The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, September 19, 2013, at 2:24 p.m., in the Golden Eagles room at Northeastern Illinois University, 5500 N. St. Louis Ave. 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; Darlene Ruscitti, Jonathan Stein, and Franklin Ortega

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 June 6, 2013 and the Minutes of the Confidential Executive Session dated June 6, 2013 were prepared and submitted.

Chair’s Announcements

- Chair Azcoitia introduced the new Student Trustee, Franklin Ortega, a senior with a double major in Justice Studies and Latino and Latin American Studies, and welcomed him to the Board. His many leadership roles and awards include President of Student Alliance for Leadership and Education, Mentor in the El Centro GUIAS program, and the Bright Futures Award Scholarship. Franklin immigrated to the United States from Ecuador with his family at the age of 17. Since then he’s graduated from Maine East High School and Oakton Community College with many honors and awards. After graduating from Northeastern, Franklin plans to pursue a Master’s Degree in Higher Education and Management Policy at Northwestern University, followed by a Ph.D.

- Chair Azcoitia mentioned the success of the Korean festival which took place in August along Bryn Mawr Avenue and on campus for the first time. Trustee Lee thanked the University community for its support and welcomes future partnerships. This year, the festival was very successful with over 50,000 visitors.

- Chair Azcoitia thanked the music department for the creative and wonderful art programs offered in the annual “Arts at NEIU” booklet. It’s a great opportunity for neighborhood residents and students to attend.

- Board Meeting dates for 2014 will be held on the following Thursdays: February 20, April 10 (at our CCICS campus), June 12, September 18, and November 13.
The “Meet the Trustees” reception will take place after today’s Board meeting ends in the Loft (second floor of the Student Union) from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. All community members are welcome to attend.

President’s Announcements

Introductions of New Employees
President Hahs asked Provost Helldobler to introduce the new tenure-track faculty. First, Helldobler made a couple of administrative introductions, 1) Mr. Carlos Melian as Dean of Library Services. Mr. Melian has served the Ronald Williams Library well in a variety of roles and has continued a strong presence nationally and in the region. He brings 27 years of academic library experience at NEIU, including work at all levels as a paraprofessional, tenure-track faculty member and administrator. He has broad working experience in all aspects of library administration, technology, systems and technical services; and 2) Dr. Michael Bedell currently serves as Acting Dean and Professor of Management. Dr. Bedell joined NEIU as Associate Dean of the College of Business and Management in July 2012. Previously, he spent the past 15 years as part of the management faculty and MBA program director at California State University, Bakersfield. His research interests include teams, training, HR information systems, and the use of technology in the university classroom.

Provost Helldobler introduced the following new tenure-track faculty. Detailed biographies of each faculty member are included in the President’s Board Report. Dr. William Adler, Assistant Professor, Political Science; Dr. Sunni Ali, Assistant Professor, Inner City Studies; Dr. Kimya Barden, Assistant Professor, Inner City Studies; Dr. Katherine Bird, Assistant Professor, Mathematics; Dr. Rachel S. Birmingham, Assistant Professor, Justice Studies; Dr. Alison Dover, Assistant Professor, Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies; Dr. Marcos Feldman, Assistant Professor, Sociology; Dr. Caleb T. Gallemore, Assistant Professor, Geography and Environmental Studies; Ms. Kelly Jane Grossmann, Assistant Professor, Ronald Williams Library; Dr. Elisabet M. Head, Assistant Professor, Earth Science; Dr. Joseph E. Hibdon Jr., Assistant Professor, Mathematics; Dr. Aimee Hilado Villalpando, Assistant Professor, Social Work; Dr. Kristin M. Hunt, Assistant Professor, Communication, Media & Theatre; Dr. Hardik A. Marfatia, Assistant Professor, Economics; Dr. Sarah Orlofske, Assistant Professor, Biology; Dr. Graciela Perera, Assistant Professor, Computer Science; and Dr. Laura J. Tejeda, Assistant Professor, Counselor Education.

Chair Azcoitia welcomed the new faculty members and thanked them for joining Northeastern in its continuous search for quality, academic excellence, and exemplary staff.

President Hahs introduced Dr. April Nauman, the new Presidential Fellow. Dr. Nauman is an Associate Professor in Literacy Education in the College of Education. She is a wonderful teacher, scholar, and public servant. Every year in the President’s Office there is a new Presidential Fellow, who is a member of the tenured faculty who spends one year with Presidential Hahs, partly shadowing and partly initiating and leading projects.

