

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

**February 11, 2009**

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Wednesday, February 11, 2009, at 4:50 p.m., in the Golden Eagles Room of the Student Union at Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Walter W. Dudycz, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order.

Roll was called and the following trustees answered present:

Carlos Azcoitia, Secretary  
Grace G. Dawson  
Walter W. Dudycz, Chair  
Omar Duque  
Edward G. Dykla  
Jin Lee, Vice Chair  
Eduardo Arabu

The following trustee was absent:

Carole Balzekas

Also present were the following:

Sharon K. Hahs, President  
Jean A. Kelchauser, Assistant Secretary  
Tom Arkell for Mark Dunn, Legal Counsel

University Vice Presidents and Staff

**Approval of Minutes**

Written Minutes of the meeting of November 20, 2008 and the Minutes of the Confidential Executive Session dated November 20, 2008 have been prepared and submitted. Chair Dudycz said that hearing no corrections, the Minutes stand as written.

**President's Report**

President Hahs introduced Dr. Lesa Davis, Associate Professor of Anthropology, who is serving as the first Presidential Intern through June 30. She asked Vice President Carla Knorowski to come forward and introduce the Marketing Team that produced our "Learn in the City, Lead in the World" campaign as follows: Erika Krehbiel, Carolyn Bonner, Julie Wight and Matt Byerly. (Joe Davis, Photographer could not be present

today.) Chair Dudycz complimented the team and said that their work is as good if not better than many high price firms he has seen and that we are very proud of them.

Among the items on the table, President Hahs noted the following: Strategic Planning Booklet, Invitation to the Legislative Breakfast on February 23, Preliminary Announcement of the Donn Bailey Legacy Hall Dedication on February 28 and a copy of a Message from the Presidents and Chancellors of Illinois Public Universities to the People of Illinois which was sent to all members of the General Assembly on February 9, and to major media outlets on February 10 and also placed on the NEIU website.

President Hahs requested approval of the following items:

Mr. Duque, seconded by Mr. Dykla, moved to **approve Fiscal Year 2010 Tuition and Fee Rates** as follows:

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 those continuing commitments and parameters that this report presents the proposed fiscal year 2010 tuition and fee rates to the Board for approval.

Clearly, students are the campus constituency most affected by changes in student tuition and fees. At the November 2008 Board meeting, the proposed fiscal year 2010 tuition and fee rates (beginning fall 2009) were presented to the Board and to the University community for review and discussion. Prior to that presentation, the University President and the Vice President for Finance and Administration met with Student Government Association leadership to discuss the overall climate for setting tuition and fee rates.

In addition, as in previous years, senior University administrators met with the Student Government Association (SGA) on January 22, 2009 in an open forum to present the proposed tuition and fee rates and to discuss student concerns. At that meeting, the proposed tuition and fee rates were discussed in the context of tuition and fee rates at the other Illinois public universities and the decreasing level of state support for the University. The SGA representatives also discussed the importance of finding adequate resources to meet students' programmatic needs, both inside and outside of the classroom.

**Overview of Current 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 2009, the sixth cohort of undergraduate students attending Northeastern will enter the University under the tuition guarantee program. Also in fall 2009, the first cohort, those who entered in fall 2004, will complete the two-year transition from their four-year locked rate to the rate for continuing students. This transition period was implemented because the fall 2004 cohort tuition guarantee rate was set at a low rate and a one-year transition to the continuing student tuition rate would have been difficult for those students. Finally, the second cohort, those who entered in fall 2005, also will see the expiration of their locked tuition rate and will also be charged the continuing student tuition rate.

One result of the tuition guarantee is the effect on tuition comparisons among institutions. Prior to fall 2004, most universities had one basic tuition rate for undergraduate in-state resident students 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. Further, prior to this year, there had been no standard statewide methodology to facilitate tuition rate comparisons. However, the Illinois Board of Higher Education has recently developed a methodology for comparing tuition rates that involves weighing each university's various tuition rates by the number of students paying the corresponding rates. Those rates and comparisons are included in this report.

