6,456	-
Governors State University	6,840	5,832	17.3
Illinois State University	6,336	7,704	(17.8)
Northeastern Illinois University	6,600	6,600	-
Northern Illinois University	7,690	6,793	13.2
Western Illinois University	6,461	6,119	5.6
<b><u>Southern Illinois University</u></b>			
Carbondale	8,473	6,302	34.4
Edwardsville	6,312	5,304	19.0
<b><u>University of Illinois</u></b>			
Chicago	13,265	8,724	52.1
Springfield	6,978	6,936	0.6
Urbana-Champaign	13,791	10,530	31.0
Weighted Average	\$ 9,349	\$ 7,596	23.1 %

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
FEBRUARY 9, 2012

Table 4

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Schedule of Proposed Tuition and Fees

	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	Change FY12 to FY13	
				Dollar	Percent
<b>TUITION (per credit hour)</b>					
Undergraduate - continuing (enrolled prior to Fall 2007)	\$ 210.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 245.00	\$ 15.00	6.5 %
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 <sup>1</sup>	195.00	220.00	220.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 <sup>1</sup>	220.00	220.00	245.00	25.00	11.4
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 <sup>1</sup>	245.00	245.00	245.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2010 <sup>1</sup>	260.00	260.00	260.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2011 <sup>1</sup>	-	275.00	275.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2012 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	285.00	n/a	n/a
Graduate	260.00	275.00	285.00	10.00	3.6
Non-resident Undergraduate - continuing *	420.00	460.00	490.00	30.00	6.5
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 <sup>1</sup>	390.00	440.00	440.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 <sup>1</sup>	440.00	440.00	490.00	50.00	11.4
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 <sup>1</sup>	490.00	490.00	490.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2010 <sup>1</sup>	520.00	520.00	520.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2011 <sup>1</sup>	-	550.00	550.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2012 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	570.00	n/a	n/a
Non-resident Graduate	520.00	550.00	570.00	20.00	3.6
<b>MANDATORY FEES</b>	51.90	53.30	54.60	1.30	2.4
Activity Fee	3.80	4.00	4.00	-	-
Student Union Fee	6.75	6.75	6.75	-	-
Campus Recreation Fee	3.60	3.60	3.60	-	-
Performing Arts Fee	0.80	0.80	0.80	-	-
Student Health Service Fee	1.70	1.70	1.70	-	-
Computer Resources Fee	15.75	16.75	17.75	1.00	6.0
Academic Enhancement Fee	7.50	7.50	7.50	-	-
Parking Fee (waivable)	12.00	12.20	12.50	0.30	2.5
Green Fee - rate per semester	3.00	3.00	3.00	-	-
U-Pass (Full-time Students only)	-	102.00	105.00	3.00	2.9
Health Insurance Fee <sup>2</sup>	667.25	752.25	752.25	-	-
<b>TUITION AND FEES (based on 15 credit hours, excludes health insurance fee and U-Pass)</b>					
Undergraduate - continuing *	\$ 3,931.50	\$ 4,252.50	\$ 4,497.00	\$ 244.50	5.7 %
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 <sup>1</sup>	3,706.50	4,102.50	4,122.00	19.50	0.5
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 <sup>1</sup>	4,081.50	4,102.50	4,497.00	394.50	9.6
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 <sup>1</sup>	4,456.50	4,477.50	4,497.00	19.50	0.4
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2010 <sup>1</sup>	4,681.50	4,702.50	4,722.00	19.50	0.4
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2011 <sup>1</sup>	-	4,927.50	4,947.00	19.50	0.4
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2012 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	5,097.00	n/a	n/a
Graduate	4,681.50	4,927.50	5,097.00	169.50	3.4
Non-resident Undergraduate - continuing *	7,081.50	7,702.50	8,172.00	469.50	6.1
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 <sup>1</sup>	6,631.50	7,402.50	7,422.00	19.50	0.3
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 <sup>1</sup>	7,381.50	7,402.50	8,172.00	769.50	10.4
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 <sup>1</sup>	8,131.50	8,152.50	8,172.00	19.50	0.2
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2010 <sup>1</sup>	8,581.50	8,602.50	8,622.00	19.50	0.2
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2011 <sup>1</sup>	-	9,052.50	9,072.00	19.50	0.2
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2012 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	9,372.00	n/a	n/a
Non-resident Graduate	8,581.50	9,052.50	9,372.00	319.50	3.5

\* Continuing students are those enrolled prior to Fall 2007.

<sup>1</sup> 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. Public Act 96-1293 extended the tuition guarantee for two additional years at the rate for the following class, effective fall 2010.

<sup>2</sup> 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 2013 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, the Green Fee, and UPass, 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.

