Board of Trustees

Legislative Affairs, Research and Innovation Committee

February 18, 2016
A G E N D A

NIU Board of Trustees
Legislative Affairs, Research and Innovation
9:00 a.m. Thursday, February 18, 2016
Board of Trustees Room
315 Altgeld Hall

1. Call to Order and Roll Call
2. Verification of Quorum and Appropriate Notification of Public Meeting
3. Meeting Agenda Approval ................................................................. Action...... i
4. Review and Approval of Minutes of November 12, 2015 ........................................ Action....... 1
5. Chair's Comments/Announcements
6. Public Comment*
7. University Recommendations/Report
   a. State Report .................................................................................. Information....... 7
   b. Federal Report ............................................................................. Information....... 10
   c. Sponsored Programs Administration ........................................... Information....... 12
   d. Research in the College of Education ....................................... Information....... 14
8. Other Matters
9. Next Meeting Date
10. Adjournment
*Individuals wishing to make an appearance before the Board should consult the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees of Northern Illinois University, Article II, Section 4 - Appearances before the Board. Appearance request forms will be available in the Board Room the day of the meeting. For more information contact Kathleen Carey, (kjahns@niu.edu) Recording Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Altgeld Hall 300, DeKalb, IL 60115, 815-756-1273.

Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in the NIU Board of Trustees meetings should contact Ellen Andersen, Director of Special Events, at (815)753-1999, as soon as possible.
CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chair Murer in the Board of Trustees Room, 315 Altgeld Hall. Recording Secretary Cathy Cradduck conducted a roll call. Members present were Trustees Robert Boey, Wheeler Coleman, Robert Marshall, Tim Struthers, Marc Strauss and Chair Murer. Members absent were Trustees John Butler and Raquel Chavez. Also present were Committee Liaison Dr. Gerald C. Blazey, University President Dr. Douglas Baker, and Board Parliamentarian and General Counsel Jerry Blakemore.

VERIFICATION OF QUORUM AND APPROPRIATE NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

General Counsel Blakemore indicated the appropriate notification of the meeting had been provided pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Mr. Blakemore also advised that a quorum was present.

MEETING AGENDA APPROVAL

Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Trustee Strauss moved and Trustee Boey seconded. The motion was approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Murer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of August 27, 2015. Trustee Strauss moved and Trustee Coleman seconded. The motion passed.

CHAIR’S COMMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Murer welcomed the University Advisory Committee representatives present, Deborah Haliczer and Professor Dan Gebo and asked them for comment.

Ms. Haliczer thanked the chair and continued to talk about a recent rally that the presidents of the three councils, with the assistance of Michael Mann and very effective work by NIU’s Student Association, had about the state funding impasse, MAP grants, and for funding for universities, community agencies, social services, and the elderly. All the councils are doing letter writing campaigns about the budget impasse and the impact on universities. We applaud President Baker’s comments that we’ve heard quoted on the news about all of the efforts that we’re all making collectively to try and do something about the impasse and keep funding for universities, which are such a driver of local economies and the state economy, and research projects. Also, I would like to say I have submitted my resignation so December will be my last meeting with the Board as I will be retiring January 1st. Thank you for all of you work and your comradeship.

Chair Murer said on behalf of the committee to thank Deborah for her service. She continued with the recognition of Dr. Nancy Castle, who is also retiring in December, noting she had an illustrious career at Northern Illinois University and has provided service not only to the university but also to the students of NIU. Nancy is a three-time NIU alum – she received her bachelor’s degree, her master’s degree and her Ph.D. in psychology from NIU. Nancy has made numerous and lasting contributions to research and innovation. In 1990 Nancy collaborated on a $3.5 million grant to fund a research and training center on the needs of people who were deaf and lower functioning. Continuing her work to improve the lives of
disabled individuals, in 1999 Nancy co-authored a grant for the Presidential Commission on Persons With Disabilities to help faculty and staff work effectively with disabled students. Nancy has truly devoted her career to dealing with the needs of those who are disabled. She has received many recognitions for her work in her field. She served as president of the National Association of Rehabilitation Research and Training Centers, and she was awarded the prestigious Jean Peterson Award. One extremely significant area is when she took upon herself the leadership of the Honors Program, which resulted in tremendous growth in the program. Nancy showed great initiative and dedication to the program. Most recently Nancy has played a leading role in the success of the Center for Non-Governmental Organization, Leadership and Development which is better known as NGOLD. She was instrumental in development of the program and has served as its director since March of 2013. Nancy has been a qualified success for our faculty and students. Even while leading NGOLD Nancy has continued her work in research and innovation. Most recently comparing the provision of disability services in the U.S. and the EU and role of NGOs in advocacy and service delivery. As part of this work, she has formed a partnership serving a disadvantaged neighborhood in Paris with a goal to encourage people to aspire to college and success. She will be working with this program, which received Genesco funding into her retirement. Nancy I’d like to invite you to the podium to make a few comments. I want you to know that our hearts will always be with you and I know that NIU will always remain in your heart.