President Hahs asked members of the College of Education to stand and be recognized for
their great work on the college’s NCATE accreditation this last year. NCATE (The National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education) accreditation is critical for the success of Northeastern; there were six standards and Northeastern met them all with high marks. Congratulations to the College of Education and to Northeastern.

President Hahs reminded the Board that there is a constituency table present at every Board Meeting. The table is comprised of four representatives from the University’s constituency groups. This year’s representatives are: 1) Judy Brewer, Civil Service Council; 2) Wojciech Wloch, Administrative and Professional Council; 3) Dr. Russell Benjamin, Faculty Senate; and 4) Dr. Marcelo Sztainberg, University Planning and Budget Council.

President Hahs called attention to the stack of materials at each Trustee’s place. The NASPA magazine is especially exciting. Northeastern was featured on the cover and Vice President Frank Ross contributed a story about student civic engagement. The cover highlights a mural painted by NEIU faculty and students located at a viaduct near Avondale and Pulaski. NASPA (National Association of Student Personnel Administrators) is the leading organization for student affairs professionals. Circulation of the magazine is 14,000 professionals worldwide. Other materials at Trustee’s places include an update on the doctoral program in special education, announcement for University Day, and additional materials from Dr. Robert Smith for board development.

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

**Action Item I. A. FISCAL YEAR 2014 UNIVERSITY OPERATING BUDGET**

Each year, the Board of Trustees is asked to adopt the University’s operating budget for the coming fiscal year. In June, the Board was presented with and approved a tentative operating budget that fulfilled the reporting requirements of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). As noted in the June report, the budget was completed prior to final action on the fiscal year 2014 appropriation by the Illinois General Assembly, which is now approved and included in this report.

The development of the University’s operating budget is based on the best estimate of available financial resources and the allocation of those resources to support the highest priorities of the University. Therefore, the budget is one of the primary tools for supporting the University’s strategic plan and furthering the goals and action steps in that plan.

Trustee Lee added that the University needs to strengthen its recruitment and retention efforts. Lee suggested partnering with the Foundation and Office of International Programs to assist financially.

Trustee Duque asked for more information about the science behind determining the right tuition rates. President Hahs explained that there is some science but the science is changing. Some research has shown that when a university raises tuition rates it gets more
students because a lower rate may give the impression of lower quality. Northeastern will present its best analysis of the reality at the November 2013 board meeting. Chair Azcoitia commented on the enrollment decreases over the past two years that occurred when tuition was increased and when it was not increased. There is an incentive to pay attention to universities that offer affordability and quality which is connected to accountability. Hahs explained, Northeastern participates in every state and federal accountability requirement and has created its own internal accountability with the KPIs, for example. Azcoitia suggested that it would be helpful to examine the University budget periodically to give the Board enough time to digest all the information.

Other Trustee comments included: Trustee Biggins would not want the state of Illinois or other universities to think Northeastern does not need as much state funding when it doesn’t increase tuition rates. Trustee Ruscitti suggested that Northeastern compare its degrees to the very attractive degrees offered online. Trustee Ortega added that what students need is motivation to stay in school. Other universities offer scholarships to attract more students. Northeastern should offer more opportunities to students to increase enrollment. Trustee Stein commented that Northeastern has, historically, always been very fiscally responsible. The issue is that expenses are always increasing, for example, utilities, salaries, new programs and services. Cutting back too much may diminish the quality of the University.

Mr. Duque, seconded by Mr. Stein, moved to approve the FISCAL YEAR 2014 UNIVERSITY OPERATING BUDGET.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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<td>Azcoitia</td>
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<td>Biggins</td>
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<td>Duque</td>
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<td>Ruscitti</td>
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<td>Ortega</td>
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<td>Stein</td>
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The motion carried.

**Action Item I. B. FISCAL YEAR 2015 OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET REQUESTS**

Each year, the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University is required to adopt an operating and capital budget request and submit that request to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The preliminary request was presented to the Board of Trustees in June as an information item for review and discussion. This final request is submitted to the Board at the September meeting for approval. After Board approval, the request will be submitted to the IBHE before its deadline of October 15.

Chair Azcoitia asked, when will Northeastern know if it will receive its capital budget requests. President Hahs explained that requests first go through the legislative session and then the Governor has 60 days to sign the bill passed by the legislation. The timeline could take until next fall.

