The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, April 11, 2013, at 2:23 p.m., in the Multipurpose room at Northeastern Illinois University, El Centro Campus, 3119 N. Pulaski Rd. Dr. Carlos Azcoitia, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order.

Roll was called and the following trustees answered present:

Carlos Azcoitia, Chair; Bob Biggins, Omar Duque, Secretary; Barbara Fumo, Jin Lee, Vice Chair; Jonathan Stein, and Jesus Nuñez

The following trustees were absent: Marvin Garcia

Also present were the following:

Sharon Hahs, President; Tom Arkell, Legal Counsel; Mimi Crespo, Assistant Secretary; University Provost, Vice Presidents, and Staff

Approval of Minutes
Written Minutes of the meeting of February 21, 2013 and the Minutes of the Confidential Executive Session dated February 21, 2013 were prepared and submitted.

Chair’s Announcements
Chair Azcoitia made the following announcements.

- Introduced the Interim Director of the El Centro campus, Ms. Maria Luna-Duarte. Ms. Luna-Duarte welcomed the Board and all in attendance to the El Centro campus.

- Congratulated Trustee Jin Lee on his new role as Maine Township School Board Member. Trustee Lee will oversee three high schools with 7,000 students.

- Announced the planning for this year’s Board Development. Trustees were asked to provide there availability dates.

- Announced having another Meet the Trustees social gathering following the September 2013 Board meeting.

President’s Announcements
President Hahs announced that NEIU’s Sixth Lobby Day was held on April 10, 2013 in Springfield, Illinois. A group of twenty-four students, faculty, and administrators including President Sharon Hahs, Trustees Bob Biggins and Jin Lee, and SGA President Diana Perez participated in Lobby Day. The group visited with twenty-two key members of the General Assembly and the Governor’s Office to advocate for NEIU’s operating budget appropriation.

Provost Helldobler announced that the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) has approved Northeastern to move forward in the process leading to
accréditation of the College of Business and Management (COBM). Helldobler thanked Dean Hietapelto, Associate Dean Bedell, and the entire faculty in the COBM.

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

Action Item I. A. Tenure Recommendations
Board approval is requested to grant tenure to the following members of the Faculty. Each of the tenure candidates has met University and department criteria for excellence in teaching/primary duties, scholarship, and service. They have also indicated that they understand and acknowledge BOT policy on Academic Freedom and Responsibility in signaling their roles as members of the tenured faculty. Faculty members are: Kimberly Ambriz, Art; Howard Bultinck, Educational Leadership and Development; Christina Ciecierski, Economics; Alireza Dorestani, Accounting, Business Law and Finance; Timothy Duggan, Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies; Travis Heath, Music; Eileen Kaiser, Teacher Education; Michele Kane, Special Education; Alberto Lopez-Carrasquillo, Teacher Education; Andreas Savas-Kourvetaris, Sociology; Joan Schuitema, Library; Marshall Thompson, Political Science; Lance Williams, Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies; Qiumei Xu, Management and Marketing; Ai-Ru Yen, Accounting Business Law and Finance.

Chair Azcoitia asked President Hahs to comment on faculty excellence in the strategic plan in terms of having a diverse group of individuals joining the University. President Hahs explained that among this group of individuals there is a rich diversity which includes two African Americans, two Latinos, and two Asian Americans.

Mr. Duque, seconded by Mr. Stein, moved to approve Tenure Recommendations.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia  Yes  Duque  Yes  Lee  Yes  Nuñez (student trustees cannot vote on tenure)
Biggins  Yes  Fumo  Yes  Stein  Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I. B. Conferring an Honorary Degree
President Hahs asked the Board of Trustees to consider the award of an Honorary Degree to Ms. Donna Brazile, a renowned political strategist and commentator. The University recently confirmed that she will accept our invitation to serve as our May 2013 Commencement speaker. A full biography of Ms. Brazile was provided to each Board member.

Mr. Duque, seconded by Mr. Biggins, moved to approve Conferring an Honorary Degree.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia  Yes  Duque  Yes  Lee  Yes  Nuñez  Yes
Action Item I. C. Increase in Student U-Pass Fee
The Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) informed the University on February 28, 2013 it will increase the cost associated with the student U-Pass program for all Chicago area colleges and universities. The CTA U-Pass daily rate will increase from $0.81 to $1.07. Additionally, the CTA is charging the University a new fee of $5.00 for each new U-Pass created. As a result, the requested fee is $128.00 per semester for full-time students. This proposed fee will result in a decrease of $23,022 in the funds available to the University to administer the program, which will allow the University to keep the student fee increase to a minimum.
Board approval is requested for an increase to the student U-Pass fee to $128.00 per semester to address program costs resulting from the CTA mandated rate increase.

The Student Government Association (SGA) surveyed students and found that three-fourths of full-time students feel that they have really benefited from the U-Pass.

Chair Azcoitia asked for more information on the administrative fees the University is absorbing. Trustee Lee asked if the University Foundation account can be used to help subsidize the administrative increase. Vice Presidents Ross and Wilcockson explained that administering the U-Pass for students is a very labor intensive process. Northeastern staff is responsible for distributing U-Pass cards to students and updating CTA when student status changes from full-time to part-time. Initially, students were paying the full cost to administer the program. Currently, Student Affairs is already subsidizing the administration of the program with other funds. The U-Pass program was implemented as a result of a student referendum and therefore it is appropriate for students to pay for an increase in administrative fees associated with the program.