**I. B. ACTION ITEM: THE EL CENTRO RELOCATION PROJECT**

- 1. DELEGATION TO THE PRESIDENT TO APPROVE CERTAIN PROJECT EXPENDITURES FOR TIMELY PROJECT COMPLETION**
- 2. REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL FOR THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION, SERIES 2012**

**OVERVIEW OF THE EL CENTRO PROJECT**

**Background**

For more than forty years, El Centro has been the University's academic center with a primary focus on serving the Latino community. The Center has traditionally served as the gateway to higher education for the community with the goal that the El Centro students would eventually complete their baccalaureate degrees on the main campus. The Center offers undergraduate and graduate courses leading to Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

In providing educational opportunities to the community, El Centro assists students and their families in navigating higher education processes, from admissions and financial aid to academic advising. The campus offers comprehensive academic support and co-curricular programs for students and serves the Latino community through English as a Second Language and computer literacy instruction, as well as community outreach programs in the areas of education, health, housing, and technology. El Centro serves non-traditional, part-time, and returning adult student populations as well as traditional first year and transfer students. In fiscal year 2010, 196 courses were offered at El Centro and approximately 1,006 students were served during Fall semester of that year. Recently, El Centro has seen an increase in graduate course offerings and enrollments.

**The Current Facility**

The University began leasing the current El Centro site (3119 N. Pulaski Road) in 1991. At that time, a private developer owned and leased the property. In 2002, the University reached an agreement with ASPIRA, a not-for-profit organization committed to the self-determination of Latinos through education, leadership development, and cultural awareness. The University expanded its leased space at the facility and agreed to share the leased facility with ASPIRA's alternative high school program in exchange for nominal rent paid to the University. In 2005, ASPIRA bought the entire facility and the University now leases space from ASPIRA. In the years since the original agreement was reached, the popularity of both El Centro and ASPIRA programs has grown significantly.

It has become increasingly apparent that the space available at the current location is limiting the University's ability to serve our students. Historically, El Centro provided education to students who were primarily interested in taking classes during the evening and/or on the weekends. In recent years, there has been growing interest in daytime class offerings, which conflicts with ASPIRA's high school program. Since the lease on this property expires on June 30, 2012, the University decided to seek a new location

with adequate space to meet growing student demand; increased classroom, computer, and student support space; adequate parking for students, faculty and staff; and improved access to EI Centro for those using public transportation.

Due to several factors, including the expiration of the current lease and the inability of the current facility to accommodate program needs, the University sought proposals for a new location. University staff reviewed and considered two broad options – leasing a facility or buying property and constructing a new facility.

### **Request for Information (RFI) and Site Selection**

A Request for Information was advertised on the Illinois Public Higher Education Procurement Bulletin from April 26, 2011 through July 20, 2011. Four proposals were received. Of the four proposals, one was found to be unresponsive to the requirements. The other three satisfied the requirements. ASPIRA, as the current landlord, did not respond to the RFI. After site visits and initial presentations during August, it was determined that one of the three remaining sites was unsuitable due to the lack of adequate public transportation options to the site and accessibility concerns, leaving two proposals for consideration – one site at 2293 North Milwaukee and one at 3400 N. Drake/3400 N. Avondale.

After extensive and lengthy discussions with both site owners/developers and discussion and analysis by University staff, the Drake/Avondale site was selected as the preferred new location for EI Centro. The site is owned by John Novak, owner of Novak Construction, and is readily accessible by public transportation and located near the geographical area served by the current EI Centro facility. The site will accommodate the construction of the new facility and parking for at least 200 cars immediately adjacent to the proposed facility. The site is within the geographical boundaries set by the University. The site fits the University's space needs and is located near the Kennedy Expressway, providing excellent visibility. The owner is eager to upgrade the surrounding area and the alderman has provided written support for improvements to the area.

### **The New EI Centro Facility**

The University used Illinois Appraisal Services to determine land valuations and hired an architect to develop preliminary building designs and provide cost estimates. University staff held multiple visioning meetings and assembled programming documents. It was determined that the project will more than likely require a phased approach to building construction and occupancy. This means that the initial building infrastructure will be designed and construction will commence while final building design is underway.

The EI Centro relocation project will include real estate purchase, land redevelopment, and the construction of a three-story academic building on a site previously used for light manufacturing. This project will be funded through University debt with potential support from tax increment financing funds. This project will be administered by the University, not by the Illinois Capital Development Board. Per Board authority granted to the University President at the November Board meeting, the University contracted to purchase the Drake/Avondale site. The University's approach during the due diligence

period between land acquisition contracting and taking ownership involves Phase II environmental testing, zoning evaluation, architectural selection, and the development of an accelerated phased construction approach. Per the site acquisition contracts, the seller will soon remove the old buildings currently on the site.

The representative University committee charged with developing the program for the new facility established the following facility requirements: 17 general purpose classrooms, 3 seminar rooms, an art/music specialty space, wet and damp labs with an adjoining prep room, one computer-enhanced classroom, a small multi-use auditorium, open and closed office spaces, one student computer lab, a learning resource center, community-focused meeting space, a lounge, and a welcoming lobby. All teaching spaces will include digital projection equipment. The entire building will have wireless internet connectivity.

The site totals approximately 150,000 square feet and will accommodate the new facility, outdoor circulation space, and parking for more than 200 vehicles. Preliminary building plans include three stories totaling 55,000 gross square feet on a footprint of approximately 18,500 gross square feet. The estimated building construction, land improvements, and related costs are \$15 million.

The University has been in close contact with all offices that review and approve the final contract obligations. This included having the State Procurement Officer for Higher Education at the initial proposal meetings and giving frequent updates to the Chief Procurement Officer for Higher Education. The University has also been in contact with the Director of the Procurement Policy Board (PPB) to keep him updated on the project. When individual contract terms are finalized, the University will provide required reports to the PPB and request review and approval of individual expenditures.

