The meeting of the Board of Trustees of Northeastern Illinois University was convened on Thursday, April 10, 2014 at 2:13 p.m., in the Donn F. Bailey Legacy Hall at Northeastern Illinois University (CCICS campus) located at 700 E. Oakwood Blvd, Chicago, IL. Jin Lee, Vice Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order.

Roll was called and the following trustees answered present:

Bob Biggins, Omar Duque, Secretary; Barbara Fumo, Marvin Garcia, Jin Lee, Vice Chair; Darlene Ruscitti, Jonathan Stein, and Franklin Ortega

The following trustees were absent: Carlos Azcoitia, Chair

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 27, 2014 and the Minutes of the Confidential Executive Session dated February 27, 2014 were prepared and submitted. Vice Chair Lee asked Mimi Crespo, assistant secretary, to revisit the recording and revise the minutes of the February 27, 2014 Board meeting. Lee would like to add the explanation to the comments he made regarding tuition and fee increases. Mr. Arkell explained that any revisions to the minutes would have to come from the original recording and then the revised version would be provided to the Board for approval at the next Board meeting.

Chair’s Announcements

- Vice Chair Jin Lee introduced Dr. Conrad Worrill, director of the Carruthers Center for Inner City Studies (CCICS). Dr. Worrill welcomed the Board and audience members to CCICS and highlighted the beautiful renovations that were recently completed in the Donn F. Bailey Legacy Hall at CCICS. Dr. Worrill also explained that many great African American orators presented inspiring speeches at the CCICS auditorium. In 1915, W.E.B Du Bois gave a lecture on race relations in the United States. In the 1930s when a lot of black artists, poets, and intellectuals were out of work, a group of artists called the Negro Writers Club, which included Richard Wright and Langston Hughes, met in what is now room 102 at CCICS. In the 1960s, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X also visited and spoke at the Carruthers Center.

President’s Announcements

- President Hahs welcomed everyone to the newly renovated Donn F. Bailey Legacy Hall at CCICS.
- President Hahs announced to the Board that there is a Chicago Crain’s newspaper at each place setting. There is a wonderful article about Northeastern’s El Centro building
President’s Report
The entire President’s Report is incorporated herein by reference.

Action Item I. A. 1. TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS
Board approval is requested to grant tenure to the following members of the Faculty: Anthony Adams, Communication, Media and Theatre; Kathleen Brown, Special Education; Hua Bai, Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies; Emily Garcia, English; Gerardo Moreno, Special Education; Seung-Hwan Mun, Communication, Media and Theatre; Ana Nieves, Art; Isaura Pulido, Educational Inquiry and Curriculum Studies; Emina Stojkovic, Biology; Mary Thill, Ronald Williams Library; Stijepko Tokic, Accounting, Business Law and Finance; Michael Wenz, Economics; and Judith Yturriago, Teacher Education.

- Trustee Stein would like to see the university where each faculty member earned his/her advanced degree added to the faculty descriptions in the Board Report.

Mr. Duque, seconded by Dr. Ruscitti, moved to approve the TENURE RECOMMENDATIONS.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Biggins  Yes     Fumo   Yes    Lee   Yes   Stein  Yes
Duque   Yes     Garcia Yes    Ruscitti   Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I. A. 2. TENURE RECOMMENDATION
Board approval is requested to approve the President’s recommendation to not tenure Maria-Elene Roberge, Management and Marketing.

Mr. Stein, seconded by Ms. Fumo, moved to approve the TENURE RECOMMENDATION.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Biggins  Yes     Fumo   Yes    Lee   Yes   Stein  Yes
Duque   Yes     Garcia Yes    Ruscitti   Yes

The motion carried.

Action Item I. B. EXPENDITURE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PURCHASES OF $100,000 OR MORE – BERNARD BROMMEL HALL MICROBIOLOGY LAB
Board approval is requested for expenditures related to the General Contractor for the project. Bernard J. Brommel Hall (BBH), formerly the Science Building, was constructed in 1972 and has undergone only limited renovations since that time. During this period, science teaching pedagogies, particularly the use of technology, have changed significantly. The
University is in the third year of a five year plan to renovate science laboratories. This lab rehabilitation will be funded from a combination of a Title V grant that was awarded from the U.S. Department of Education to expand capabilities in the health sciences and the Academic Enhancement Fee. The amount of the total grant was $4.3 million over five years. The grant, *Enhancing Career Opportunities in Biomedical and Environmental Health Sciences at an Urban Hispanic-Serving Institution*, expands and enhances courses related to biomedical and environmental health sciences, including the renovation of several science laboratories in Bernard Brommel Hall. Over the next three years, professional development opportunities for students and faculty will also be implemented.

