

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
NOVEMBER 20, 2008**

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I. ACTION ITEM

A. CENTER FOR ACADEMIC WRITING

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

The University has received a United States Department of Education Title V grant that will support the construction of a Center for Academic Writing on the 4th floor of the Ronald Williams Library.

The Center will be the home of the Writing Intensive Program and will offer workshops and consultation to departments, faculty, and instructors who are developing and teaching writing-intensive courses. The Center will also provide tutoring and other writing support to students enrolled in writing intensive courses.

Approximately 2,000 square feet on the 4th floor of the Library will be remodeled for the Center. The project includes the partial demolition and removal of existing building components (ceiling, flooring, light fixtures, ventilation elements, etc.) in the affected area of the Library. Construction includes new full-height drywall and glazed partitions; new ceiling, electrical supplies and lighting; appropriate telephone and data outlets; and modifications to existing electrical and HVAC systems.

This project was competitively bid and the recommended vendor was the lowest responsible bidder. Board approval is requested for the contract with Chicago Commercial Contractors, LLC.

PROJECT COST:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------|
| Base Bid | \$190,769 |
| Additional funds if needed | <u>19,000</u> |
| TOTAL COST: | \$209,769 |

SOURCE OF FUNDS:

Federal Title V Grant

RECOMMENDED VENDOR:

Chicago Commercial Contractors, LLC
11921 Smith Dr.
Huntley, IL 60142

SUMMARY OF BIDS:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Chicago Commercial Contractors, LLC | \$190,769 |
| Parkway Forming | 192,900 |
| MAG Construction | 196,398 |
| Clarion Construction | 198,150 |

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| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Chicagoland Building Contractors | 199,599 |
| DTS Enterprises | 200,000 |
| Vee See Construction | 213,500 |
| Expedia Construction | 217,000 |
| Anchor Mechanical | 238,399 |
| Paul Borg Construction Co. | 247,000 |
| Oakley Construction | 250,000 |
| JLJ Contracting, Inc. | 383,349 |

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**B. EXPENDITURE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PURCHASES OF \$100,000
OR MORE**

1. INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEMS

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

At the September meeting, the Board of Trustees endorsed the University's Strategic Goals and Action Steps. Goal Five deals with University operations and the physical environment and includes the following action step: *Ensure that the University community is safe and secure; that facilities and infrastructure, including technology and critical data, are protected; and that plans are in place to continuously monitor and enhance campus security and emergency preparedness.*

Relatedly, on May 30, 2008 the Illinois General Assembly passed, and on August 22, 2008 the Governor signed, Senate Bill 2691 which expands the Campus Security Enhancement Act and requires each higher education institution in Illinois to "develop a National Incident Management-compliant, all hazards, emergency response plan." The new law also requires coordination with county/municipal response providers and "training and exercises for the plan annually at a minimum."

The University's Emergency Management Team has taken leadership and responsibility for developing the safety protocols for emergency planning and recovery. This team represents the major University functional areas: academic affairs, student affairs, institutional advancement (public relations and communications), and finance and administration. The chief of University Police provides leadership to the team that also includes members from facilities, computing, health services, counseling, and the library.

The one area of emergency preparedness which the University is most lacking and which needs immediate attention is the implementation of redundant emergency notification systems. The ability to notify our students, faculty, and staff of an emergency situation in an immediate/instant manner is critical.

For several months, the Emergency Management Team, primarily staff from University Computing, University Police and Facilities Management, have been visiting other campuses and interviewing vendors to recommend emergency notification systems that would allow instant notification with live voice or pre-recorded messages and scrolling text messages on display boards. Deployment of such a system will assist the University in complying with the State of Illinois Campus Security Enhancement Act of 2008.

After conducting the appropriate research and vendor interviews, and visiting DePaul University and Wheaton College, which have implemented these

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systems, the University determined that the Wireless Emergency Notification Systems, made by BRG Precision Products, would be the most effective notification systems for all University campuses. The systems will be comprised of wireless signal transmitters placed on the main campus, CTC and CCICS campuses (El Centro is covered by the main campus transmitter), wireless outdoor speakers, wireless indoor speakers, scroll text boards, and control station(s). The systems will be networked which would allow messages to be initiated from any campus to any other campus using pre-recorded messages or live voice.