Mr. Stein, seconded by Mr. Biggins, moved to approve FISCAL YEAR 2015 OPERATING
Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Azcoitia  Yes   Duque  Yes   Lee    Yes    Stein   Yes
Biggins  Yes    Fumo   Yes   Ruscitti  Yes   Ortega   Yes

The motion carried.

Board Committee Reports

Executive – no reports at this time.

Academic and Student Affairs – Trustee Fumo represented the committee and announced there are no reports at this time.

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

Trustee Lee reiterated his campus safety concerns from the committee meeting. Lee would like to have all students register their emergency contact information with the NEIU NAlert system as part of the required enrollment process. Vice President Wilcockson explained that Northeastern is subject to the Illinois Campus Security Enhancement Act. Northeastern’s plan is compliant with that act. NEIU also has an internal emergency management team that meets periodically. All the vice presidential areas are represented on that team and is under the primary direction of the University Police and is fully compliant with state and federal regulations. When students register in the beginning of each semester they are asked to participate in NAlert and they also receive pop-up reminders on their computers for the first several weeks of classes. NAlert registration is voluntary at this point; student registration is not held if students don’t participate in NAlert. There are many opportunities for students, faculty and staff to sign up for NAlert.

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

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 – no reports at this time.

New Business/Announcements
Trustee Lee asked President Hahs to invite the Office of International Programs to give the Board a special presentation at our February 2014 Board Meeting to share and showcase the
office’s current activities.

Upcoming Events

Chair Azcoitia announced the following upcoming events:

1. **Next Board Meeting** - Thursday, November 14 at the main campus in the Golden Eagles room.

   A Trustee is needed to bring greetings to the following campus events.

2. **Academic Honors**, Monday, December 9 at 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

3. **Commencement**, Sunday, December 15 at 2:00 p.m. at the UIC Pavilion.

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 2 individuals scheduled to speak; the requests were 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.

Please begin…

Public Comment Speakers:

1. **Dr. Sophia Mihic**, professor of political science and philosophy and NEIU/UPI Chapter President. Dr. Mihic reported on the work in implementing the UPI contract with administration. The UPI is very committed to the contract. The contract is about maximizing fairness and securing the conditions of good teaching and advising. Mihic is happy to report that there are fewer formal grievances and many issues have been handled well informally with the contract administrator. Mihic complimented President Hahs for her comments during the State of the University Address. The comment was related to a question about getting excellence from faculty – Dr. Hahs replied with, we don’t impose excellence, faculty do excellence, they regulate themselves, that’s what faculty is all about, they know what excellence is. Mihic would like to focus on excellence and conserve the tradition of excellence that defines Northeastern. The contract has a role in securing that tradition. Mihic is confident that the President and the UPI are going to work well together during contract negotiations.
2. **Coach Butler**, NEIU’s first athletic coach 1965-1970. Coach Butler asked the Board to correct what he feels is an injustice. Butler feels that the name of the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS) should be changed to honor the work of Dr. Donald H. Smith, the founder and first director of the Center for Inner City Studies at Northeastern. Dr. Smith formulated the idea for the center and worked tirelessly to obtain funding, recruit faculty, establish a curriculum, and guide the center to viability. Despite his essential and superb work as founder of the Center, Dr. Smith was not even considered when the Center was named.

**Convene in Executive Session**
At 3:43 p.m., Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Duque, moved to convene in executive session to consider: pending, probable or imminent litigation, as permitted by Section 2. (c) (11) of the open meetings Act.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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The motion carried.

**Reconvene in Open Session**
At 4:04 p.m., Mr. Lee, seconded by Ms. Fumo, moved to reconvene in open session.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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The motion carried.

Ms. Fumo, seconded by Mr. Duque, moved that the **confidential written minutes of the executive session dated September 20, 2012 no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection**.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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The motion carried.

Mr. Biggins, seconded by Mr. Duque, moved to approve the **destruction of verbatim records for the meeting held on February 9, 2012 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 February 9, 2012 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 February 9, 2012 2) the destruction of the verbatim records of the closed meetings held on February 9, 2012 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    Stein   Yes
Biggins  Yes    Fumo   Yes   Ruscitti Yes   Ortega  Yes

The motion carried.

Adjourn
At 4:16 p.m., the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Carlos Azcoitia, Chair
Mimi Crespo, Assistant Secretary