### **Project Expenditure Approvals**

While the University was finalizing the purchase of the land for the site, a Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued to select an architect for the project. The RFP was publicly advertised in the Illinois Higher Education Procurement Bulletin on December 1, 2011 and 37 firms responded to the request. A University committee representing various areas of the University continues the process of architect selection for the design of the new EI Centro campus and contract negotiation.

As discussed with the Board at previous meetings, the timely completion of the EI Centro facility is critically important. The current lease can be extended only through June 2013 so the University needs to be moving out of the current location during the end of Spring 2013 semester. Ideally, the University would move into the new EI Centro campus so that Spring 2013 classes could be held in the new facility. Preliminary talks between the University, the site owner, and the architect indicated that January 2013 occupancy is possible, provided planning and construction are accomplished in a timely manner.

Another University project in which timely planning and implementation was critical to project success was the University's implementation of our Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system. This project involved the integration of our management

information systems across the entire University. Often during this project, software or equipment was needed at times when Board approval of the expenditures at the next scheduled meeting would cause serious delays in the project. Because of the critical deadlines established in the ERP project, in April 2006 the University President asked for and received delegation from the Board to approve ERP specific expenditures and report those expenditure approvals to the Board at the next Board meeting. This approval authority facilitated the timely and successful implementation of the ERP project.

Because the EI Centro relocation project will have similar critical deadlines for which the Board meeting schedule will not always accommodate timely approvals, authority is again requested to delegate to the President the authority to approve time sensitive expenditures related to EI Centro that normally would require Board approval and report those expenditures to the Board at the next scheduled meeting.

**Motion for Action**

Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University, in order to facilitate the timely completion of the EI Centro relocation project, delegates to the University President the authority to approve such expenditures and contracts directly related to the EI Centro relocation project without prior Board approval and that the President will report to the Board on all such approved expenditures and contracts normally requiring Board approval at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees. This does not relieve the University of compliance with the Illinois Procurement Code and all other applicable State of Illinois statutes and administrative rules which will be adhered to in all phases of the administration of these expenditures and contracts.

**REQUEST FOR BOARD APPROVAL FOR THE ISSUANCE OF  
CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION, SERIES 2012**

The second part of this report requests Board approval for the issuance of \$28,500,000 million in Certificates of Participation to finance the EI Centro relocation project. The Board discussed this project and related real estate negotiations in Executive Session at the September 15, 2011 meeting and at the November 10, 2011 meeting. At both meetings, the Board in open session delegated its authority to the University President and her designees to act on behalf of the Board in these matters. At the September meeting, the Board empowered the President and her designees to "negotiate the terms for the lease and/or purchase of real property to be used for the University programs currently operated at its EI Centro location." This authority was limited to financial responsibility not to exceed \$1.0 million. At the November 10, 2011 meeting, the Board adopted in open session a resolution authorizing and empowering the University President and her designees, among other authorizations, to "negotiate the final terms for the lease and/or purchase of real property to be used for the University programs currently operated at its EI Centro location."

On Wednesday, January 11, 2012, the President and John Novak agreed to the purchase of the land comprising the Drake/Avondale site as discussed above. As

currently estimated, land acquisition will total \$11.5 million; demolition of current buildings on the site will total approximately \$0.5 million; and building construction and land improvements, including parking lots, will total approximately \$15 million.

All legal matters incidental to the authorization and issuance of the Series 2012 Certificates of Participation, the forms of the Installment Purchase Agreement, the Acquisition Agreement, the Indenture of Trust, the Preliminary and Final Official Statements, the Official Notice of Sale, the Official Bid Form, and the Continuing Disclosure Agreement have been approved by Chapman and Cutler LLP, Bond Counsel, Chicago, Illinois and by John S. Vincent & Company LLC, Financial Advisor, Chicago, Illinois.

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING FINANCING OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University in regular meeting assembled, that:

1. It is hereby determined to be desirable that the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University (the "*Board*") authorize the execution and delivery of an Installment Purchase Contract, and the issuance of Certificates of Participation (Capital Improvement Project) in one or more series (the "*Certificates*") in connection therewith, in order to provide funds to finance, or reimburse the Board for costs associated with, the acquisition of land and the acquisition, construction, furnishing and equipping of a new academic building for the El Centro Campus Facility and facilities related thereto (the "*Project*") and to pay costs of issuing the Certificates. The cost of the Project is estimated to be \$27,000,000, plus issuance costs estimated at \$200,000, not including underwriter's discount.
2. The Board approves a competitive public sale of the Certificates, subject to the following conditions: (a) such Certificates shall not exceed an aggregate original principal amount (net of original issue discount, if any) of \$28,500,000; (b) such Certificates will have a final maturity of no later than October 1, 2041; and (c) such Certificates have a true interest cost of borrowing not to exceed 6.50%. The price at which such Certificates will be sold will not be less than 97% of the par amount thereof (exclusive of any original issue discount).
3. U.S. Bank National Association, Chicago, Illinois, is hereby authorized to serve as Trustee.
4. Pursuant to the Board's existing contract, the firm of Chapman and Cutler LLP is hereby retained as Special Counsel to the Board.
5. Pursuant to the Board's existing contract, the firm of John S. Vincent & Company LLC is hereby retained as Financial Advisor for the preparation of the Preliminary Official Statement and final Official Statement and other matters related to the sale.