The BRG systems were selected based on evaluation of wireless emergency notification systems by the Emergency Management Team. BRG is a dominant player in the marketplace for these systems. It is the University's intent, based on final pricing terms, to purchase the BRG systems through the Grainger company, an approved IPHEC (Illinois Public Higher Education Cooperative) vendor. These systems not only meet our technical requirements but the price is more competitive than similar systems from non-IPHEC vendors. The current systems cost, as currently configured and without further pricing concessions, is approximately \$142,000 and will be paid for from the University Services Fee account.

While the purchase of the system equipment from Grainger is exempt from bidding and, as a result, Board expenditure approval, the electrical work needed to install the emergency notification system must be competitively bid and is subject to Board approval. Implementation of this system will require extensive electrical work at all campuses to supply power to the currently configured 147 speakers and 92 message boards. The electrical contractor will be selected based on a competitive bid basis once the final system configuration is complete, which should be by November 15. The timing of this configuration does not allow for the electrical work to be bid and presented to the Board for approval at the November 20, 2008 meeting. Also, because the next Board meeting is not until February 11, 2009, delaying approval of this expenditure will result in a lengthy delay in the installation of this important notification system. BRG estimates that the electrical work needed to complete the installation of this notification system likely will total between \$100,000 and \$140,000 and the work will be paid for from University Services Fee revenue.

REQUESTED BOARD ACTION

It is requested that the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University authorize the University to award the bid for the electrical work for the installation of the University's emergency notification systems to the lowest responsible bidder, provided that bid is reasonable given the cost estimates developed for and by the University. If approved, notice of the bid award will be provided to the Board at the February 11, 2009 meeting.

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C. REVISED FY2010 BUDGET REQUEST FOR EDUCATION BUILDING

At its September 18, 2008, the Board of Trustees adopted the University's fiscal year 2010 operating and capital budget requests. Included in the capital request are funds for the new Education Building totaling \$71,503,500. This total includes \$6,299,900 for planning and \$65,203,600 for construction. These cost estimates were prepared by the architectural firm of Perkins & Will, which completed the Education Building planning program and conceptual design, in consultation with its construction costing consultant.

Perkins & Will recently sent notice to the University suggesting that we revise upward the cost of the Education Building. According to Perkins & Will, "it has been a volatile market over the past six months and we strongly recommend the following:"

- Increase the cost per square foot from \$286.88 to \$291.88
- Increase utility infrastructure costs by \$200,000

In total, these recommendations increase the cost of the requested Education Building to \$72,977,200, with planning totaling \$6,429,700 and construction totaling \$66,547,500. Board approval is required for this change in our fiscal year 2010 budget request. Following Board approval, the revised budget request will be forwarded to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

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**D. RATIFICATION OF CONTRACT WITH UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONALS
OF ILLINOIS (UPI)**

Representatives of the University Professionals of Illinois (UPI) and University administration are negotiating a new contract that will replace the previous contract that expired August 31, 2008. The two sides have agreed to use Interest Based Bargaining (IBB) as the framework for negotiations. While IBB is intended to provide a more thorough and collaborative bargaining process, it typically requires a more significant investment of time than traditional bargaining. However, the bargain teams are making good progress. Because of the length of time it is taking to complete the entire contract, the bargaining teams negotiated the short-term contract presented below, dealing solely with compensation and timeframe. All other language in the contract will remain unchanged during the timeframe outlined in the contract. The purpose of this agreement is to provide compensation to bargaining unit members while the IBB process continues. This agreement provides additional time to work together to successfully complete the overall contract.

Board approval is requested for this contract between Board of Trustees and the University Professionals of Illinois.

The contract indicated below "effective September 1, 2008 through April 15, 2009" refers to the agreed upon Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University and the UPI Local 4100 for the period of September 1, 2004 – August 31, 2008. The language reflected below does not change the terms of that contract for the period stated (September 1, 2008 – April 15, 2009) except for salary increase (21.01a) and duration (38.01a).

Article 21 Compensation

21.01a For the contract effective September 1, 2008 through April 15, 2009, the Board will grant each Employee a salary increase equal to 3% of the Employee's basic salary for the previous fiscal year (FY08), retroactive to July 1, 2008 for all Academic Support Professionals and September 1, 2008 for Teaching Professionals, Resource Professionals, Instructors, and Temporary Resource Professionals.