Dr. Castle thanked Chair Murer, the board and those in attendance, then continued “I’ve never really thought of myself as innovative, but it turns out I really have been. The innovation to me really hasn’t been about being about innovative, it’s been about being practical and realistic and smart. Opportunities have presented themselves that I think only would have presented themselves at a place like NIU - working with people with disabilities through the grant that we got for the Research and Training Center. I was at the University of Arkansas when I got hired to come up and write the grant and it was such an interesting prospect that when they got the grant, I applied for a job so I could come up and work on it. The thing that was really cool about it is that the department that this funding center was in was in the department of speech language pathology. We had a deafness rehabilitation program in speech path and that’s because in the ’70s when this department split from speech communications, they said ‘you know if we’re going to have speech path and audiology, we shouldn’t look at deaf people like just an ear or how can we help them learn to talk, we should do something that involves the whole deaf person’. So they had a deafness program already here, fairly innovative, classic NIU. The Center for NGO Leadership and Development, we have so many students that leave NIU and end up in the world of non-profits or international NGOs who knew nothing about how they worked that - this innovation again, classic NIU. I’ve been really lucky to be able to be a part of a university that actually sets the stage for a lot of innovations.

Chair Murer again thanked Deborah and Nancy and asked them to please stand for applause.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

This is the point in our agenda where we recognize members of the public who have complied with state law and Board of Trustee by-laws by registering their written request to address the Board with our parliamentarian. Mr. Blakemore have you received any timely requests to address this meeting?

Parliamentarian Blakemore responded, Madame Chair we have received one request from Derek Van Buer.

Derek Van Buer: Good morning. A few months ago I talked about the legal bills that were being incurred by President Baker’s OEIG investigation and there was some confusion about how much they were. So I want to go through them because I got additional information. Tim Struthers probably doesn’t or the student trustee but they can get it probably from Mr. Blakemore, but there was a memorandum from John Butler about it and there was some fill in the blanks. One of the first fill-in-the-blank is how much the managing partner Raymond Cotton is charging and I believe it’s $685 an hour. I saw that through a
series of linear equations, i.e. invoices, but I was told it was a trade secret and public assets cost. The Attorney General’s office is reviewing it now as we speak, but I provided him with all the rates. The letter goes on to say that the board’s not going to pay more than ‘blank’. I would assume the ‘blank’ is $450/hour because that’s the blended rate for Drinker Biddle, but I’m not sure but I’ve also requested that from the public access counselor. It goes on to say that President Baker needs to pay out of his personal funds any amount exceeding that rate. So at that rate he owes roughly $20,000. I don’t know if he’s paid because I haven’t got the documentation yet, and it could be less if the rate was higher. The other thing I want to point out is that the letter talks about the broad nature of the investigation. The Edgar County Watchdog published an article recently that said that there was a charge for printing out the documents on a disk from the OEIG. The cost was over $5,500, which equates to 36,730 pages. So it is a very broad investigation. Invoices through June totaled approximately $129,000 for the two law firms, because there’s one law firm that is for the Board of Trustees, which is Drinker, and then there’s one law firm that’s being paid by the University for President Baker, which is Mintz. September and July and August Mintz charged another $17,000; Drinker charged another $8,700 in July. As you can see it’s a fairly expensive investigation. When I talked last time we were talking about how much had been approved by the board on POs. Well the only POs that have been approved by the Board are for Mintz. That is not up to $225,000. The P.O. Drinker sits now at $91,000. So $316,000 is being spent on this investigation that pretty much none of you know about. Edgar County Watchdogs has been publishing a request report I call the Blakemore report. I see a lot of hours being charged to it. The only people that can release it is the Board because of attorney/client privilege. I asked how do I get something on the agenda for the Board to act on it and I was told I couldn’t. The only people that can put stuff on the agenda is the board chairman of each of the committees. So none of the regular Board of Trustees can actually suggest an agenda item unless it goes to the Board. I think for openness and transparency the report should be released. We should understand the risk that is involved with such investigation, how much it’s going to cost, because as you know budget is very tight, money is very tight, you just had to spend another $300,000 on the Stevens for winter maintenance. Also don’t forget the last time I talked about the letter from Representative Dwight Kay about what is the legal impact of the indemnity contract agreement that was entered on by President Baker for former interim CFO Nancy Suttenfield. There’s probably a whole bunch of legal bills associated with that too. Thank you.