6. The Board approves the preparation and distribution of a Preliminary Official Statement, Official Notice of Sale and Official Bid Form in connection with of the sale of the Certificates. The Board approves the forms of such documents, copies of which are on file with the Secretary of the Board for recording. The Treasurer of the Board (or his designee) is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Official Bid Form in the name of and on behalf of the Board in substantially the form presented to this meeting, or with such changes as may be approved by the officer of the Board executing the same, his/her execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of all changes from the form thereof presented to this meeting. The Treasurer of the Board (or his designee) is hereby further authorized and directed to execute a final Official Statement in the name of and on behalf of the Board in substantially the form of the Preliminary Official Statement presented to this meeting but with final terms of the Certificates set forth therein, and with such other changes as may be approved by the officer of the Board executing the same, his/her execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of all changes from the form thereof presented to this meeting.
7. The Board approves the forms of the Installment Purchase Contract, Indenture of Trust, Acquisition Agreement and Continuing Disclosure Agreement. Copies of such documents are on file with the Secretary of the Board for recording. The Treasurer and the Secretary of the Board (or their designees) are hereby authorized and directed to execute such documents in the name of and on behalf of the Board in substantially the forms presented to this meeting, or with such changes as may be approved by the officer or officers of the Board executing the same, his/her or their execution thereof to constitute conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of all changes from the forms thereof presented to this meeting.
8. The Board acknowledges that the Certificates will not be issued prior to complying with all necessary procedures and receiving all necessary approvals for the issuance of the Certificates and the acquisition and construction of the Project, including but not limited to, the requirements set forth in the State University Certificates of Participation Act.
9. The members, officers, agents and employees of the Board are hereby authorized and directed to do all such acts and to execute all such documents as may be necessary to carry out and comply with the provisions of this resolution and with the actions of the members, officers, agents, and employees of the Board which are in conformity with the intent and purposes of this resolution, whether heretofore or hereafter taken or done, which actions shall be and are ratified, confirmed and approved.

**I. C. ACTION ITEM: APPROVAL OF AMENDMENT TO BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULATIONS – ADOPTION OF REGULATION ON  
FIREARMS ON CAMPUS**

**AMENDMENT TO BOARD REGULATIONS**

At its November 2011 meeting, the Board of Trustees received a report that proposed an amendment to the Board of Trustees Regulations regarding the carrying of firearms on any Northeastern Illinois University campus. The proposal would add a section to the Board Regulations to establish a firearms-free campus with very limited exceptions. Having been presented to the Board at its November 2011 meeting, the following amendment is presented to the Board at the February 9, 2012 meeting for approval.

**Section VI: Physical Facilities**

**H. Firearms on Campus**

1. No person shall carry, maintain, or store a firearm, concealed or otherwise, on any property owned, leased, used, controlled, or operated by the University or at any University event, except as provided herein.
2. The following exceptions apply to this policy:
  - a. Members of the University Police Department who are regularly employed by the University and are required to carry a firearm in accordance with their law enforcement duties and responsibilities.
  - b. A firearm, real or replica, used in connection with a drill, public ceremony, or theatrical performance.
  - c. Any federal, state, or local law enforcement officer in the performance of his or her official duties.
  - d. Possession of firearms is permitted for peace officers, as defined by Illinois law, and members of the Armed Forces, or National Guard while acting in the scope of their duties or responsibilities.
  - e. Any individual meeting any of the above exceptions and carrying a firearm must report to University Police upon entering campus.
3. Violations of this policy should be reported as follows:
  - a. University Police should be immediately notified of any individual found to be in violation of this policy. Employees are required to report violations to University Police if they become aware of violations.
  - b. The University may ban from campus any individual found violating this policy.
  - c. Student violations of this policy will be referred to the Vice President for Student Affairs for discipline according to the Student Code of Conduct. If the student is found to have knowingly used or possessed such firearm(s) in a way that would violate this policy, disciplinary sanction up to expulsion may be imposed.
  - d. Employees violating this policy will be referred to the appropriate Vice President for discipline according to applicable University policy or collective bargaining agreement. If an employee is found to have knowingly used or possessed such firearm(s) in way that would violate this policy, disciplinary sanctions up to termination of employment may be imposed.

**I. D. ACTION ITEM: LABOR AGREEMENT - Metropolitan Alliance of Police,  
NEIU Chapter No. 630**

The University and the Metropolitan Alliance of Police (MAP), NEIU Chapter 630, reached a tentative contract agreement on January 4, 2012. The University was notified the same day that the agreement was ratified by the union members. MAP represents approximately 15 University Police Officers. The ratified agreement covers both language and wages with a term of four years, expiring June 30, 2014.

The wage agreement provides for increases in each of the four contract years. The increases by fiscal year are:

- Fiscal Year 2011, 1.5% pay increase effective January 1, 2011 plus a \$400 onetime payment that is not added to the base pay
- Fiscal Year 2012, 1.5% pay increase effective July 1, 2011 plus \$250 added to the base pay
- Fiscal Year 2013, 2.5% pay increase effective July 1, 2012 plus \$150 added to the base pay.
- Fiscal Year 2014, 2.5% pay increase effective July 1, 2013 plus \$150 added to the base pay.

