

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

November 18, 2010

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, November 18, 2010, at 2:06 p.m., in the Auditorium at Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave, Chicago, Illinois. Dr. Carlos Azcoitia, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order.

Roll was called and the following trustees answered present:

Carlos Azcoitia, Chair
Grace Dawson, Secretary
Omar Duque
Edward Dykla
Marvin Garcia
Jin Lee, Vice Chair
Cheryl Rose Devenny

The following trustees were absent:

Carole Balzekas

Also present were the following:

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

University Provost, Vice Presidents and Staff

Chair's Announcements

Chair Azcoitia reminded the Trustees about the half-day Board Training he would like to have before the next Board meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Written Minutes of the meeting of September 16, 2010 and the Minutes of the Confidential Executive Session dated September 16, 2010 were prepared and submitted. Chair Azcoitia said that hearing no corrections, the Minutes stand as written.

President's Announcements

President Hahs asked Chair Azcoitia to join her at the podium to recognize and honor Walter W. Dudycz, former Board Chair, for his years of outstanding service to the Board of Trustees. Chair Azcoitia read the resolution honoring Mr. Dudycz. Mr. Dudycz expressed his honor and privilege in being a part of Northeastern.

President Hahs asked Murrell Duster, Associate Vice President and Dean of the Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs, to introduce the three new Directors of the center. The new Directors are: Yasmin Ranney, Director of the Asian and Global Resource Center; Miguel Cambray, Director of the Latino Resource Center; and Kimberly Everett, Director of the African and African-American Resource Center.

President Hahs asked Dr. Mark McKernin, Chair of the Art Department, to approach the podium and share the exciting news of receiving national accreditation. Dr. McKernin explained that out of 1,000 Art Departments in the country, Northeastern is just 1 out of 300 schools that has received this distinction. Faculty, staff, and students were acknowledged for their contributions. The Art Department received accreditation in Spring 2010.

President Hahs announced that funds for the new College of Education building and the Angelina Pedroso Center have been released by the State of Illinois. The University may proceed with its plans on both projects.

President Hahs announced that Jose Rico, Deputy Director for the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics, has been selected by the alumni to be the Distinguished Alumnus for Commencement this December.

President's Report

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

Action Item I.A. Approval of B.A. in Global Studies

President Hahs explained that following Board approval the University will seek degree granting authority for this program from the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). President Hahs asked faculty, during her inaugural address, to consider the possibility of a Global Studies program. President Hahs appreciates all the hard work the committee and faculty members devoted in creating this program.

Mr. Duque, seconded by Mr. Lee, moved to approve the B.A. in Global Studies.

Trustees Dawson, Garcia and Devenny voiced their concerns regarding the proposed funding for the program. They do not feel the University should spend money on a new program when there are other unresolved issues; UPI negotiations, for example. President Hahs suggested that the program be allowed to move forward to the IBHE to avoid any delays and then funding issues can be resolved with the Trustees at a future meeting.

Dawson moved to table the action item and Devenny seconded; then Duque moved to rescind his initial motion to approve and Garcia seconded; Duque asked if he could reword his initial motion to allow the program to proceed to the IBHE to begin the long process of accreditation without funding; Dawson reminded Trustees that her motion to table takes precedence; Azcoitia consulted with Arkell and it was decided that the motion to table will come first before Duque's request to reword motion.

Dr. Dawson, seconded by Ms. Devenny, moved to table the B.A. in Global Studies until a later date.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Duque	No
Dykla	No
Garcia	Yes
Lee	No
Devenny	Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I.B. Approval of B.A. in Latino and Latin American Studies

President Hahs explained that following Board approval the University will seek degree granting authority for this program from the IBHE. President Hahs expressed her appreciation to the faculty of the Latino and Latin American Studies program and many others for their creative efforts and analyses in creating this major.

Trustee Duque asked if the program will need additional funds as was the case with the B.A. in Global Studies; President Hahs confirmed it will not need additional funds.

Mr. Duque, seconded by Mr. Dykla, moved to approve the B.A. in Latino and Latin American Studies.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Devenny	Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I.C. Tenure Recommendation: Dr. Moira Stuart

Board approval was requested to grant tenure to Dr. Moira Stuart, Chair of the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Athletics.

Dr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Lee, moved to approve the **Tenure Recommendation for Dr. Moira Stuart.**

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Devenny	Student Trustee cannot vote on tenure

The motion carried.

Action Item I.D. Labor Agreement – AFSCME, Local 1989

The ratified agreement covers both language and wages with a term of four years, expiring June 30, 2014.

Trustee Garcia asked how many bargaining unit agreements have been settled and how many are open. President Hahs explained that there are five unions at the University, four were in negotiations this year, two have been settled (AFSCME and Engineers), and the UPI and new union for policemen units are yet to be settled.

Mr. Duque, seconded by Mr. Dykla, moved to approve the **Labor Agreement for AFSCME, Local 1989.**

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Devenny	Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I.E. Labor Agreement – International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO, Local 399

The ratified agreement covers both language and wages with a term of four years, expiring June 30, 2014.