Chair Murer said, Thank you for your concern and interest in our university.

**UNIVERSITY RECOMMENDATIONS/ REPORT**

**Information Item 7.a.**

Chair Murer stated, the agenda includes reports on state relations and a budget update and asked Mike Mann to present.

Mr. Mann noted earlier this week the House and Senate were in session and there was some progress made on some peripheral issues, but the basic fact of the matter is that we are in day 135 of the fiscal year and the state is still without a comprehensive state budget. About 90 percent of the state budget is in progress and higher education remains one of the few remaining areas that has not received a spending plan from the state. I would like to let the committee know about some of the things that have taken place that President Baker and I have been involved in since the committee last met. On October 20th President Baker and other public university presidents went to Springfield to meet with the legislative leaders to talk about the need for MAP funding and for university operating and capital funding. President Baker and the group met with Senate President Cullerton, Senate Republican Leader Radogno, House Republican Leader Durkin, and House Majority Leader Curry. Then on October 22nd President Baker and another university president, along with four community college presidents sat down to discuss the needs of the universities with Governor Rauner and his chief operating officer Linda Lingle. The House adopted House Amendment 1 to House Bill 4156. This bill would provide NIU with $85.2 million. It is the same appropriation level that was approved by the General Assembly last spring. It represents a 6.5% cut from our revised FY15 appropriation. That bill in now on third reading in the House. Unfortunately, the House
is not scheduled to meet again until December 2\textsuperscript{nd} and the Senate currently is not scheduled to meet this calendar year. So we really still are looking at 2016 calendar year as hope for a fiscal ’16 budget positive development. The legislature and the governor did agree to progress on some other peripheral issues such as the state museum will remain open. There was some progress made on administrative rules as they relate to assistance for child care. Currently the governor is scheduled to meet with legislative leaders on November 18\textsuperscript{th} for what appears to be a public discussion of the state budget issues. And then again on December 2\textsuperscript{nd} the House is scheduled to be in session to hopefully take up House Bill 4156.

Mike Mann continued, saying the House convened the Committee of the Whole Tuesday. It was scheduled to begin at three o’clock but it ended starting around five-thirty or six o’clock. There were two very controversial votes on child care and service for elder care and disabled people with disabilities. Both votes failed by one vote. They required 71 votes and received only 70. There was a lot of tension on the floor to say the least. After that excitement of the day, the committee of the whole convened and the presidents from U of I, Chicago State, and Western were asked to address the House and talk about the predicament that we’re in, the long term damage that’s occurring, the anxiety that this is creating for students; and the presidents delivered their remarks to the House, they were then peppered with questions about Truth-In-Tuition, and why aren’t we increasing enrollment.