Mr. Nuñez, seconded by Ms. Fumo, moved to approve the Increase in Student U-Pass Fee.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia Yes Duque Yes Lee No Nuñez Yes
Biggins Yes Fumo Yes Stein Yes

The motion carried.

Board Committee Reports

Executive – The Executive Committee met in Executive Session.

Academic and Student Affairs – Trustee Nuñez asked for more information on how the cancellation deadline of April 19 for the summer session was determined and communicated.
Provost Helldobler explained that the cancellation date was decided at the Dean’s Council and was scheduled during the same time period as in previous years. April 19 was the best possible date to make decisions based on enrollment that would allow students to make alternate plans should a course be cancelled. Deans were asked to communicate to department chairs and faculty and a targeted announcement was sent to all students, faculty and staff to make sure that everyone had the best possible communication across campus regarding any possible course cancellation. There was some misinformation posted regarding fall cancellations which was not true. The fall schedule is published after summer orientation programs are completed in the summer and the University has a better understanding of fall enrollment, this was communicated in the targeted message as well. President Hahs offered to research and provide the communications from last year.

Buildings and Grounds – Trustee Duque represented the committee and explained that the Construction Update was read during the committee meetings.

Finance - Trustee Duque represented the committee and explained that all issues have been discussed during the committee meetings.

Legal Counsel Report
Mr. Arkell explained to the Board that the Legal Counsel Report was distributed and he would answer any questions in executive session.

Old Business

New Business/Announcements

Trustee Lee shared some interesting data from the Secretary of Education website related to students nationwide. Part of the data showed that in 2010-2011 49% of Illinois public school students came from low to moderate income families, compared to 37.9% in 2003. Based on this high percentage rate, Trustee Lee would like to ensure that Northeastern is doing everything it can to provide scholarships to students with financial need.

Trustee Duque announced that in March 2013 he participated as a panelist in the International Business Conference which was sponsored by the College of Business and Management (COBM). Each year the COBM organizes a conference with a focus on a specific region in the world. The conference is organized by students with some faculty assistance. This year’s conference focused on Latin America. Trustee Duque congratulated the students who organized the conference. The conference was a success and is considered an asset to the University.

Upcoming Events

Chair Azcoitia announced the following upcoming events:
1. Asian American Awards Gala – tomorrow Friday, April 12 at 5:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall. (Trustee Lee will provide greetings and Chair Azcoitia will also attend.)

2. Student Awards – Tuesday, April 23, 2:45 – 4:00 p.m. in Alumni Hall. (Trustee Biggins will provide greetings.)

3. Academic Honors - Thursday, April 25, 4:45 – 6:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall. (Trustee Fumo will provide greetings.)

4. May Commencement - Monday, May 13 at 4:00 p.m. at UIC Pavilion. (Chair Azcoitia and Trustees Garcia and Nunez will attend.)

5. Next Board Meeting - Thursday, June 6 at the main campus in the Golden Eagles room.

Trustee Lee suggested that the Board invite and recognize students with high academic and service achievements to Board Meetings. President Hahs would be happy to work on this idea with the Provost and Deans and present a proposal. There is space on the Board agenda for this wonderful idea.

Opportunity for Public Comment in Accordance with Public Act 91-0715
Chair Azcoitia announced, 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 1 individual scheduled to speak; the request was placed in advance. Time is limited to 2 minutes. To assist us, our Board Secretary, Mimi Crespo, will announce when 30 seconds remain and when time is up and the Chair will alert the speaker to please conclude.

Public Comment Speaker:

Mr. Peter Enger, student
Topic of Discussion – Ethics training for University personnel. Mr. Enger read his open letter to Vice President Ross of Student Affairs. The letter was printed in the Independent Newspaper and addressed issues related to the WZRD radio station. Mr. Enger feels that certain members of the student affairs administration acted unethically and violated NEIU policy during the investigation of the WZRD radio station.

Convene in Executive Session
At 3:05 p.m., Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Duque, moved to convene in executive session to consider: 1) the employment, appointment, compensation, and performance of employees, as permitted by Section 2. (c) (1), 2) pending, probable or imminent litigation, as permitted by Section 2. (c) (11), and 3) the purchase or lease of real property as permitted by section 2. (c)
(5) of the open meetings Act.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia  Yes   Duque  Yes    Lee  Yes   Nuñez  Yes
Biggins  Yes    Fumo  Yes    Stein Yes

The motion carried.

Reconvene in Open Session
At 4:23 p.m., Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Duque, moved to reconvene in open session.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia  Yes   Duque  Yes    Lee  Yes   Nuñez  Yes
Biggins  Yes    Fumo  Yes    Stein - exited meeting during executive session

The motion carried.

Mr. Nuñez, seconded by Mr. Biggins, moved that the confidential written minutes of the executive session dated April 12, 2012 no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia  Yes   Duque  Yes    Lee  Yes   Nuñez  Yes
Biggins  Yes    Fumo  Yes    Stein - exited meeting during executive session

The motion carried.

Mr. Nuñez, seconded by Mr. Duque, moved to approve the destruction of verbatim records for the meeting held on September 15, 2011 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 meetings held on September 15, 2011 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 meetings held on September 15, 2011 2) the
destruction of the verbatim records of the closed meetings held on September 15, 2011 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   Duque  Yes   Lee   Yes   Nuñez  Yes
Biggins  Yes   Fumo   Yes   Stein - exited meeting during executive session

The motion carried.

Adjourn
At 4:26 p.m., the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Carlos Azcoitia, Chair
Mimi Crespo, Assistant Secretary