



**President's Report
to the
Board of Trustees**

April 16, 2020



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ACTION ITEM I. A. APPROVAL OF TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>
Elyse Bolterstein	Biology
Andrew Brake	Social Work
Nadja Insel	Earth Science
Ting Liu	Geography and Environmental Studies
Michelle Oh	Library
Isidore Udoh	Health Sciences and Physical Education
Julia Valley	Health Sciences and Physical Education

Elyse Bolterstein earned a Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology. Her research interest is in using *Drosophila* to better understand relationships between DNA damage, development and aging. Dr. Bolterstein has published two scientific manuscripts and presented at 15 local and national conferences, has served as a peer reviewer for manuscripts submitted to three scientific journals, and served on a grant proposal review panel. Dr. Bolterstein has developed and implemented new experimental and analysis methods and has been awarded more than \$125,000 in research and travel funding.

Andrew Brake earned a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social Work. His current research agenda is focused on how trust and collaboration shape teacher-student relationships and teaching and social work practice to improve policies, practices, and partnerships in urban public schools. He has published six peer-reviewed articles or chapters on subjects including immigrant youth development, educator professional learning communities, teacher-student relationships, first-year experiences of school mental health professionals, and oppression in schools. Dr. Brake has presented at 12 local and national organizations and research associations.

Nadja Insel earned a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Earth Science. Dr. Insel's research is organized around the themes of orogen-scale climate-tectonic coupling and climate (and tectonic) controls on ecosystem change. She has presented at 10 national and international conferences and attended Feedbacks and coupling Among Climate, Erosion and Tectonics (FACET) workshops in Oregon and Taipei, Taiwan. Dr. Insel has reviewed 13 journal manuscripts and nine proposals submitted for consideration.

Ting Liu earned a Ph.D. from Florida State University. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography and Environmental Studies. Her research focuses on urban remote sensing and the applications of geographic information system (GIS) and related geospatial technologies in urban environments. She has presented papers at 14 local, national and international conferences. Dr. Liu has authored and co-authored eight publications in refereed journals, and has been invited to review 10 journal articles.

Michelle Oh earned a Master of Arts in Literature from Northwestern University. She is an Assistant Professor in the Ronald Williams Library. Her research agenda has focused on libraries' engagement with inclusion, diversity and student success. Oh is in her seventh year as a field bibliographer for the Modern Language Association's International Bibliography database. She has given eight presentations in local and national forums and has co-authored two manuscripts under review.

ACTION ITEM I. A. APPROVAL OF TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS

Isidore Udoh earned a Ph.D. from North Dakota State University. He is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Sciences and Physical Education. Dr. Udoh's research interests focus on oil pollution and investigating strategies for developing effective interventions, including environmental health monitoring, advocacy, and remediation. He has authored two articles and has presented at six local, national and international conferences. Dr. Udoh received Institutional Review Board approval to conduct an empirical study titled "Exploring the Determinants of Renewed Armed Conflicts in Nigeria's Niger Delta."

Julia Valley earned a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Health Sciences and Physical Education. Dr. Valley has given nine presentations at local and national conferences, and has co-authored two journal articles. Her research interests include gender-biased communication in physical education, building outdoor education programs to meet student needs, integrating adventure-based learning across the curriculum, and physical education teachers and self-determination theory, among others.

<https://www.neiu.edu/faculty/elyse-bolterstein>

<https://www.neiu.edu/faculty/andrew-brake>

<https://www.neiu.edu/faculty/nadja-insel-phd>

<https://www.neiu.edu/faculty/ting-liu>

<https://www.neiu.edu/faculty/michelle-oh>

<https://www.neiu.edu/faculty/isidore-udoh-phd>

<https://www.neiu.edu/faculty/julia-valley-phd>

RECOMMENDED ACTION

I request that the Board approve the tenure recommendations put forth by the Provost in accordance with the University's established standards and practices for the granting of such.

**ACTION ITEM I. B. APPROVAL OF EXPENDITURES \$100,000 OR MORE:
ASSESSMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM, WATERMARK
INSIGHTS, LLC (FORMERLY TK20)**

Project Background

In 2015, Northeastern Illinois University entered into a five-year contract with Watermark Insights, LLC (previously Tk20) as a result of a competitive Request for Proposal procurement process. This was approved by the Board of Trustees at its April 9, 2015 meeting. The original contract expires on June 30, 2020 and includes a five-year renewal option. Academic Affairs made a determination that is in the best interest of the University to exercise the renewal option.

Recommended Vendor

Higher education accrediting bodies require that their member institutions conduct systematic assessments of student learning. Such data demonstrates to stakeholders the benefits of attending an institution. To support this requirement, Northeastern currently uses a comprehensive, web-based, hosted assessment management software application called Watermark Insights, LLC. (formerly Tk20) to enable faculty and staff to collect and store data and report on student learning, among other assessments. The system facilitates compliance with accreditation mandates, reporting on certificate programs, examining non-traditional pedagogical delivery methods, and assessing institutional effectiveness at the program, college, and institutional level. The system enables Northeastern to comply with and excel in requirements for:

- **National, Regional, local and discipline specific accreditation and certification mandates**
 - Provides collection and historical storage of data for Higher Learning Commission, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP), The Council of Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Programs (CACREP), Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) among other accrediting bodies
 - Integrates with the Learning Management System (currently, Desire2Learn) to provide a streamlined assessment process for faculty and students
- **The retention, tenure, and promotion of faculty per the collective bargaining agreement**
 - Creation of e-portfolios for students
 - Used by Goodwin College of Education for edTPA and teacher licensure process and other programs for their capstone courses
- **Maintaining field placement data**
 - Official record of hours logged during required phases of their field experiences.
 - Collection of external evaluations completed by the site supervisors/cooperating teachers/mentors as well as internal evaluations completed by university supervisors.

The original term pricing averaged \$70,000 per year. The negotiated renewal pricing averages \$60,152 and includes a savings of approximately \$50,000 over the life of the contract in discounts and waived fees. The price reflects the complete cost of the system, managed hosting, training server, user technical support, and a dedicated client success manager.

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Project Cost

Watermark Insights, LLC Assessment Management System 5-year renewal cost:

Year 1 7/1/2020 to 6/30/2021	\$56,650
Year 2 7/1/2021 to 6/30/2022	\$58,349
Year 3 7/1/2022 to 6/30/2023	\$60,099
Year 4 7/1/2023 to 6/30/2024	\$61,902
Year 5 7/1/2024 to 6/30/2025	\$63,760

Total for Watermark Enterprise Subscription \$300,760

Recommended Vendor

Watermark Insights, LLC.^(TM) (Non-BEP)
New York Headquarters
71 23rd Street
New York, NY 10010

Source of Funds

Technology Initiatives

Recommended Action

I request that the Board approve expenditures of \$300,760 for five years for the purchase of technology services for student assessment management services from Watermark Insights, LLC.