The agreement also includes a one-time \$850 stipend to all bargaining unit members employed at the time the agreement is accepted by both parties and updated language regarding compensatory time, overtime, emergency closing, the review of personnel files, and transfers.

Board approval is requested for this agreement.

**II. A. INFORMATION ITEM: UPDATE ON THE ENERGY CONSERVATION  
PROJECT**

Since 2009, the Board of Trustees has been engaged in a series of discussions regarding the University's first comprehensive Energy Conservation Project. Beginning in February 2009, discussions with the Board outlined recent increases in utility costs and opportunities for utility savings and the need for a comprehensive energy audit to identify potential energy savings opportunities. In June 2009, after a competitive selection process, the Board unanimously approved the hiring of NORESKO as the University's energy services company. This action allowed the University to proceed with a comprehensive energy audit.

The energy audit began in September 2009 and concluded in March 2010 with NORESKO recommending a series of potential energy conservation measures for the University to consider. The University reviewed the energy audit and potential energy conservation measures with our independent consultant and brought before the Board at its April 2010 meeting a list of potential energy conservation measures with estimated costs, savings, and payback. At that meeting, the Board approved 11 conservation measures and authorized the University to proceed with project financing. Those energy conservation measures are:

- Control System Upgrades
- Lighting Efficiency Upgrades
- Variable Air Volume Improvements (Library)
- Water Efficiency Upgrades
- New Condenser Water Pumps and Filtration System
- Heating and Cooling Variable Speed Fans (Lech Walesa Hall)
- Replace Controls for Three Hot Water Boilers
- Replace Fan Coil and Install Variable Speed Fans for Heating System (Building D)
- Install Insulation on Hot Water Expansion Joints
- Kitchen Hood Controls
- Install Variable Speed Motor on the Swimming Pool Pump (Physical Education Building)

In June 2010, the Board approved a series of resolutions that authorized the University to proceed with the issuance of Certificates of Participation to finance the Energy Conservation Project. The financing with Certificates is specifically authorized in state statute and is the most typical means used by public universities to finance these types of projects. The sale of the Certificates took place on August 19, 2010 and the financing closing took place on September 8, 2010.

Since September 2010, the University has been working with our energy services company, NORESKO, on the implementation of the specific energy conservation measures. The planned construction period was 15 months, meaning project completion was originally estimated for December 2011.

The project has stayed on schedule with very few delays. At the time this report was prepared, all of the energy conservation measures are either complete, or will be completed in January 2012, with the exception of upgrades to the University's Building Automation System (BAS). The BAS upgrade is expected to be completed in February 2012.

The next phase of the project is the Measurement and Verification process by which actual energy consumption after the completion of the conservation measures is compared with prior energy use and the original projected consumption savings. This is to assure that the University is receiving the energy savings that were guaranteed by NORESKO. Under the energy performance aspects of the agreement with NORESKO, the savings from the implemented energy conservation measure are guaranteed to be enough to pay the debt service on debt that financed the project. If the actual energy savings do not meet projections, the contract requires NORESKO make up the difference so that the University realizes the guaranteed savings. (In addition to satisfying the debt service payments, this project is projected to generate a positive cash flow of approximately \$90,000 per year.)

The Measurement and Verification analysis will be completed for each of the energy conservation measures outlined above. The analysis was completed in January 2012 for all the measures except the BAS upgrade, which is expected to be completed in February 2012. Results of the Measurement and Verification analyses will be compiled and, as explained above, compared with the guaranteed savings. The final remaining task is training for University plant operating engineers and electricians, which is also expected to take place in February 2012.

As this project draws to a close, the University will continue to look for new and different ways to reduce energy costs and be a good steward of our physical plant.

**II. B. INFORMATION ITEM: PURCHASES BETWEEN \$50,000 AND \$100,000**

Board of Trustees' Regulations require that the President report to the Board purchases of at least \$50,000 but less than \$100,000 other than those exempt from Board approval (e.g., utilities). The following lists those purchases since the last Board meeting.

<u>Vendor</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Purchase Order Amount</u>
BLDD Architects, Inc.	QBS Design Service for Human Anatomy Lab	\$98,800
Bryan Cave LLP	Legal Services for EI Centro	\$50,000

**C. NEWS AND EVENTS**

**1. From The Persian Gulf to Tunisia : Revolts, Hopes, and Chances for Islamism – November 10**

On Thursday November 10, the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs (APCDI) hosted a presentation titled "*From the Persian Gulf to Tunisia: Revolts, Hopes, and Chances for Islamism.*" In light of the first wave of demonstrations in the region in summer 2009 when Iranians contested their presidential election results and the eventual "Arab Spring" that followed some months later, Professor Farzaneh discussed the history of revolts, the challenges of the 21st Century democracies, and the facts about political Islam in Sunni and Shi'ite traditions and how the latter can pose a challenge in absence of organized political planning and implementation.