Wheeler Coleman commented it’s my understanding the University of Illinois intends to pass a resolution this morning in their board of trustee meeting requesting that the leadership in Springfield find a way to pass a budget and provide adequate funding for their university. In light of that, I’d like to put a directive out on the table for us to prepare a resolution to do something very similar to show our support and concerns about what's taking place in Springfield to a point where we could let everyone know that the impact that this impasse is having on our students, our institution, our faculty members, administrators, and the greater community. Mr. Mann acknowledged he would work with President Baker and Jerry Blakemore to put together an item for the December meeting for the Board to consider. Trustee Strauss continued, the issue of whether the state should fund higher education is not a partisan issue. We need to address impact on economic development through the region, the issues of fairness to students that are going to be asked soon to pay tuition for the second semester, as well as fairness and ability to plan for our faculty and staff who have other options for employment and have to view the tenuous nature of the state financing is a real challenge in their daily existence. Baker noted there are a lot of people being significantly damaged by this and essentially what the governor told the DeKalb County Economic Development Council when he was here two weeks ago was that there's going to have to be more pressure and it's going to come from some parts of the state closing down or having giant layoffs to create enough energy to change it. We had local service providers and many of them got up and spoke about the damage being done in our community with people being turned away from homeless shelters or shelters for abused women in the community month. I appreciate the faculty, staff, and particularly the students who organized the rally. Representative Pritchard was there and spoke as well.

Chair Murer continued, Chicago Tribune’s front page yesterday talked about moving the center of think tanks to the Midwest/Chicago and to lessen the focus on both coasts. In particular because of the $100 million gift to the University of Chicago's Harris School and the million dollar gift to Northwestern University by Buffet's sister. That doesn’t include the other $100 million that Northwestern got from the Pritzker's for their law school. If I were a politician, if I were a mayor, if I were a business person in this arena, I certainly would find this appalling to see on the front page of the Chicago Tribune - commendations for $100 million gifts, which is wonderful – commendations for our private universities to take the national leadership – but there are a lot people here that need to be educated that cannot go to the University of Chicago and Northwestern University to benefit from those extraordinary philanthropic gifts. We need to be protected by our government, by our state government. To say that the anger and the sense of being vehement about this at some point, it needs to happen before we have total catastrophe. And if our leaders are waiting for total catastrophe, it may be around the corner. Thank you.
Agenda Item 7.b. Sponsored Programs Administration (written item only - no presentation)

Agenda Item 7.c. Research Collaborations with Laboratories

Chair Murer introduced the next information item by beginning, ‘moving on to something positive in terms of what we are doing here at NIU and the heart of what we talk about in this committee is the research that we're doing and about the contributions that this university is making on a national and global basis with our relationships with Fermilab. I would like to turn this over to our committee liaison Jerry Blazey.

Dr. Blazey thanked the Chair and the Board and continued, ‘As part of our continuing look into the research enterprise at NIU, I wanted to pivot away from physics in particular towards our research partnerships with local institutions and the importance to our research enterprise. NIU has enjoyed a long tradition of close collaboration with the two nearby national laboratories. Internationally, we’re starting to be a stronger collaborator with the particle physics laboratory in Geneva, Switzerland, CERN, and we've also started to expand our institutional partnerships in a meaningful way with one of the local educational institutions, Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science. One of the ways you can get a feel for the strength of our collaboration and the importance to our research enterprise is by looking at the financial numbers, which describe how much research we do with both Argonne and Fermilab. With Argonne we have a strong participation from three departments in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology and from three departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The total for three fiscal years from both colleges is around $10 million. I remind you that over that time our sponsored research is something around $90 million, so that's a very significant fraction. If you do the same quick analysis for Fermilab, you can see that there's two departments involved. Traditionally it's been physics, but recently we started a very nice interdisciplinary program with mechanical engineering. The total over those three years is about $7.3 million. There's a little more detail in there but I think the main take-away is that two colleges are involved and it's $17 million over three years which is about 20% of our total research portfolio. One of the points to make is that these lead to a great number of opportunities for our students. I want to give the board a sense of the depth of these collaborations and what it means to our faculty and our students. Recently we became involved in the Argonne Collaborative Center for Energy Storage Sciences. One of our faculty members, Professor Schroeder, is actually the deputy director of that in a joint appointment, and that is very good for both our reputation and our access to their energy storage programs. Many of our faculty use the advance photons source for their research. We utilize the electron microscopy center and we have collaborations with the material science, energy systems, and the high energy physics division. Argonne is trying to be a source of this expertise for people who want to deal with energy storage problems. At Fermilab, we're currently involved through the Northern Illinois Center for Accelerator and Detector Design, which is in the College of Arts and Science, and through high energy physics experiments and accelerator science. In terms of experiments, we're involved in the Mu2e collaboration, a $230 million project. We built an accelerator Research Concentration of Excellence, or what I’m calling an RCE. This is a joint venture with Fermilab to build regional strength in accelerator science. We have entered into a $6 million cooperative research and development agreement called a CRADA. It's a very well-developed instrument that DOE uses to enter into development collaborations. Both institutions are putting around $3 million into this. It will eventually lead to six NIU accelerator scientists, which arguably is the largest university group in the country. It's led by Dr. Swapan Chattopadhyay, formerly the leading director of the Cockcroft Institute in the UK and we recently hired Dr. Michael Syphers, who is a leading accelerator physicist from MSU. We've had a very successful collaborative seed grant with Rosalind Franklin. It's been extremely successful because the expertise and capabilities are complementary. Five of nine proposals were selected by me and my counterpart, the vice president of research from Rosalind Franklin, for a total funding of $227K; NIU put in $150K, and Rosalind Franklin $77K. When we can't compensate people in the traditional ways, we have to be more imaginative and appeal to their interest in doing research, collaborating, teaching, and
outreach. It’s relatively inexpensive and it has had great impact. Finally, the collaborations with regional institutions have been and remain strong. They’re very diverse and cover a lot of disciplines.