Tuition comparisons are important because they provide a means to assess student costs among somewhat similarly financed institutions. Table 1 presents fiscal year 2009 weighted average tuition rates at Illinois public universities for new undergraduates and for all undergraduate students. Based on this analysis, the average tuition cost for new undergraduate students attending Northeastern for the first time in the current fiscal year is among the lower rates for in-state undergraduate students attending Illinois public universities; four campuses have lower average rates and seven campuses have higher rates. The tuition for new full-time undergraduates at Northeastern is \$6,600, or 84 percent of the statewide average of \$7,838. For all undergraduate students, only three campuses in Illinois have a lower average tuition rate than Northeastern and the weighted average rate of \$5,565 for Northeastern is 81 percent of the statewide average of \$6,876. Stated differently, on average, full-time undergraduate students at Northeastern pay \$1,311 less per year for tuition than the average for all Illinois public universities.

Another assessment of affordability is the change in undergraduate tuition.

Table 1 compares the tuition rate for new undergraduates entering Northeastern in fall 2009 compared to those entering the previous year and shows that the rate change of 12.8 percent at Northeastern exceeded the statewide average of 10.8 percent. For all undergraduate students, the fiscal year 2009 weighted average tuition increase at Northeastern of 11.8 percent exceeded the state average of 9.5 percent.

Table 2 provides comparison data for graduate tuition and shows that the fiscal year 2009 rate for students at Northeastern is \$5,280, 69 percent of the statewide average of \$7,682. The current year graduate tuition rate increase of 10.0 percent was less than the statewide average of 10.8 percent. Four public university campuses have an average graduate tuition rate lower than Northeastern and seven have a higher average 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 pay more for their education than undergraduates. For the past two years, Northeastern has established graduate tuition at the rate paid by the entering undergraduate students. This assures that no undergraduate student pays more for their education than graduate students. Statewide, graduate students pay 22.5 percent more than undergraduate students. However, these data should be interpreted with caution because the graduate costs at several campuses are inflated due to the high cost of certain graduate programs, for example, medical education.

### **Setting Tuition and Fees in a Challenging State Fiscal Climate**

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 chart summarizes changes in state appropriations and undergraduate tuition rates over the past 10 years.

(It should be noted that, since the November report, the University was notified that it is subject to a current fiscal year 2009 reserve requirement (or “cut”) of 2.5 percent, or \$1.1 million, further reducing available state resources.) Between fiscal year 1999 and 2004, state funding increased 2.3 percent while tuition increased 20.9 percent. However, Northeastern ended the five year period with fiscal year 2004 state appropriations of \$6.3 million, or 13.9 percent, below fiscal year 2002 appropriations. This is the compelling story. Even with our minimal increases in state funding from fiscal year 2005 to the current fiscal year 2009, we remain \$4.5 million, or 10.0 percent, below our level of state appropriation in fiscal year 2002.

**Figure 1**

Fiscal Year	State Funding (in thousands)	% Change	Undergrad Tuition per Credit Hour	% Change
1999	38,189.0	----	91.00	----
2000	40,330.4	5.6%	94.25	3.6%
2001	42,610.1	5.7	97.50	3.4
2002	45,396.8	6.5	101.00	3.6
2003	42,585.4	(6.2)	107.50	6.4
<u>2004</u>	<u>39,077.7</u>	<u>(8.2)</u>	<u>110.00</u>	<u>2.3</u>
1999-2004	888.7	2.3	19.00	20.9
2004	39,077.7	----	110.00	----
2005	39,227.7	.4%	115.00	4.5%
2006	39,247.7	0.1	126.00	9.6
2007	40,026.3	2.0	136.00	7.9
2008	40,770.7	1.9	156.00	14.7
<u>2009*</u>	<u>40,854.4</u>	<u>0.2</u>	<u>170.00</u>	<u>9.0</u>
2004-2009	1,776.7	4.5	60.00	54.5

\* Adjusted to reflect reserve requirement. Also excludes \$1.5 million in restricted funds for Hispanic Serving Institution Initiatives, net of reserve requirement of \$37,500.