**2. Fajitas, Greens, and Everything in Between – November 11**

On Friday, November 11, the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs hosted a comedy show that dealt with identity issues for various cultures through a comedian's and poet's perspective. Topics included race, sexuality, sexual orientation, discrimination, diversity, and other issues that affect our development of identity. The goal of the event was to engage critical thinking through a nontraditional approach to learning.

**3. Faculty, Staff and Student Town Hall Meeting at CCICS – November 14**

President Hahs held a Town Hall Meeting for faculty, staff, and students at the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) on Monday, November 14. The meeting provided an opportunity for dialogue within the University community in an informal setting. Topics were presented, followed by a question and answer session.

**4. Hunger Week – November 14-19**

The Student Activities Office presented its third annual "*Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week*" as part of the Leaders Emerging and Developing (LEAD) program on November 14-19. Activities included: Oxfam Social Class Dinner, an illustration on the food disparity among classes; a presentation on Hunger in Chicago from the Illinois Hunger Coalition; a Sleep Out, which challenged students to spend an evening sleeping outside to raise awareness about homelessness; the Library Debt Forgiveness Program, which enabled students to eliminate their library debt through the donation of canned food to the Chicago Food Depository; and Sponsor a Thanksgiving Meal (45 local families were provided with meals.) The additional \$1,250 raised benefited Oxfam, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, and sponsored a dinner in the name of NEIU at A Just Harvest Soup Kitchen.

**5. USDA Career Fair – November 15**

On Tuesday, November 15, the Office of Career Services collaborated with the NEIU Student Center for Science Engagement and Julio Puentes, USDA Midwest Regional

Director to host a unique job fair that highlighted agencies within the United States Department of Agriculture. Participating agencies included the Food and Nutrition Service, the Forest Service, the Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service, the Farm Service Agency, the Food Safety and Inspection Service, and the Agricultural Research Service. Approximately one-hundred students and alumni participated in the event.

#### **6. Alpha Chi Induction Ceremony – November 15**

The 2011 Alpha Chi Induction Ceremony took place on Tuesday, November 15 in Alumni Hall. Ninety-nine students were chosen to become members. Membership to this honors program is by invitation to juniors and seniors who display exceptional academic excellence. Invited members are typically selected from the top 10% of their classes. The event was followed by a dessert buffet in Golden Eagles.

#### **7. The “Black and...” Brown Bag Lunch Series – November 16**

On Friday, November 16, the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs held a “Black and...” Brown Bag Lunch Series event. Guest speaker, Danielle Simmons, Loyola University graduate student who studies Higher Education, addressed the issue of class and upward mobility in the Black community. The “Black and...” Brown Bag Lunch Series is a set of lectures, workshops and other events that speak to how gender, class, nation of origin, disability, sexual orientation, age, educational background in their many combinations come together to impact the educational experience of people of African descent.

#### **8. Salute to Graduates – November 16**

On Wednesday, November 16, more than 300 graduates attended a day-long fair hosted by the Office of Alumni Relations in Village Square to showcase alumni benefits and services as well as continuing educational opportunities. Sixteen NEIU departments participated in the event, which also included vendor services for graduation portraits, caps and gowns, commencement tickets and other graduation commemorative items.

#### **9. Seventeenth Annual Interfaith Conference – November 17**

The 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Conference, “Hope and Healing: Reconciliation through Peace”, was held on Thursday, November 17 in Alumni Hall. The objective of the Interfaith Conference is to promote the positive role of understanding and tolerance as a healing and constructive force in life. Presentations and opportunities for dialogue give students an enhanced understanding to learn, respect, and revitalize cross-cultural experiences. Presentations included panel discussions, “Hope and Healing: Reconciliation through Peace” and “Israel-Palestinian Conflict”.

#### **10. Jewel Box Series – November 18**

On Friday, November 18, the Jewel Box Series featured Latina violinist Elena Urioste in a program of works by Mozart, Faure, and Strauss. The young classical musician

attracted a diverse audience with many high school musicians in attendance from neighboring schools.

#### **11. Barbershop Series – December 1, 9, 15 and 29**

The Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs held four Barbershop Series events on December 1, 9, 15 and 29. Topics of discussion included, “Things that describe us as men”, students brought three items from their homes that they feel describe them as men; “What is a man in the eyes of the media?”, students viewed a series of media segments and discussed the portrayal of men; and “Dinner of Peace”, an end-of-year dinner where students discussed their goals for 2012. The series of workshops and events address issues of gender identity for Latino and African American males.

#### **12. Office of Sponsored Programs Open House – December 8**

On Thursday, December 8, the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP) held an open house from 2-4 pm. Approximately 30-35 faculty and staff attended. Participants discussed their research and project interests and learned about how the OSP identifies funding opportunities and assists with proposal development and submission as well as project initiation and grants management.

#### **13. Appreciation Reception for Provost Frank – December 7**

The NEIU family came together to show appreciation to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Lawrence Frank, for his ten years of dedicated service to the University. The reception was held on Wednesday, December 7 in the Golden Eagles room. Vice Provost Vicki Roman-Lagunas hosted the reception with remarks from Deans Wamucii Njogu, Amy Hietapelto, Brad Baker, Vice President Mark Wilcockson, and Associate Professor of Political Science and Philosophy, Sophia Mihic. A special video presentation accompanied by Frank Sinatra's song “My Way” was presented by Dean Murrell Duster, and President Sharon Hahs presented the Provost with The University Award.