Article 38 Duration and Implementation

38.01a The terms of this Agreement shall become effective upon execution of this Agreement by the Board and the Union and shall remain in effect from September 1, 2008 through April 15, 2009.

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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto by their authorized representatives have executed this Agreement to be effective for September 1, 2008 – April 15, 2009.

For Northeastern Illinois University

For University Professionals of Illinois

Sharon K. Hahs
President
Northeastern Illinois University

Susan Kaufman
President
UPI Local 4100

Elliott Lessen
Administrative Team Leader

Therese Schuepfer
NEIU/UPI Chapter President

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II INFORMATION ITEMS

A. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Strategic Planning—The development of a work plan for FY09 is progressing well. Below are listed the six Strategic Goals with a few key items under each which reflect the types of tasks that will be undertaken. The numbering system refers to Goal number, Action Step number, and task number respectively. A full set of tasks at the University level will be completed by the end of the fall semester. Tasks within units reporting to the Vice Presidents will be developed subsequently.

Student Success

1.1.1 Improve and streamline Financial Aid operations to reduce paperwork and better utilize technology; to reduce processing time for applications and generally improve customer service; and to better utilize financial aid as a recruitment and retention mechanism.

1.4.1 Provide training (including Banner training) to professional and faculty advisers to improve knowledge and coordination. Develop job description for faculty advisers.

1.5.1 Review organization of Student Affairs division to strengthen integration with Academic Affairs (in areas such as orientation, first-year programs and service learning) to increase student engagement.

Academic Excellence and Innovation

2.1.1 Initiate discussion throughout campus via department meetings on developing a Statement of Objectives for the Baccalaureate Degree; develop the process; use University Day to support the process.

2.4.1 Conduct a campus-wide assessment of the number and variety of internships available through the Office of Career Services and the Colleges.

2.6.1 Complete an appropriate evaluation of the support services at CCICS and El Centro to bring those service levels in line with those at the Bryn Mawr campus.

2.6.2 Extend the delivery of Educational Leadership coursework to all campuses by Fall 2009.

2.8.1 Develop additional on-line courses for Summer 2009.

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Urban Leadership

3.1.1 Complete an appropriate evaluation of the support services at CTC to bring those service levels in line with those at the Bryn Mawr campus.

3.4.1 Develop curricular elements for Social Work and Justice Studies with the goal of providing services to Latino communities; conduct searches for appropriate faculty; execute activities to support retention.

3.5.1 Create a marketing team; develop a branding campaign with core message points; enhance the website.

Exemplary Faculty and Staff

4.2.1 Begin a set of studies that identify the median salary for identified comparison groups for all pay classifications at the University.

4.3.1 Pilot test extensive customer service training for one entire department (Bursar's Office). Develop plan to extend training to other units.

4.3.2 Organize a professional development conference for NEIU support staff.

Enhanced University Operations

5.2.1 Auxiliaries and student affairs staff will explore options for adding a residential life component, including the possible use of public-private ventures.

5.3.1 Develop a facilities plan for the cultural center based on program needs identified by the clients. Complete construction by June 30, 2009.

5.4.1 Develop a four-year plan to bring appropriate classroom technology into every classroom at each University site. The first year of that plan includes three new tech classrooms on the Bryn Mawr campus, one at CCICS and one at El Centro.

5.6.1 Complete a University-wide energy audit, including all University sites.

5.7.1 Complete the installation of two campus emergency notification systems—one for on-campus emergency broadcasts and one for mass electronic notifications.

Fiscal Strength

6.2.1 Expand Lobby Day; develop and execute the concept of a Legislative Breakfast.

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6.4.1 Qualify, identify and begin cultivation of at least 500 major donor prospects; build the endowment to reach \$3.75 million; re-establish the alumni association and expand the Network advocacy group; host alumni reunion for Chicago Teachers College and complete incorporation of CTC affinity group into the greater NEIU alumni association.

6.5.1 Identify 100 corporate and foundation major donor prospects and begin cultivation and solicitation; increase giving by corporations and foundations to 10% each of overall giving to NEIU.