Even when faced with the sharp funding decreases in fiscal years 2003 and 2004, Northeastern adopted fairly modest tuition increases of 6.4% and 2.3%. Other than the 6.4 percent increase in fiscal year 2003, tuition increases at Northeastern during this first five-year period did not exceed 3.6 percent.

However, in the second five-year period, when state funding remained below the previous funding level of fiscal year 2002 and the modest state funding increases were not enough to address salary, utility and inflationary increases, tuition increased more significantly. The University maintained modest tuition increases until fiscal year 2006, and then increased tuition at higher rates only in response to several years of state funding shortfalls. State funding levels will continue to challenge the ability of public universities to hold down tuition costs.

Not reflected in these state appropriations are additional funding requirements that the University is required by the state to make that must be funded with available resources. In fiscal year 2002, the University incurred a new requirement to contribute \$1.1 million annually to the Illinois state group health insurance plan. This was a new requirement for all public universities, in addition to the employee and employer contributions already required.

Public Act 94-4 requires Northeastern and all other public universities to make a contribution to the State Universities Retirement System for increases in employees' salaries above 6 percent in any of the four years used to determine average earnings

for retirement purposes.

What this means for tuition in the State of Illinois is that not only are public universities impaired 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.

### **Addressing University Priorities**

Northeastern has a long history of reallocation and will support our newly adopted strategic plan and budget priorities through internal reallocation. However, as mentioned above, we continue to be challenged in supporting these priorities because of decreases in state funding. In the current fiscal year 2009, the University implemented a two percent across-the-board reduction to keep budgeted expenditures within projected revenues. Even with this climate of state funding shortfalls, we continue to negotiate multi-year contracts with the five campus unions and implement modest salary increases for our non-negotiated employees.

For fiscal year 2009, the University identified our highest strategic priorities and we 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.

As the University community discusses and considers fiscal year 2010 tuition rates, the appropriate balance between affordability, access and educational quality improvements must be found, all within the state funding climate outlined above.

In addition to operating budget issues affected by state funding, the University also must consider the operations and quality improvements that are supported by student fees. Student fees support such areas as technology, student activities, the Student Union, campus recreation, and student health services. The student demand for services in these areas continues to increase. For example, requests continue to grow for new fee-supported student clubs, expansion of health services, additional computer labs and faster and more robust internet connections.

A major initiative is underway that is supported by student fees, the new University integrated information system – *NEIUworks*, and the new University portal - *NEIUport*.

A major component of this system is the expansion and improvement of student services, including a significant expansion of web-based student services (e.g., on-line registration, bill payment, degree audit that provides specific information on course/major requirements on a case-by-case basis, financial aid services).

In addition to the program requirements, student fees also support the various offices that administer the specific fee programs, such as the offices of student activities, health services and campus recreation.

### **Tuition and Fee Proposal**

Table 4 provides proposed tuition and fee rates for fiscal year 2010. The proposed tuition rates attempt to balance the needs of the University, the continuing commitment to keep the costs of attending the University affordable, and the ongoing fiscal challenges resulting from the lack of significant new state funding.

In fiscal year 2010, in compliance with state statute, there will be five different tuition rates for in-state undergraduate students, depending on the date of first enrollment at Northeastern. For three of these rates there will be no increase, that is for those students entering in fall 2006, fall 2007 or fall 2008. This level tuition will be in place for approximately one-half of our undergraduate students. For students entering prior to fall 2004, referred to in Table 4 as continuing students, the tuition rate will be \$190 per credit hour, an increase of 11.8 percent. The in-state, undergraduate tuition rate for new students would be \$245 per credit hour. For in-state graduate students, the proposed tuition rate is \$245 per credit hour, an increase of \$25 per credit hour, or 11.4 percent. For each in-state tuition rate, there is a corresponding non-Illinois resident tuition rate that is twice the in-state rate.