**Agenda Item 7.d. Research Concentrations**

Dr. Blazey continued with the next presentation on the agenda. The next thing I wanted to talk about was enhancing NIU’s capabilities with Research Concentrations of Excellence. The main idea is to significantly grow NIU as a leading research institution, but it’s building on two things; existing areas of research and leveraging our proximity to Chicago’s world leadership in innovation and research. Second, engage students in research and artistry in a faculty driven and student initiated way. So I take that as the requirements of any cluster we’re going to go forward on; strength, leveraging the area, and make sure it’s faculty and student driven research. Next thing you have to do is leverage investments with partner institutions and then smoothly transition the center to a college or a more natural unit within the university. This research concentration of excellence is one possible framework to complement and respond to program prioritization.

Chair Murer thanked Dr. Blazey for the presentation and continued, ‘I also want to thank you for your pragmatism in your presentation in that you do talk about return on investment and understand the reality and it looks like we have a pretty good return when we’re getting more than what we’re spending and it’s turning over pretty quickly. We talk about Fermilab, we talk about Argonne, and then we talk about our own regional, local institutions of higher education that we collaborate with. I think that was very good and I hope we continue to see that.

**OTHER MATTERS**

No other matters were discussed.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Legislative Affairs, Research and Innovation Committee will be Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Murer asked for a motion to adjourn. Trustee Marc Strauss so moved and Trustee Wheeler Coleman seconded. The motion was approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cathy J. Cradduck
Recording Secretary

*In compliance with Illinois Open Meetings Act 5 ILCS 120/1, et seq, a verbatim record of all Northern Illinois University Board of Trustees meetings is maintained by the Board Recording Secretary and is available for review upon request. The minutes contained herein represent a true and accurate summary of the Board proceedings.*
STATE LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

We are in the 8th month of FY 2016 and yet there is still no comprehensive statewide budget in place. However, there are several budget bills under consideration right now and yesterday the Governor unveiled his spending plan for FY 2017. This item summarizes the higher education budget proposals currently pending for FY 2016 and will provide some details on the Governor’s FY 2017 budget address.

Regarding the impact of the budget impasse on Illinois public universities, two weeks ago Eastern Illinois University announced 200 layoffs, furlough days, and cutbacks needed to make it through the spring semester and on February 4th, the Chicago State University Board of Trustees declared financial exigency to allow them to manage the University’s limited, remaining funds in order to complete the spring semester. On that same day, the Higher Learning Commission sent the Governor and members of the general assembly a letter citing the budget impasse as a major setback for public universities that ultimately could result in a loss of eligibility for federal student aid programs and accreditation. All Illinois public universities and community colleges received an individualized letter from HLC requesting information about their particular financial situation and plans for the future.