6.6.1 Increase by 50% financial support given to NEIU by individuals; ascertain and record corresponding gift amounts for each deferred gift designated by all 1867 Founders Society members.

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**B. UPDATE ON EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP (TYPE 75)
OPPORTUNITIES AT EL CENTRO**

Background: Trustee Azcoitia has an interest in providing Educational Leadership programming at El Centro as expressed informally over the last several months. President Hahs initially responded that this topic would be addressed through the strategic planning process. On-going internal discussions have taken place during these months.

In August Dean Maureen Gillette of the College of Education met with Trustee Azcoitia a) to provide background with respect to NEIU's capabilities and current programs to increase the number of Latino and other minority principals in the region, and b) to determine the overall nature and specific activities that Trustee Azcoitia would like to see accomplished. She described initiatives such as the Alternative School Network; Dr. Azcoitia indicated that a potential group might be the Aspira teachers, including those who teach in the building which houses our El Centro programs. In follow-up President Hahs relayed to Trustee Azcoitia that Dean Gillette and Director Daniel Lopez would be working on the feasibility of supporting the Aspira teachers.

At the September 18 Board of Trustees meeting Trustee Azcoitia introduced the following motion: "Move to ask the President to provide the Board with information regarding the feasibility, implementation and timeline of a Cohort group of teachers to pursue a Master's Degree in Ed Leadership leading to a Type 75 certificate at El Centro."

Subsequently President Hahs called Trustee Azcoitia with an update letting him know that Dean Gillette and Director Lopez were meeting with Aspira, and if demand warrants, coursework for Type 75 would begin at El Centro in the Fall 2009; that a search for a faculty member to support the extension of Ed Leadership has been initiated; and that NEIU could not offer the full degree program at El Centro because NEIU is not authorized by the Higher Learning Commission to offer autonomous degrees at that site. Consideration for seeking authorization would depend on demand, a formal needs assessment, and consultation with the IBHE, and would be a longer-term project. Trustee Azcoitia suggested that we had offered a cohort degree program at El Centro in the past; in checking, it has been affirmed that we had not.

Current plans:

- Conduct the search and hire an additional faculty member for Fall 2009;
- Work with Aspira to determine their needs;
- Given budgetary constraints, if a cohort model is chosen, access to the coursework cannot be limited to cohort members only if enrollments are low;
- Plan for coursework at El Centro beginning Fall 2009;
- Provide a combination of coursework at El Centro and the main campus to meet HLC requirements.

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**C. IBHE APPROVAL OF REASONABLE AND MODERATE EXTENSION,
M.A. LINGUISTICS**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education has authorized a “reasonable and moderate extension” of the Master of Arts in Linguistics. For many years, the Linguistics degree has included a concentration in the Teaching of English as a Second Language, (TESL) as an optional concentration within the program. The approved change entails creating a separate Master of Arts in the Teaching of English as a second language within the Linguistics Program. The change began with a program review in 2006 and allows NEIU to meet the needs of a growing English language learner population in Illinois. Because it is an extension of an existing program, no further review is required by IBHE.

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**D. AMENDMENT OF BOARD REGULATIONS REGARDING THE
APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES**

ITEM DESCRIPTION:

The Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University is required by its Regulations to approve any transaction involving real estate or any expenditure transaction involving the expenditures of \$100,000 or more, with a limited number of exceptions for items such as utilities and expenditures to vendors approved by the Illinois Public Higher Education Consortium (IPHEC). The Board Regulation establishing this policy was adopted in 1998 and has not been adjusted since that time. Most universities that were under the former Board of Governors Universities have adjusted similar policies since 1998.

Board Regulations require that any change in Board policy be presented to the Board at least one meeting prior to the vote to change that policy. The following resolution is presented to the Board to provide notice of the request to change the expenditure level for which Board approval is required. The resolution will be presented to the Board again at the February 2009 meeting for approval.

NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Resolution No. 11.08/1

**Proposed Amendment of Regulations of the
Board of Trustees Relating to Section V. Administrative Affairs,
Subsection: B. Purchases**

November 20, 2008

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

WHEREAS, the Regulations adopted by the Board provide in Section V. Administrative Affairs, Subsection: B. Purchases, paragraph 1. a. that prior to the obligation of the financial resources of the University for all transactions involving the acquisition of real property and all purchases of \$100,000 or more (except as specified in paragraph d. below) shall require approval of the Board of Trustees; and

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WHEREAS, the Regulations adopted by the Board provide in Section V. Administrative Affairs, Subsection: B. Purchases, paragraph 2. that at each regular meeting of the Board the President shall present a report on purchases of at least \$50,000 but less than \$100,000 (other than purchases listed in paragraph 1.d. above) made since the preceding regular Board meeting; and

WHEREAS, the dollar amounts provided for in the foregoing Section, Subsection and paragraphs of the Regulations have not been adjusted for a period of more than ten (10) years and the Board desires to amend its Regulations to enhance and provide flexibility for its purchases;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Trustees approves for the first reading the following revisions of Section V. Administrative Affairs, Subsection: B. Purchases, paragraph 1. a. and paragraph 2. of its Regulations.

SECTION V. Administrative Affairs

* * *

B Purchases: paragraph 1. a. "All transactions involving the acquisition of real property and all purchases of \$250,000 or more (except as specified in paragraph d. below) shall require approval of the Board of Trustees."

* * *

B. Purchases: paragraph 2. "At each regular meeting of the Board the President shall present a report on purchases of at least \$100,000 but less than \$250,000 (other than purchases listed in paragraph 1.d. above) made since the preceding regular Board meeting."

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E. FISCAL YEAR 2010 TUITION AND FEE RATES

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 fiscal year 2010 tuition and fee recommendations to the Board.

At the November 2008 Board meeting, the proposed fiscal year 2010 tuition and fee rates (beginning fall 2009) are presented to the Board and to the University community for review and discussion. At the February 2009 meeting, the fiscal year 2010 tuition and fee rates will be presented to the Board for action.

Clearly, students are the campus constituents most affected by changes in student tuition and fees. Prior to the presentation of these recommendations, 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 will meet with the Student Government Association (SGA) in a forum open to all students to present the proposed tuition and fee rates and to discuss student concerns. The results of those discussions will be included in the February 2009 report to the Board.

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

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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 rate of undergraduate tuition increases. Table 1 compares the tuition rate increases for new undergraduates entering Northeastern in fall 2009 compared to those entering the previous year and shows that the increase 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

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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.

An increasingly important component of student costs is mandatory fees. In prior reports to the Board, several comparisons of fees at Illinois public universities were presented. This year, however, at the time this report was compiled, the fee data used in these comparisons was not available from the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The February report to the Northeastern Board will provide detailed fee data and comparisons.

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. 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 \$3.5 million, or 7.7 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>41,901.9</u> | <u>2.8</u> | <u>170.00</u> | <u>9.0</u> |
| 2004-2009 | 2,824.2 | 7.2 | 60.00 | 54.5 |

* Excludes \$1.5 million in restricted funds for HSI Serving Institution Initiatives

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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 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.

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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, 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

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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.

These tuition and fee rate proposals are presented to the Board and the University community in November for review and discussion. After receiving campus input, the Board will be asked to approve tuition and fee rates at the February 2009 meeting.

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F. 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 is a list of those purchases since the last Board meeting.

| <u>Vendor</u> | <u>Description</u> | <u>Purchase Order Amount</u> |
|---------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| American Snow Removal | Snow Removal (Parking Funds) | \$75,000 |
| Action Now | Consultant College of Education (Grant Funded) | \$65,714 |
| Brightstar Partners, Inc | ERP/Computer Training Courses (ERP Project Funds) | \$56,400 |
| Southwest Organizing Project | Consultant College of Education (Grant Funded) | \$52,600 |

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G. NEWS AND EVENTS

1. The 2008 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration – September/October

The 2008 Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration hosted a variety of programs and presentations, including a panel discussion on the history, role and importance of being a part of the upcoming election. The theme for the month was “*Nuestra Voz Y Voto Cuentan*” meaning “*Our Voice Our Vote*”, emphasizing to NEIU’s students the importance of making a difference.

2. Student Activities Club Training – September 16-26

Leaders of 59 student clubs participated in organization training between September 16 and 26. Topics included the policy changes resulting from student focus groups, introduction of OrgSync (a new organization management tool), discussion of sustainability efforts on the part of Student Activities and student organizations as well as training exercises on program and event planning, recruitment and retention of organization members, and leadership transition. Student Activities has 73 active organizations this fall.