A particular challenge that was addressed in last year's approved rates was student tuition charges for students who first enrolled at Northeastern in fall 2004 and, by state law, had their tuition held constant for four consecutive academic years. At the end of summer 2008, the tuition guarantee expired for this first cohort of students, those that enrolled at Northeastern under this program in fall 2004. Several pricing options for these students were examined and modeled, including extending the tuition lock, adding this cohort to another cohort (e.g., fall 2005 or fall 2006), or moving these students into the continuing undergraduate tuition rate category. Each of these options was examined to determine whether the students would be making an appropriate contribution to their education relative to other undergraduate students and whether their tuition increase would result in an unrealistic burden for those students. Another complication was the tuition rate for this first cohort was established at a very low rate. These students were paying \$124 per credit hour for four years, compared to the fiscal year 2008 rate of \$195 per credit hour for new students.

It was determined to move the rate for this first cohort to the continuing rate over a two year period. In fiscal year 2009, the rate for these students increased to \$155 per credit hour and for fiscal year 2010 it is recommended that this first cohort join the continuing rate of \$190 per credit hour. In addition, the second expiring cohort, those students who first enrolled in fall 2005, also will be join the continuing cohort that is being charged \$190 per credit hour.

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

Table 1  
ILLINOIS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES  
FY2009 UNDERGRADUATE TUITION INCREASES

(Annual based on 30 credit hours)	New Undergraduates				Weighted Average All Undergraduat		
	Enter	Enter	\$	%			\$
	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Change	Change	FY2008	FY2009	Change
Chicago State University	\$ 6,180	\$ 6,870	\$ 690	11.2 %	\$ 5,487	\$ 5,975	\$ 488
Eastern Illinois University	5,832	6,540	708	12.1	4,937	5,496	559
Governors State University	5,370	6,120	750	14.0	4,922	5,547	625
Illinois State University	6,990	7,680	690	9.9	6,004	6,720	716
Northeastern Illinois University	5,850	6,600	750	12.8	4,977	5,565	588
Northern Illinois University	6,350	6,920	570	9.0	5,676	6,143	467
Western Illinois University	5,895	6,456	561	9.5	5,309	5,850	541
<u>Southern Illinois University</u>							
Carbondale	6,348	6,975	627	9.9	5,508	5,981	473
Edwardsville	5,228	5,850	622	11.9	4,810	5,088	278
<u>University of Illinois</u>							
Chicago	7,967	8,791	824	10.3	7,045	7,753	708
Springfield	6,360	7,215	855	13.4	5,749	6,215	466
Urbana-Champaign	9,943	10,915	972	9.8	8,599	9,386	787
Weighted Average	<u>\$ 7,077</u>	<u>\$ 7,838</u>	<u>\$ 761</u>	<u>10.8 %</u>	<u>\$ 6,278</u>	<u>\$ 6,876</u>	<u>\$ 598</u>
NEIU as a Percentage of State Average	83%	84%			79%	81%	

Source: Illinois Board of Higher Education Data

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Table 2  
ILLINOIS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES  
FY2009 GRADUATE TUITION INCREASES

	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>\$</u> <u>Change</u>	<u>%</u> <u>Change</u>
Chicago State University	\$ 4,213	\$ 4,488	\$ 275	6.5 %
Eastern Illinois University	4,554	5,232	678	14.9
Governors State University	4,464	5,400	936	21.0
Illinois State University	4,656	4,896	240	5.2
Northeastern Illinois University	4,800	5,280	480	10.0
Northern Illinois University	5,624	6,296	672	11.9
Western Illinois University	4,873	5,178	305	6.3
<u>Southern Illinois University</u>				
Carbondale	6,600	7,629	1,029	15.6
Edwardsville	5,670	5,838	168	3.0
<u>University of Illinois</u>				
Chicago	10,108	11,388	1,280	12.7
Springfield	5,424	6,144	720	13.3
Urbana-Champaign	10,041	10,818	777	7.7
Weighted Average	<u>\$ 6,931</u>	<u>\$ 7,682</u>	<u>\$ 751</u>	<u>10.8 %</u>
NEIU as a % of State Average	69%	69%		

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

Source: Illinois Board of Higher Education Data

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Table 3

**ILLINOIS PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES  
FY2009 GRADUATE TUITION  
COMPARISON WITH UNDERGRADUATE RATES**