The General Assembly is currently considering three higher education funding bills:

**Senate Bill 2043**
Status: Passed Both Houses/Delivered to the Governor

This legislation appropriates $397 million to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) for the Monetary Award Program (MAP). The bill also includes $324 million for Community Colleges for base operating grants, equalization grants, and adult education and career and technical education grants. This measure does not include any funding for public universities.

**House Bill 4539**
Status: First Reading/Assigned to the Rules Committee

This legislation appropriates $373 million to ISAC for MAP grants and reduces funding for Community Colleges grants and programs by 10% and reduces funding for public universities by 20%. This legislation appropriates $72.8 million to NIU for FY 2016 which reflects a 20% or $18.2 million reduction in funding from the FY 2015 final appropriation.

**Senate Bill 2269**
Status: First Reading/Assigned to Rules Committee

This legislation funds public universities at FY 2015 final appropriation levels. For NIU, this totals $91.1 million.
Figure A
FY2016 Budget Proposals (Summary)
General Funds
($ in millions)

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<th>Legislation</th>
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The Governor's FY 2017 Budget Proposal:

Yesterday the Governor addressed the members of the Illinois General Assembly and unveiled his state budget proposal for FY 2017. The budget book released by the Governor’s Office of Management and Budget indicates that the state general fund spending plan proposed by the Governor for next year totals $32.8 billion in resources, $36.4 billion in expenditures and $3.5 billion in "working together or executive management" savings.

In his prepared remarks, the Governor reiterated his support for early childhood and K-12 education. Budget book figures indicate that funding for early childhood development, funded through the State Board of Education would increase more than 20% from $404.3 million in FY 2016 to $488.7 million in FY 2017. The Governor also noted in his remarks that funding for the General State Aid formula would increase under his plan. With regard to higher education, the Governor's proposed budget increases funding for community colleges through base operating grants, equalization grants and a $9 million lump sum for performance funding. Funding for the Monetary Award Program, however is held at the FY 2015 final appropriation level of $364.8 million. Funding for public universities, in the Governor's budget plan would be reduced by 20% from the FY 2015 final appropriation level. With regards to capital funding, the budget book acknowledges the $3.8 million backlog in deferred maintenance at public universities and community colleges, but the proposed budget includes only $300 million to the Capital Development Board for deferred maintenance at all state owned facilities statewide. Those funds are contingent on the issuance of general obligation bond debt. There are no project or construction funds specifically identified for universities.
## Illinois Higher Education Budget

**FY 2016 & FY 2017 Higher Education Budget Development**

**General Funds Appropriations for Public Universities, MAP and UIC**

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**ISAC/Institutional Award Programs**

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* Includes General Revenue Funds and Education Assistance Funds

@ Approximated amount of funds included in base budgets and reallocated based on performance non-add.

+ Lump Sum Grant in IHHE Budget
FEDERAL REPORT

Congress

2016 is an election year for the President and Vice President of the United States, all members of the U.S. House of Representatives, and one-third of the U.S. Senate including the seat currently held by Senator Mark Kirk of Illinois. The demands of an election year may result in limited legislative progress this year. Anticipated areas of legislative action for 2016 include college affordability, health initiatives, and criminal justice reform.

Key Legislation

Addressing college affordability is a popular issue on Capitol Hill. Recently introduced legislation in the Senate includes the Reducing Educational Debt (RED) Act which would let borrowers refinance their federal and private student loans at a lower interest rate, index future Pell Grant awards to inflation, provide a federal match of $3 for every dollar invested by the state to waive community college tuition and fees for eligible students before other financial aid is applied. In the House, the America’s College Promise Act would authorize the Department of Education to waive tuition and fees at community colleges.

Congress continues to work on the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Members of the House and Senate education committees are optimistic that they will make significant progress this year in light of their successful reauthorization of the K-12 education No Child Left Behind Act in 2015.