3. New Faculty Reception – September 17

A dinner to welcome and celebrate new tenured track faculty was held on Wednesday, September 17 at the President’s residence. This year, new professors were welcomed in the areas of accounting; business law and finance; African and African American studies; anthropology; art; biology; communication, media and theatre; counselor education; earth science; educational leadership and development; English; field education experience; foreign languages and literatures; geography and environmental sciences; health physical education, recreation and athletics; justice studies; special education; social work; sociology; and teacher education. There is excitement for the new members of the University and all look forward to fulfilling the NEIU mission and vision.

4. State of the University Address – September 23

President Hahs presented the State of the University Address on Tuesday, September 23 in the University Auditorium. An overview of the Strategic Plan, including a few activities that are being implemented to support the plan were highlighted. Over the next few months, a plan to refine the Action Steps into annual activities, identifying responsibilities, resources and timeframes will be implemented.

5. Alumni Networking Reception – September 24

The Alumni Networking Reception was hosted at President Hahs’ residence on Wednesday, September 24. The Northeastern Network is a grassroots advocacy

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group formed under the auspices of the Northeastern Illinois University Foundation, which is a separate 501c3 organization. The primary mission of the Network is to communicate with State of Illinois government officials about issues of consequence relating to higher education and to Northeastern Illinois University.

6. The Minority Student Mentoring Program – September 25

The nineteenth annual kickoff reception for Partners for Success, The Minority Student Mentoring Program was held on Thursday, September 25 in Golden Eagles. Welcoming remarks were provided by President Hahs followed by the keynote address by Flora Llacuna, Coordinator of Student Enrichment Programs. Ninety-one mentees and a like number of volunteer mentors are taking part in the program. Mentoring is a powerful tool used in aiding students to acclimate to life at the University and contributes to academic success.

7. Second Annual NEIU Talent Show – September 25

This year's NEIU Annual Talent Show was a year of firsts: This is the first time we had a standing-room-only audience from beginning to end; the first time we had a theme for our panel of judges and the first time we had a diverse variety of acts performing. The Judges panel, including President Hahs, several university club presidents, and multiple university departments, represented both our participating contestants and the in-house audience, providing visiting family members and guests a clear picture of the NEIU community's diversity, talent, enthusiasm and pride. Many thanks once again to Beck's Book Store for sponsoring all of our prizes.

8. Summit on Teacher Preparation – September 26

The College of Education-College of Arts and Sciences Task Force on Teacher Education held its first Summit on Teacher Preparation on September 26. It was entitled, "Getting on the Same Page: Expectations for Writing". The event, planned by the COE-CAS Task Force under the direction of co-chairs Sandra Beyda-Lorie and Tim Scherman, was attended by over 90 faculty who worked together to begin the process of developing a common understanding of writing standards for prospective teachers. Guest speaker Mary Diez from Alverno College in Milwaukee provided thoughtful analysis and direction for future work.

9. Green Week – September 29 - October 3

The Northeastern Illinois University Green Cycle Group kicked off the 2008 fall semester with an entire week of activities. From Monday, September 29 through Friday, October 3, Green Week included seminars and workshops on topics such as responsible recycling, energy conservation, and optimum efficiency practices, as well as ventures to clean Illinois lakes and waterways, a first ever Green Job

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and Volunteer Opportunities Fair and interdepartmental “penny wars” where 31 on campus departments participated in a friendly competition to raise money to support Green Initiatives on-campus. The week culminated with students participating in a community service project to clean Gompers Park, near the University’s main campus. All events were free and open to the public.

10. Hispanic Heritage Alumni Celebration – October 3

The Hispanic Heritage Month Alumni Celebration was held October 3 and was attended by more than 250 people, marking one of the largest attendances on record for this bi-annual event. Sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations, the NEIU Foundation and the NEIU Hispanic Heritage Committee, the event acknowledges and highlights NEIU alumni who have made significant contributions to the Hispanic community and to Northeastern Illinois University. In addition to the awards for excellence in education, fine arts, community leadership and business, two new awards were added this year. A faculty excellence award was presented to Dr. Ana Gil-Garcia, NEIU professor of Educational Leadership and Development, and a lifetime achievement award was presented to Dr. Santos Rivera, Senior Executive Director, Affirmative Action & Institutional Outreach Initiatives.