	FY2009 Graduate Tuition	Comparison - New Undergraduate And Graduate Tuition Rates	
		FY2009 New Undergraduate Tuition Restated to 24 Credit Hours	Graduate Tuition Percent Difference Undergraduate Tuition
Chicago State University	\$ 4,488	\$ 5,496	(18.3) %
Eastern Illinois University	5,232	5,232	-
Governors State University	5,400	4,896	10.3
Illinois State University	4,896	6,144	(20.3)
Northeastern Illinois University	5,280	5,280	-
Northern Illinois University	6,296	5,536	13.7
Western Illinois University	5,178	5,165	0.3
<u>Southern Illinois University</u>			
Carbondale	7,629	5,580	36.7
Edwardsville	5,838	4,680	24.7
<u>University of Illinois</u>			
Chicago	11,388	7,033	61.9
Springfield	6,144	5,772	6.4
Urbana-Champaign	10,818	8,732	23.9
Weighted Average	\$ 7,682	\$ 6,270	22.5 %

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

Source: Illinois Board of Higher Education Data

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Table 4  
NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
Schedule of Proposed Tuition and Fees  
For Discussion Purposes Only

	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	Change FY09 to FY10	
				Dollar	Percent
<b><u>TUITION (per credit hour)</u></b>					
Undergraduate - continuing	\$ 156.00	\$ 170.00	\$ 190.00	\$ 20.00	11.8 %
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2004	124.00	155.00	190.00	35.00	22.6
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2005	160.00	160.00	190.00	30.00	18.8
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2006 <sup>1</sup>	175.00	175.00	175.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 <sup>1</sup>	195.00	195.00	195.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 <sup>1</sup>	-	220.00	220.00	-	-
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	245.00	n/a	n/a
Graduate	200.00	220.00	245.00	25.00	11.4
Non-resident Undergraduate - continuing	312.00	340.00	380.00	40.00	11.8
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2004	248.00	310.00	380.00	70.00	22.6
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2005	320.00	320.00	380.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2006 <sup>1</sup>	350.00	350.00	350.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 <sup>1</sup>	390.00	390.00	390.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 <sup>1</sup>	-	440.00	440.00	-	-
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	490.00	n/a	n/a
Non-resident Graduate	400.00	440.00	490.00	50.00	11.4
<b><u>MANDATORY FEES</u></b>	<b>39.80</b>	<b>47.00</b>	<b>49.85</b>	<b>2.85</b>	<b>6.1</b>
Activity Fee	2.95	3.60	3.70	0.10	2.8
Student Union Fee	6.60	6.75	6.75	-	-
Campus Recreation Fee	3.50	3.60	3.60	-	-
Performing Arts Fee	0.65	0.70	0.70	-	-
Student Health Service Fee	1.50	1.65	1.65	-	-
Computer Resources Fee	9.50	12.50	14.50	2.00	16.0
Academic Enhancement Fee	5.00	7.50	7.50	-	-
Parking Fee (waivable)	10.10	10.70	11.45	0.75	7.0
Green Fee - rate per semester	3.00	3.00	3.00	-	-
Health Insurance Fee <sup>2</sup>	474.00	474.00	474.00	-	-
<b><u>TUITION AND FEES (based on 15 credit hours, excludes health insurance fee)</u></b>					
Undergraduate - continuing	\$ 2,940.00	\$ 3,258.00	\$ 3,600.75	\$ 342.75	10.5 %
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2004	2,460.00	3,033.00	3,600.75	567.75	18.7
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2005 <sup>1</sup>	3,000.00	3,108.00	3,600.75	492.75	15.9
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2006 <sup>1</sup>	3,225.00	3,333.00	3,375.75	42.75	1.3
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 <sup>1</sup>	3,525.00	3,633.00	3,675.75	42.75	1.2
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 <sup>1</sup>	-	4,008.00	4,050.75	42.75	1.1
Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	4,425.75	n/a	n/a
Graduate	3,600.00	4,008.00	4,425.75	417.75	10.4
Non-resident Undergraduate - continuing	5,280.00	5,808.00	6,450.75	642.75	11.1
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2004	4,320.00	5,358.00	6,450.75	1,092.75	20.4
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2005 <sup>1</sup>	5,400.00	5,508.00	6,450.75	942.75	17.1
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2006 <sup>1</sup>	5,850.00	5,958.00	6,000.75	42.75	0.7
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2007 <sup>1</sup>	6,450.00	6,558.00	6,600.75	42.75	0.7
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2008 <sup>1</sup>	-	7,308.00	7,350.75	42.75	0.6
Non-resident Undergraduate - newly enrolled Fall 2009 <sup>1</sup>	-	-	8,100.75	n/a	n/a
Non-resident Graduate	6,600.00	7,308.00	8,100.75	792.75	10.8