Dr. Dawson, seconded by Mr. Duque, moved to approve the **Labor Agreement for International Union of Operating Engineers, AFL-CIO Local 399.**

The ratified agreement covers both language and wages with a term of four years, expiring June 30, 2014.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Devenny	Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I.F. Conferring an Honorary Degree: Ms. Suzanne Malveaux

The University seeks Board approval to confer the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa* on Ms. Malveaux at the December Commencement Ceremony.

Ms. Devenny, seconded by Dr. Dawson, moved to approve **Conferring an Honorary Degree: Ms. Suzanne Malveaux.**

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Devenny	Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I.G.A. Contractual Agreement Between the University and the Alumni Association

This action item recommends that the Board approve the written agreement between NEIU and the Alumni Association.

Ms. Devenny, seconded by Mr. Dykla, moved to approve the **Contractual Agreement Between the University and the Alumni Association.**

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Devenny	Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I.G.B. Approval of the Alumni Association's use of the University's name, initials of such name, or logos

This action item recommends that the Board approve the Alumni Association's use of the University's name, initials, and/or logo in order to maximize alumni relations efforts.

Mr. Duque, seconded by Mr. Lee, moved to approve the **Alumni Association's use of the University's name, initials of such name, or logos.**

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Devenny	Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I.H. Student Union Elevator Modernization

Board approval is requested for the elevator modernization project which consists of upgrading the two elevators to assure safety and dependability.

Dr. Dawson explained to the audience that funding for repairs in the Student Union comes from a separate account; it is not money that can be used for anything else.

Mr. Duque, seconded by Mr. Dykla, moved to approve the **Student Union Elevator Modernization.**

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Devenny	Yes

The motion carried.

President Hahs provided some background on the Tuition and Fee Rates proposal that is included in the Information Items section of the Board Report. The Board of Trustees is charged with setting rates once a year. In November, the rates are presented to the Board for discussion as an information item. Then, administration meets with the Student Government Association and other university groups. Rates are presented to the Board in February for approval for the following year. NEIU's tuition and fee rates are below the state averages. Trustee Garcia expressed his concerns for raising tuition rates.

Board Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds – Mr. Garcia gave the Construction Update as follows:

Student Union Elevator Modernization: This project is an action item on today's Board agenda. The project upgrades the passenger and freight elevators in the Student Union. Construction is scheduled to start in January 2011 with completion by August 2011.

Admissions and Transfer Center: The University received federal Title V grant funding for the planning and construction of the Admissions and Transfer Center. The Board approved this project in September and completion is scheduled for February 2011.

Buildings C, D and E Electrical Substation Replacement: The project replaces the original 50 year old high voltage electrical equipment in buildings C, D, and E. Work is scheduled to occur during the Holiday Break, December 2010.

Energy Performance Contracting Project: This project implements energy saving measures at the main campus and CCICS. On-site work is expected to start in January 2011.

Science Engagement: The University received federal grant funding for the planning and construction of the Science Engagement Center and the remodeling of four laboratories in the Science Building. This project was completed in October.

Physical Education Complex Skylight and Wall Replacement: This project replaces the skylight and supporting wall in the Physical Education Complex and will be completed this month.

Angelina Pedroso Center for Diversity and Intercultural Affairs: This project involves the renovation of several offices in the northeast section of Building B to accommodate the Center. The project is currently being bid and will be brought to the Board for approval in February. The current schedule calls for completion of construction in April 2011.

Trustee Dawson added that Northeastern is an Equal Opportunity employer and there should be significant amount of minority contractors involved in the construction projects.

Legal Counsel Report

Mr. Arkell explained to the Board that Legal Counsel Report No.78 was distributed and he would answer any questions. There were no questions.

Old Business

Chair Azcoitia asked for a status report on the doctoral program. President Hahs announced that a graduate education taskforce has been established and focus groups have been created to explore the feasibility of offering doctoral studies in the College of Education. The focus groups will determine potential student interest and factors that influence the decision making to enter into a doctoral program. The taskforce is expected to complete its work as early as Spring 2011.

Trustee Lee asked for feedback on the recently implemented student activity hour change. President Hahs explained that the new activity hour was implemented in Fall 2010; it was in Spring 2010 when the decision was made. A feedback report can be provided to the Trustees. Trustee Devenny spoke on behalf of students. Many student leaders have tried to continue to hold events during the previous activity time of 1:40-2:40 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays, but it is difficult because classes are held during this time. The University should have another student survey to see the results of the activity hour change. Provost Frank explained that over 1600 hundred students have registered for classes during the previous activity hour, which is about 14% of the entire student body. Trustee Dawson expressed the need for Northeastern to come up with a solution where all parties are in agreement.

New Business/Announcements

Chair Azcoitia made the following announcements.

Dr. Dawson will attend the Academic Honors Ceremony on Thursday, December 9 and the afternoon Commencement Ceremony on Sunday, December 19. Chair Azcoitia will represent the Board at the morning Commencement Ceremony.

Dr. Dawson reported from the Civil Service Merit Board where she is a Board member

representing Northeastern. The Civil Service Merit Board has been looking at the exempt status for hiring by the universities. It seems there has been a great violation by the universities of hiring new employees under the exempt status instead of the civil service status. As a result, Illinois State Senators are interested in changing the laws and the Merit Board has changed hiring procedures.