#### **14. Academic Honors Ceremony – December 8**

The Office of Alumni Relations hosted the Academic Honors Ceremony on Thursday, December 8 in Alumni Hall to recognize August and December 2011 graduates who had achieved the honors of cum laude, magna cum laude and summa cum laude as well as those who participated in the Honors Program. Over 225 students and their families attended the ceremony and reception.

#### **15. Inaugural Late Night Finals Breakfast – December 13**

The Division of Student Life, in collaboration with the Northeastern Programming Board (NPB), kicked off the inaugural Late Night Finals Breakfast on Monday, December 13. President Hahs and several other staff members participated in this event by serving

free breakfast to nearly 300 students. In addition to the free breakfast, students received give-a-ways and free massages.

**16. Stress-Free Zone – December 14-16**

Student Health Services sponsored the Student Stress-free Zone on December 14-16. Cards, checkers, and crafts created a fun atmosphere. Five therapists provided chair massages and healthy snacks. Approximately 700 students attended the 3-day event.

**17. Black Graduate Reception – December 16**

The Black Graduate Reception took place on Friday, December 16 in Alumni Hall. Members of the Black Caucus Club partnered with the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs to celebrate the achievements of Northeastern's fall 2011 African American graduates. Participating graduates were presented with a Black Caucus stole to be worn at the commencement ceremony. Over 250 attended including graduates, their families and friends, faculty, staff, and administrators.

**18. Jewel Box Series – December 16**

On Friday, December 16, the Jewel Box Series hosted the Jasper String Quartet, winners of the 2012 Cleveland Quartet Award presented by Chamber Music America.

**19. Holiday Reception – December 16**

The NEIU community gathered to celebrate the holidays on Friday, December 16. The NEIU Holiday Reception is a wonderful tradition that brings the University community together to celebrate all that has been accomplished throughout the year. President Hahs, Dr. Billy Hahs and Vice Presidents, Frank, Rodriguez, Ross, and Wilcockson greeted over 500 guests. Music was provided by Mayo Tiano and the NEIU Jazz Ensemble.

**20. December 2011 Commencement – December 18**

The University celebrated its August and December 2011 graduates at a Commencement ceremony held at the UIC Pavilion on Sunday, December 18. Six hundred eighty-one graduates participated, a 49 percent graduate participation rate – the highest participation rate for a December ceremony in recent history. This commencement ceremony was the first to be held at an off-campus location in several years, and the larger space accommodated all graduates in one ceremony and additional guest tickets for each graduate. A total of 4,800 guests attended.

At NEIU's December 2011 Commencement, Robert Jordan (M.A. '94 Speech) was honored with the 2011 NEIU Distinguished Alumnus Award and delivered the commencement address. Jordan is a weekend anchor for WGN-TV's News at Nine and is founder and owner of Jordan and Jordan Communications, Inc., a television production company. Jordan earned a bachelor's degree from Roosevelt University, a

master's degree from Northeastern Illinois University and a Ph.D. in educational leadership and policy studies from Loyola University Chicago.

**21. CTA U-Pass Distribution and On-site Production – January 4-6 and 9-10**

The Student Union coordinated the CTA U-Pass distribution and on-site production on January 4-6 and 9-10. The use of ID scanning technology and additional student staffing made distribution faster and more efficient. Nearly 3,000 U-Passes were distributed among the El Centro, CCICS and main campuses.

**22. Spring 2012 Express-Lane Advising – January 9-13**

The Academic Advisement and Testing Center (AATC) held its second beginning-of-the-semester Express-Lane Advising activity in Village Square on January 9-13. The purpose of the event was to increase the accessibility of advising services during the first week of classes. Advisors were able to access student files, answer advising questions, and provide students with printed copies of their current schedules. The Advising Center's student workers were also on hand to guide students to campus buildings and provide students with information on how to obtain book waivers and the U-Pass. Due to the overwhelmingly positive response from students and staff, Express-Lane Advising will be a regular occurrence during the first week of the Fall and Spring semesters.

**23. NEIU Ask Me! Campaign – January 9-17**

The NEIU community served as ambassadors, wearing Ask Me buttons and answering student inquiries to help new and returning students with questions and concerns at the start of the Spring Semester. In addition, the Dean of Students Office coordinated a week-long resource information table in Village Square from January 9 through January 17, with additional information tables in the Bernard J. Brommel Hall, Ronald Williams Library, El Centro, and the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies.

**24. Nuestras Comunidades! (Our Communities) – January 11**

On Wednesday, January 11, staff from the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs participated in a panel, "Working with Undocumented Students", at Gage Park High School. Training and expert information was provided to Chicago public school counselors. Nuestra Comunidades was created for students, faculty, and staff to be able to visit different Latino communities in the Chicagoland area to enhance the understanding of systems and organizations within the Latino community.

**25. Korean Americans in Chicago – January 13**

On Friday, January 13, the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs celebrated the 109<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the first 102 Korean immigrants to the U.S. on January 13, 1903 and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Korean American Association of Chicago which was founded on November 3, 1962. The event was sponsored by the Korean American Women's Association of Chicago.