<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.

<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 2010 is contingent on the results of negotiation with the insurance carrier. Amount shown is the charge per semester. Note that the Spring semester fee now provides insurance coverage during the Summer semester.

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

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Dudycz	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Lee	Yes
Arabu	Yes

The motion carried.

President Hahs withdrew **Item B., Amendment of Board Regulations Regarding the Approval of Expenditures.**

Mr. Dykla, seconded by Mr. Lee, moved to approve the awarding of an Honorary Degree to Lech Walesa as follows:

Northeastern Illinois University conducts commencement ceremonies every December and May. Following each ceremony the Commencement Committee, the President and others evaluate what went well and how the ceremony could be improved. The suggestion has been made that NEIU begin the practice of awarding honorary degrees at commencement, a tradition of many institutions. The University has an unusual opportunity to consider this idea with the naming of Lech Walesa Hall. The invitation for President Walesa to attend the naming ceremony could be combined with an invitation to attend commencement and receive an honorary degree.

Below is a brief biography of President Walesa. The Board of Trustees is being asked to consider the award of a Doctor of Humane Letters, *honoris causa*, to Lech Walesa. It would be presented in the May 2009 commencement ceremony.

The Honorable Lech Walesa

Nobel Peace prize-winner Lech Walesa is largely responsible for the fall of Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. He was born September 29, 1943, in Popowo, Poland. In the 1970s, Walesa worked as an electrician in a Gdansk shipyard and went on to found Solidarity, the independent, noncommunist trade union in Poland. Led by Walesa's vision and courage, Solidarity fought a peaceful revolution for the dignity of human labor in the Eastern Bloc. Because of Walesa and the union's efforts, the establishment of a noncommunist government in Poland was initiated in 1989. The following year, Walesa was elected President of the Republic of Poland, an office he served until 1995.

The influence of Walesa and Solidarity led to the spread of anti-communist ideals and movements throughout the Eastern Bloc. The 1989 elections in Poland were a striking victory for anti-communist candidates and led to a succession of anti-communist revolutions in Central and Eastern Europe. Walesa's leadership in Poland contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.

Walesa was the first Pole to receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 1983. He has been granted many honorary degrees from universities, including Harvard University and the University of Paris. Other honors include the Medal of Freedom, the Award of Free World and the European Award of Human Rights. *Time Magazine* named him Man of the Year in January 1982.

President Hahs said that Board *Regulations* allow for this practice and that honorary degrees were awarded in the 1980's. She is in the process of updating the guidelines and will share copies with the Board. Discussion followed and it was determined that Mr. Walesa would have to be present at the May 9 Commencement in order to receive the Honorary Degree.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	No
Dawson	Yes
Dudycz	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Lee	Yes
Arabu	Yes

The motion carried.

### **Board Committee Reports**

**Academic and Student Affairs** – Chair Dawson and Dr. Azcoitia expressed their concerns for the 2009-2010 timeline for analyses of the doctoral program concept described by President Hahs.

**Buildings and Grounds** – Chair Dykla gave the construction update as follows:  
**Building A Remodeling:** Remodeling of Building A, which will house the College of Business and Management, faculty offices and classrooms is proceeding as planned with a Final Completion Date scheduled for July 15, 2009.

Education Building: The Governor included planning and construction funds for the Education Building in his proposed fiscal year 2009 capital budget and funding now awaits action by the Illinois General Assembly on the statewide capital program.