- Vice Chair Lee asked about the timeline for the renovation project. Vice President Pierick expects to occupy the lab again before Spring 2015.

Mr. Garcia, seconded by Mr. Duque, moved to approve the **EXPENDITURE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PURCHASES OF $100,000 OR MORE – BERNARD BROMMEL HALL MICROBIOLOGY LAB**

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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The motion carried.

**Action Item I. C. HONORARY DEGREE FOR SPRING COMMENCEMENT**

The Board of Trustees is being asked to confer an honorary degree on Dr. Victoria DeFrancesco Soto, Senior Analyst for Latino Decisions and a Senior Fellow at the Bernard Center for Women, Politics, and Public Policy. The University recently received confirmation that Dr. DeFrancesco Soto has accepted Northeastern’s invitation and will serve as the May 2014 commencement speaker and recipient of an honorary degree.

Mr. Duque, seconded by Mr. Garcia, moved to approve **HONORARY DEGREE FOR SPRING COMMENCEMENT**

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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The motion carried.
Board Committee Reports

**Executive** – The University Advisory Council has asked Hahs to recommend a change to the Board’s policies to reflect how Northeastern engages in shared governance. In accordance with that request, Hahs will recommend an amendment to Article II Section 6 A when the Board meets in June 2014. The proposed change to Participation in University Governance, Shared Participation, is outlined in the President’s Report.

**Academic and Student Affairs** – Trustee Garcia represented the committee and announced that items were discussed during committee.

**Buildings and Grounds** – Trustee Duque represented the committee and explained that the Construction Update was read during committee.
- Vice Chair Lee complimented the University on a fantastic job in renovating Alumni Hall.

**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 report at this time.

**New Business/Announcements** – no report at this time.

**Upcoming Events**
Vice Chair Lee announced the following upcoming events:

1. **Asian American Heritage Awards Gala** – Friday, April 11 at 5:30 p.m. in Alumni Hall. Trustee Lee will attend and bring greetings.

2. **Student Awards Program** – Wednesday, April 23 at 2:45 p.m. in Alumni Hall. Trustee Lee will attend and bring greetings.

3. **Academic Honors Ceremony** - Thursday, April 24 at 4:45 p.m. in the Auditorium. Trustees Stein, Lee and Ortega will attend.

4. **Commencement** – Monday, May 12 at 4:00 p.m. at the UIC Pavilion. Chair Azcoitia will bring greetings and Trustees Stein, Lee and Ortega will attend.

5. **Next Board Meeting** - Thursday, June 12, 2014 at the main campus in the Golden Eagles room.
Opportunity for Public Comment in Accordance with Public Act 91-0715

Vice Chair Lee 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 9 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 Vice Chair Lee will alert the speaker to please conclude.

Please begin…

**Public Comment Speakers:**

1. **Dr. Shelley Bannister** – Professor of Justice Studies
   Topic of Discussion – Un-naming of Lech Walesa Hall. Dr. Bannister spoke on behalf of herself and 400 other community members who signed a petition asking the Board of Trustees to remove the name of Lech Walesa from the former classroom building and to include this request on the agenda at the next Board meeting. This request is a result of the homophobic remarks Mr. Walesa made last year.

2. **Mr. Kelvin Johnson** – student
   Topic of Discussion – naming of Lech Walesa Hall. Mr. Johnson requested that the Board act with institutional integrity and rename Lech Walesa Hall out of respect for racial and sexual minorities who NEIU strives to turn into leaders.

3. **Dr. Brett Stockdill**, Chair of Sociology
   Topic of Discussion – Student Residence Halls, in particular the property and business owners, and residents who would be forced out if Northeastern pursues eminent domain. Dr. Stockdill is against building multi-million dollar residence halls when academic departments are being asked to plan for 5% and 10% budget cuts and when property owners on Bryn Mawr don’t want to sell their property.

4. **Dr. Lidia Filus** – Chair of Mathematics
   Topic of Discussion – Independent Newspaper article titled “LWH Name in Question” from March 18, 2014. Dr. Filus feels hurt and disrespected by the recent actions of the University Advisory Council (UAC) for requesting that President Hahs recommend to the Board to remove Lech Walesa’s name. According to Dr. Filus, the UAC has ignored the recommendations that were made during a university-wide Lech Walesa dialogue where everyone was given the opportunity to express their opinions.