**26. Coffee with the Vice President: Leadership Lessons – January 18**

As part of the Leaders Emerging and Developing (LEAD) workshop series, the Vice President for Student Life, Dr. Frank Ross, presented a workshop for student leaders in the Student Union over coffee. The primary focus of the event was to help students develop skills that enable them to discover, develop, and practice involvement opportunities within the campus and the outside community. Methods of improving leadership skills range from service activities, leadership retreats, interpersonal exploration, communication skill development, and diversity encounters.

**27. Spring Student Organization Fair – January 18-19**

The 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Student Organization Fair was held in Village Square January 18 and 19. NEIU's 90 plus student clubs and organizations took advantage of the opportunity to recruit new members, and to showcase and market their events for the upcoming spring semester.

**28. Spring into Fun Days – January 18, 19 and 25**

The Northeastern Programming Board (NPB), in collaboration with El Centro and the Carruthers Center for Inner-City Studies (CCICS), sponsored the annual "Spring into Fun Days". NPB, a student organization, has worked with all three campuses to bring a day full of fun, food, and give-a-ways to welcome students in the spring semester. The give-a-ways included temporary tattoos, customized airbrush t-shirts, and personalized photo flip books.

**29. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration – January 19**

NEIU's annual celebration honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was held on Thursday, January 19. Greetings and words of inspiration were provided by President Hahs; Murrell Duster, Associate Vice President and Dean of the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs; Alice Pennamon, Coordinator, Graduate Enrollment Services; and Robert Bedford, Assistant Dean of Students. The keynote address: "A Legacy Forever" was presented by Pastor Charles Jenkins from the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church. The Evangelical Christian School Intermediate Choir performed selections to honor Dr. King's legacy. Panel discussions followed throughout the day in the Student Union: Dr. Martha Biondi, Associate Professor, African American Studies, Northwestern University, presented "*Women of the Civil Rights Movement*" and Dr. Mark Orbe, Professor of Communication and Diversity, Western Michigan University, presented "*Obama, Race, and the Media*".

**30. Barbershop Series – January 17 and 19**

The Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs presented its Barbershop Series on January 17 and 19. The January 17 presentation, "Success is Possible", was held at Gage Park High School and presented to over 120 Latino and African American juniors and seniors, discussions included the importance of goal-setting for graduation and college. The January 19 presentation, "Building a Vision",

instructed NEIU students to explore professional, educational, and personal aspirations. The series of workshops and events address issues of gender identity for Latino and African American males.

**31. Miss Representation film – January 24, 31 and February 3**

The film “Miss Representation”, written and directed by Jennifer Siebel Newsom, was shown in the auditorium on January 24, 31 and February 3. The film exposes how mainstream media contributes to the under-representation of women in positions of power and influence in America. It also challenges the media’s limited and often disparaging portrayals of women and girls, which make it difficult for women to achieve leadership roles and feel empowered. This program is co-sponsored by the Social Work Department, Sociology Department, and Women’s Studies. Ticket sales benefit Deborah’s Place, a non-profit organization whose mission is to break the cycle of homelessness in Chicago.

**32. People Impacting People Reception – January 26**

On Thursday, January 26, the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs hosted its first People Impacting NEIU Reception. People Impacting NEIU is a yearly calendar that will showcase individuals who have had a positive impact on the multicultural climate at NEIU. The following six outstanding NEIU individuals will be featured in the 2012 People Impacting NEIU calendar: 1) Sharron Evans, Director of Student Activities; 2) Rosanelly Lopez, Student; 3) Joseph Zefran, Instructor, Social Work; 4) Wajiah Moonis, recent graduate; 5) Gilo K. Cornell Logan, Program Specialist, Project Success; and 6) Janean Watkins, Student.

**33. Black History Month Kick-Off Reception – February 1**

On Wednesday, February 1, the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs hosted the Black History Month Kick-Off Reception from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The entire campus community was invited to attend, special remarks were given by Dean Duster and staff, and the Black History Month Calendar of Events was distributed to all.

**34. Academic Advisor Appreciation Day – February 6**

Dr. Frank Ross, Vice President for Student Life hosted an Academic Advisor Appreciation Day on February 6 for all academic advisors on all Northeastern campuses. The purpose of the day was to show gratitude to all faculty and professional advisors for the work they do to support student success. Events included advisor professional development sessions as well as a keynote address from Dr. Charlie Nutt, the executive director of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA).

**35. Student Organization Advisor Reception – February 7**

On Tuesday, February 7, the Student Activities Office recognized the hard work of faculty and staff advisors for our student organizations. The reception included a

student testimonial on how their advisor helped them and their organization and a gift for each advisor as a token of appreciation.

### **36. NEIU Foundation Leader Fund**

In Fall 2011, the NEIU Foundation launched two appeals: the NEIU Leader Fund and the NEIU Community Appeal. The NEIU Leader Fund raises unrestricted funds to support students, faculty, staff and programming. Since its launch in November, the Leader Fund has generated \$26,000 from 167 donors. In September, the Foundation launched the NEIU Community Appeal to encourage giving by faculty and staff. This appeal raised \$6,000 from 36 faculty and staff members. During the first half of FY12, faculty and staff giving through payroll deductions generated \$18,500, and the number of employees who give through payroll deduction increased by 22 percent.