Building H Chimney Masonry Repair: This project replaced the upper 12 feet of the 82 foot masonry chimney and was completed December 2008.

Academic Writing Center: This project remodels approximately 2,000 square feet of the 4th floor in the Ronald Williams Library to support the Center for Academic Writing and is scheduled to be completed in March 2009. The funding for this project is from a Title V Grant (Strengthening Hispanic Serving Institutions).

Emergency Notification System: This project installs a wireless emergency notification system, including a public address system and electronic message boards at each University campus. The system will be networked allowing messages to be initiated from any campus to any other campus using prerecorded messages or live voice. This project will be completed May 2009.

Mr. Dykla, seconded by Dr. Azcoitia, moved to **accept the Committee Reports.**

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Dudycz	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Lee	Yes
Arabu	Yes

The motion carried.

### **Legal Counsel Report**

Mr. Arkell said that a copy of Legal Counsel Report No. 69 had been provided and that he would be pleased to answer any questions.

### **Old Business**

There were no items of old business.

### **New Business**

Chair Dudycz reminded everyone that the next meeting on April 9, 2009, will be held at El Centro, 3119 North Pulaski Road. Trustees are needed to represent the Board at the following upcoming events:

Student Awards, Tuesday, April 21, from 1:40 – 3:00 p.m.  
Academic Honors Reception, Thursday, April 30, from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall  
Commencements, Saturday, May 9, indoors in the PE Complex, 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.  
Please let Ms. Kelchauser know which events you can attend.

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

Miquel Loeza, Student Senator, alerted the Board to the limited parking availability at El Centro, especially since new parking meters have recently been installed.

**Convene in Executive Session**

At 5:28 p.m., Mr. Lee, seconded by Dr. Dawson, moved to convene in Executive Session to consider 1) the employment of employees, as permitted by Section 2. (c)

(1) of the Open Meetings Act; 2) collective negotiating matters, as permitted by Section 2. (c) (2) of the Open Meetings Act; 3) pending, probable, or imminent litigation, as permitted by Section 2. (c) (11) of the Open Meetings Act; and, 4) discussion of minutes of meetings lawfully closed under this Act, as permitted by Section 2. (c) (21) of the Open Meetings Act.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Dudycz	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Lee	Yes
Arabu	Yes

The motion carried.

**Reconvene in Open Session**

At 6:03 p.m., Dr. Azcoitia, seconded by Mr. Lee, moved to reconvene in Open Session.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Dudycz	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Lee	Yes
Arabu	Yes

The motion carried.

Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Duque, moved that the **Confidential written Minutes of the Executive Session dated February 7, 2007 no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection.**

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Dudycz	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Lee	Yes
Arabu	Yes

The motion carried.

Mr. Arabu, seconded by Dr. Dawson, moved to approve the destruction of verbatim records required for 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c) for the meeting of June 7, 2007, as follows:  
Whereas, 5 ILCS 120/2.06(a) requires public bodies to keep verbatim records of all closed meetings in the form of a video or audio recording; and  
Whereas, 5 ILCS 120/2.06(c) provides that these verbatim records may be destroyed after eighteen (18) months but only after: 1) the public body approves destruction of a particular recording; and 2) the public body approves Minutes of the closed meeting that meet the written requirements applicable to open meetings; and  
Whereas, the Board of Trustees has reviewed written Minutes of the closed meeting held on **June 7, 2007** and those written Minutes meet the written minutes requirements; and  
Whereas, the Board of Trustees believes that the destruction of the verbatim records is appropriate:  
Therefore, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University approves 1) the written Minutes of the closed meeting held on **June 7, 2007** 2) the destruction of the verbatim records of the closed meeting held on **June 7, 2007** and, 3) directs the Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trustees to destroy said verbatim records.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Dudycz	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Lee	Yes
Arabu	Yes

The motion carried.

**Adjourn**

At 6:05 p.m., Mr. Duque, seconded by Mr. Dykla, moved to adjourn.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Dudycz	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Lee	Yes
Arabu	Yes

The motion carried.

Walter W. Dudycz, Chair  
Jean A. Kelchauser, Assistant Secretary