5. **Joanna Nowacka** – Graduate Student in Political Science and President of NEIU Polish Student Association. Topic of Discussion - Independent Newspaper article titled “LWH Name in Question” from March 18, 2014. Ms. Nowacka spoke on behalf
of the Polish students at NEIU. Ms. Nowacka feels that the Polish community has
been excluded from the public consultations concerning recommendations that the
Board remove Lech Walesa’s name. Ms. Nowacka asked that the Board not make
any decisions based on the interests and feelings of one group which tried to
monopolize the issue.

6. Dr. Cris Toffolo – Chair of Justice Studies Department
Topic of Discussion – un-naming of Lech Walesa Hall. Dr. Toffolo is troubled that
some people think we can solve the problem of the name of Lech Walesa Hall by
having an annual difficult dialogue and an art installation that commemorates difficult
dialogues. Neither address the root cause of the problem which is we have a
building named after someone who has made very homophobic remarks in the
media on more than one occasion. Keeping the name of someone who makes such
remarks not only goes against what we teach, it is directly hurtful to over 10% of our
staff and students and it could deter future students from attending NEIU.

7. Dr. Sophia Mihic – Associate Professor of Political Science and NEIU/UPI Chapter
President. Topic of Discussion – regarding the request to plan for 5% and 10% cuts
in department budgets. The Executive Board of NEIU/UPI has charged Dr. Mihic
with the task of formally asking why academic departments are being asked to plan
for 5% and 10% cuts to their budgets. These are quite drastic and destructive cuts in
instruction. Is it the case that only the Colleges are being cut? Are other sections of
the University not being asked to cut 5% and 10% and if so why aren’t they? Why
is Academic Affairs expanding its budget by hiring a communications specialist at
the same time departments are being asked to diminish their course offerings? Dr.
Mihic is against steps that damage faculty’s ability to teach traditional as well as non-
traditional students.

8. Dr. Michael Weinberg – Library Professor
Topic of Discussion – The President’s community announcement about LWH. Dr.
Weinberg mentioned a student based dialogue that took place in the Pedroso Center
titled Addressing Homophobia where all 50 students who were present raised their
hands when asked, do students feel unsafe or unsupported going to a school where
a building is named after someone who repeatedly made homophobic comments. All
students deserve to study and work in an environment free of bigotry and hate and
this is the reason why Lech Walesa’s name should be removed from the building.

9. Dr. Vicki Byard – English Professor
Topic of Discussion – Briefly allude to LWH issue, but will primarily focus on NEIU’s
future enactment of the university’s defined values. Dr. Byard finds that Lech Walesa
is doubly injurious for his homophobic comments and for his own unwillingness to
engage with the NEIU community since he is aware of the pain his comments have
casted. Part of the definition of Diversity as it is defined in the Statement of Values
posted on Northeastern’s website states: “We encourage the open and respectful
expression of ideas and differences in thoughts, experiences, and opinions.”
Walesa’s comments were not respectful. Byard would like to reiterate the request
that the Board of Trustees add this issue to its agenda at its next Board meeting.

Vice Chair Lee thanked the public for their comments and for sharing their matters of interest with the Board.

Convene in Executive Session
At 3:02 p.m., Ms. Fumo, seconded by Mr. Duque, moved to convene in executive session to consider: The employment, appointment, compensation and performance of employees as permitted by Section 2. (c) (1) of the Open Meetings Act.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

Reconvene in Open Session
At 3:10 p.m., Ms. Fumo, seconded by Mr. Duque, moved to reconvene in open session.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.

Mr. Stein, seconded by Ms. Fumo, moved that the salary of President Hahs be increased to $293,600 effective July 1, 2013.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

Biggins  Yes     Fumo   Yes    Lee   Yes  Stein   Yes
Duque   Yes   Garcia   Yes    Ruscitti   Yes   Ortega   No

Mr. Biggins, seconded by Mr. Duque moved that the confidential written minutes of the executive session dated April 11, 2013 no longer require confidential treatment and are available for public inspection.

Roll was called and the vote was as follows:

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

The motion carried.
Dr. Ruscitti, seconded by Mr. Garcia, moved to approve the **destruction of verbatim records for the meeting held on September 20, 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 **September 20, 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 **September 20, 2012** 2) the destruction of the verbatim records of the closed meetings held on **September 20, 2012** and, 3) directs the Assistant Secretary of the Board of Trustees to destroy said verbatim records.

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The motion carried.

**Adjourn**
At 3:19 p.m., the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn.

Jin Lee, Vice Chair  
Mimi Crespo, Assistant Secretary