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

Chair Azcoitia said, "We now come to the Opportunity for Public Comment section of the Agenda. The purpose of Public Comment is for the Board to hear from the public regarding matters of interest or concern. We will not enter into general discussion or open debate on issues that might be raised. So, while the Board welcomes Public Comments, we will not respond to them at the present time.

Today we have several individuals who wish to speak; the requests were placed in advance. Everyone is limited to 2 minutes. To assist us, the Board Secretary, Mimi Crespo, will hold up a sign indicating when each speaker has only 30 seconds remaining and when time is up. The speakers who have requested time should move down front in the seats nearest the podium. Please begin..."

1. Ellen Larrimore, Senior Library Specialist and President for AFSCME Local 1989, expressed her appreciation to the administration's bargaining team for working together with the AFSCME team toward an amicable resolution of contract negotiations. The AFSCME team is pleased with the final agreement and looks forward to working with administration on implementing the new programs.
2. John Yaou, Police Telecommunicator and Vice President for AFSCME Local 1989, thanked the AFSCME negotiating team for the time they sacrificed to achieve the goal of the new contract. Mr. Yaou also expressed support for the UPI with their current negotiations and hopes the University will arrive to a fair and equitable settlement soon.
3. Lakeesha Harris, student, expressed her concern regarding the elimination of the Adult and Women Student Program and Director, Dr. Sheena Warren. Dr. Warren has provided non-traditional students with critical retention services. Ms. Harris demanded that administration retain the Adult and Women Student Program and add an LGBTQ resource center.
4. Nancy Underwood, student, also demanded the University retain the Adult and Women Student Program and add an LGBTQ resource center to provide vital services for students who are victims of physical and sexual abuse, for example.
5. Dr. Terry Schuepfer, Professor of Psychology and Chapter President of the NEIU UPI Local 4100, congratulated AFSCME and the International Union of Operating Engineers on their recently ratified labor agreements. Dr. Schuepfer clarified that there

are currently 650 UPI covered employees at Northeastern this semester and acknowledged that November 19 is the sixth year anniversary of the last strike.

6. Dr. Judith Kaplan-Weinger, Professor of Linguistics and Chair of NEIU Faculty Senate, spoke about shared governance concerns on behalf of many faculty members. Many faculty find it hurtful when faculty input on committees is considered “just advisory” after months and months of work. There are faculty that are greatly concerned with shared governance and this is the mission of the faculty senate.
7. Dr. Cyndi Moran, Professor of Communications, Media and Theatre, explained she was part of the Interest Based Bargaining (IBB) negotiating team and was heart-broken when negotiations broke down. Dr. Moran cannot vote to ratify a contract that increases workload and decreases pay for her and her colleagues.
8. Dr. Ellen Cannon, Professor of Political Science, described the positive work environment under former University President Ronald Williams. President Williams gave the entire faculty the vision, enthusiasm, and respect to transform Northeastern from a small teacher’s college to a first class learning institution. Many faculty have exceptional qualities and accomplishments that should be announced on the NEIU website. Faculty are generally under-paid, under-recognized, and under-celebrated.
9. Dr. Brecki Church, Professor of Psychology, interpreted the university mission as doing whatever it takes to prepare students to become successful, productive, active, and happy contributors to society. Preparing students is not simply done in the classroom; it takes many other labor-intensive activities. Dr. Church asked if the administration can trust and support the faculty in attaining the university’s mission.
10. Dr. Jeffrey Hill, Professor of Political Science, reiterated what others have said, two and half years is far too long for negotiations. Dr. Hill asked administration to review all proposals and counter-proposals and decide the proper course of action.
11. Dr. John Murphy, Professor Emeritus from Political Science, comes to the Board as the Chapter President of UPI retirees. Northeastern has no better friend in Springfield than the UPI. Union members are constantly fighting for the support of public institutions. Dr. Murphy asked the Board to take its responsibility seriously and to significantly intervene to ensure that no further damage is done to Northeastern.

Chair Azcoitia said to the public, “we thank you for bringing your comments today. We appreciate you sharing your matters of interest with the Board.”

Convene in Executive Session

At 4:04 p.m., Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Dykla, moved to convene in executive session to consider: 1) collective negotiating matters, as permitted by Section 2. (c) (2) of the Open Meetings Act; 2) pending, probable or imminent litigation, as permitted by Section 2. (c) (11)

of the Open Meetings Act; and, 3) discussion of minutes of meeting lawfully closed under this Act, as permitted by Section 2. (c) (21) of the Open Meetings Act.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Devenny	Yes

The motion carried.

Reconvene in Open Session

At 5:07 p.m., Mr. Lee, seconded by Dr. Dawson, moved to reconvene in open session.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia	Yes
Dawson	Yes
Duque	Yes
Dykla	Yes
Garcia	Yes
Lee	Yes
Devenny	Yes

The motion carried.

Adjourn

At 5:13 p.m., the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Carlos Azcoitia, Chair
Mimi Crespo, Assistant Secretary