11. Pathways to Peace - October 7-27

To highlight Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Adult and Women Student Programs sponsored a series of events to recognize and remember women, children and men who have been victims of domestic violence as well as to honor survivors. Also offered were workshops aimed at finding solutions to domestic violence and providing resources for those experiencing violence. Activities included a Peace Fire, Self Defense Workshop, panels sponsored during the Equity in Action Conference on October 14, the Clothesline Project, the Silent Witness Exhibit (co-sponsored with Student Health Services), and the White Ribbon Campaign (co-sponsored by the Dean of Students Office).

12. Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) 22nd Annual Conference - October 11-13

12 NEIU students, faculty and staff participated in the 22nd Annual HACU Conference, “Championing Hispanic Higher Education: Strengthening the Nation’s Prosperity and Opportunity” held in Denver, Colorado. The NEIU delegation was sponsored to attend this conference under the University’s Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Initiative, a Legislative Initiative funded by the State of Illinois. The goal of the delegation was to explore best practices and programs implemented at other HACU member institutions.

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13. The Fourteenth Annual Equity in Action Conference – October 13-16

The 14th Annual Equity in Action Conference on “Immigration and Social Justice” was convened at NEIU October 13 - 16, 2008 and featured presentations on various aspects of immigration from a social justice perspective. Presentations included economic, healthcare, education, human rights sessions and the impact of social services on immigrants, refugees and asylees.

14. Newly Tenured and Promoted Faculty – October 15

A reception was held to honor the newly tenured and promoted faculty by Presidents Hahs at her residence. The event was well attended.

15. Town Hall Meeting – October 17

A Town Hall Meeting was held by President Hahs for faculty and staff on Friday, October 17. 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. There were over 200 in attendance.

16. The Jewel Box Series – October 17

The Jewel Box Series featured NEIU faculty member and guitarist Brian Torosian with the La Catrina String Quartet on Friday, October 17. The string quartet, made up of three Mexican-Americans and one American featured works by Mexican composers as well as traditional repertoire. The concert was broadcast live on WFMT 98.7 FM

17. The Fifth Annual Northeastern Illinois University Faculty Authors Reception – October 20

The fifth annual Northeastern Illinois University Faculty Authors Reception was held on October 20, 2008, in the Golden Eagles Room. This event, which is co-sponsored by the Library and the Academic Affairs Office, recognizes faculty members who have published books in the past twelve months. Honored this year from the College of Arts and Sciences, were Shirley Castelnovo, Andrew Eisenberg, Martin Giesso, Joan Johnson, Cris Toffolo, Brian Torosian and Shencheng Xu. From the College of Business there were two authors, Nauzer Balsara and Peter Stonebraker. And from the College of Education there were three authors, Susan Augustine, Sara Schwarzbaum and Brian Schultz.

18. The Fifth Annual Transition Festival for Secondary and Post Secondary Students with Disabilities – October 23

NEIU hosted The 5th Annual Transition Festival for Secondary and Post Secondary Students with Disabilities on October 23. Seniors, their families and

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school personnel from the Chicago Public Schools enjoyed a daylong program hosted by NEIU highlighting initiatives and resources available for high school students with disabilities who are seeking to transition to a university environment. Education, employment and community integration were focused in the breakout workshops offered throughout the morning. This event was co-sponsored by the Department of Human Services-Division of Rehabilitation Services, and the Chicago Metropolitan Area Public Schools.

19. Student Volunteer Fair – October 23

The Student Volunteer Fair was held on Thursday, October 23, 2008 in Village Square. Twenty agencies attended the event. The fair was very well supported by students, faculty, and staff.

20. Eleventh Annual Polish Heritage Celebration – October 24

The 11th annual Polish Heritage Celebration commemorating 400 years of Polish immigrants in America was held Friday, October 24. More than 200 people attended this year's celebration including NEIU alums and administrators, members of the Polish-American community, the Consul General, Republic of Poland in Chicago, and representatives from the Illinois State Treasurer's Office and the Office of the Governor. Founded by two NEIU alums, the event is sponsored by the Office of Alumni Relations, the NEIU Foundation and the Council of Educators Polonia. Its purpose is to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the Polish-American community and to Northeastern Illinois University. Trustees Walter Dudycz and Edward Dykla participated in this event.

21. Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI), "Ready to Lead Program" - October 25

NEIU in partnership with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute hosted a "Ready to Lead" program. The goal of the program is to motivate, educate and empower Latino 9th and 10th grade high school students to graduate from high school, prepare for college admission, serve and lead in their communities. Approximately 100 GEAR-UP students from five schools participated at this one-day event.

22. Office of Sponsored Programs Recognition Breakfast - October 28

NEIU's Office of Sponsored Programs hosted an annual Recognition Breakfast on October 28 for 63 faculty and staff who received or submitted grant proposals during the past fiscal year. Grants and contracts totaling nearly \$16 million in FY08 enabled NEIU to initiate and implement programs and services throughout the University and the Chicago region. Additionally, these awards provide

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research opportunities for students, funding for scholarships, and contributions to the NEIU Endowment Fund.

**23. Northeastern Illinois University Foundation Inaugural Annual Meeting
– October 29**

The Northeastern Illinois University Foundation held its inaugural Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 29. More than 200 donors, alumni, faculty, staff, students and friends of the University attended. New awards were premiered at the event including the Golden Eagle Awards which were presented to 11 Northeastern Illinois current or former faculty mentors by their former students who are Golden Apple Award recipients. The first Daniel S. Wentworth Prize, which recognizes a donor to Northeastern Illinois University whose philanthropic support has had a major impact on the University, was presented to Professor Emeritus Bernard J. Brommel. The first Tom Dalof Heroes Award, which recognizes NEIU students who perform everyday acts of heroism through volunteerism and citizenship, was presented to Joel Gullede. Additionally Bright Start Scholarships from the Treasurer of Illinois were awarded to eight NEIU freshmen. Lastly, a Foundation report was given for FY '08 in which overall private giving to the University increased by 84%; scholarship support increased by 108%; gifts from faculty and staff increased by 179%; and the endowment grew by more than 17% over the last two years with more than 5% of the increase in the past fiscal year owing to increased donations. Trustees Walter Dudycz and Edward Dykla attended this event.

24. Business and Liberal Arts Job Interview Day – October 30

The Office of Career Services hosted an interview day for business and liberal arts seniors and recent graduates on Thursday, October 30 in the Golden Eagles room. This event, the first of its kind offered by Career Services at NEIU, was different from a traditional job fair because it enabled participating companies to conduct 30-minute individual interviews with seniors and recent graduates for anticipated positions in their respective organizations. Three employers participated in this inaugural job interview day: Accenture, Becker CPA Review, and Chicago North Financial Group (an office of MetLife). A total of 21 Northeastern seniors and recent graduates completed job interviews at the event.

25. Student Town Hall Meeting – November 6

President Hahs held a Student Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, November 6 in Alumni Hall. The meeting provided an opportunity for dialogue with students in an informal setting. Several topics were presented, followed by questions and answers. Approximately 70 students attended.

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26. Take Back the Night – November 11

Presented by: The Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, Adult and Women Student Programs, Women's Studies Department. Take Back the Night is a worldwide campaign to address violence against women. A speaker, a rally, a vigil, and a march was held to inform, empower, energize, and remind members of our university community that violence affects us every day and we must work everyday until it stops.

27. Town Hall Meeting at El Centro – November 11

A Town Hall Meeting was held for faculty and staff at El Centro on Tuesday, November 11. The meeting provided an opportunity for dialogue within the University community in an informal setting.

28. The Tenth Annual Interfaith Conference – November 12

The theme of the 10th Annual Interfaith Conference held on November 12 was "Faith and Leadership" as representative leaders of diverse faith groups come together to discuss how faith influences leadership in the 21st Century. The challenges of applying traditional faith-based principles to contemporary issues will foster better understanding, as we seek common ground to explore the richness of our diverse heritages through meaningful dialogue.

29. Salute to Graduates – November 18

30. Jewel Box Series – November 21

The November 21 concert will feature Venezuelan pianist Vanessa Perez.

31. Academic Honors – December 2

32. Commencement – December 13