FY16 and FY17 Federal Budget

In November 2015, Congress passed a $1.15 trillion discretionary spending Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) appropriations package to fund all federal agencies through September 2016. Importantly, Congress raised the budget sequester caps by $50 billion for FY16 and by $30 billion for FY17. The FY16 budget was generally favorable (i.e. flat or increased funding) for areas of interest to NIU in education and research. The chart below details FY16 funding for NIU's top federal funding agencies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal Agency</th>
<th>FY16 Funding Level ($ millions)</th>
<th>Change from FY15 ($ millions)</th>
<th>% change from FY15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Science Foundation</td>
<td>7,463</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Institutes of Health</td>
<td>32,084</td>
<td>2,000</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Energy, Office of Science</td>
<td>5,350</td>
<td>279</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Education, Pell Grant Program</td>
<td>22,500*</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The FY16 appropriation provides for the scheduled $140 increase in the maximum Pell award to $5,915 for the 2016-2017 school year when combined with other mandatory funding.

For FY17, President Obama is expected to introduce his budget in early February and it will indicate his priorities for his final year in office. Speaker of the House Paul Ryan expects to have an orderly and
complete appropriations process this year. The Obama administration propose two expansions of the Pell grant program at a total cost of $2 billion. The first, Pell for Accelerated Completion, would allow students to receive up to three grant awards in an academic year. The program would provide qualifying full-time students with Pell funds year round, including an additional $1,915, on average. The second proposal, On-Track Pell Bonus, would provide an additional $300 to students who take at least 15 credits per semester.

**The Administration**

**State of the Union**
President Obama mentioned issues of importance to higher education during his State of the Union address on January 12, 2016. President Obama cited increasing student debt as justification for his renewed commitment to push for free community college for all students. President Obama also mentioned launching a new ‘moonshot’ national initiative, to be led by VP Biden, aimed at curing cancer. On the topic of research, President Obama called for robust investment in developing clean energy sources.

**Federal Engagement with NIU**

**Congressional Welcome Letter for NIU STEMfest**
Nine members of the Illinois congressional delegation signed a welcome letter for NIU’s annual STEMfest on October 17, 2015 which was featured in the event brochure. The letter praised the “world-class STEM researchers, educators, and innovators at Northern Illinois University” and expressed their bipartisan commitment to funding STEM education. Members of Congress who signed the letter include Sens. Durbin and Kirk, Reps. Bustos, Duckworth, Foster, Hultgren, Kelly, Kinzinger, Lipinski.

**Rep. Kinzinger Welcomes NIU CSEAS Academic Fellows**
SPONSORED PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

In the second quarter (October 1 - December 30) of FY 2016, 58 faculty and staff submitted 70 proposals totaling over $21 million and 27 faculty and staff received 33 awards totaling $7.5 million. Cumulative funding to date is up by 10% over FY 15 with just over $14 million in current year funding. Figure 1 below outlines cumulative funding to date by agency and activity type.

Figure 1
Funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Commerce, and National Science Foundation (NSF) continue to be NIU’s top sources for federal funding. NIU’s strong ties within the region are evident in the proportion of collaborative funding from the Department of Commerce and Department of Energy (DOE). Commerce funding supports NIU’s work with the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) while DOE funding reflects our ongoing partnerships with Argonne National Laboratory and Fermilab.

Table 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Federal Agency</th>
<th>Direct Funding</th>
<th>Collaborative Funding</th>
<th>Direct and Collaborative Funding</th>
<th>% of Total Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Education (USED)</td>
<td>$1,484,821</td>
<td>$555,581</td>
<td>$2,040,402</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Commerce (DOC)</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,591,157</td>
<td>$1,591,157</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Science Foundation (NSF)</td>
<td>$1,107,969</td>
<td>$22,827</td>
<td>$1,130,796</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Energy (DOE)</td>
<td>$54,000</td>
<td>$855,028</td>
<td>$909,028</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Agriculture (USDA)</td>
<td>$30,000</td>
<td>$501,199</td>
<td>$531,199</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Agencies</td>
<td>$1,226,821</td>
<td>$72,994</td>
<td>$1,299,815</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$3,903,611</td>
<td>$3,598,786</td>
<td>$7,502,397</td>
<td>100.00%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2 below outlines funding by College/Unit according to activity. Research funding in the academic colleges is primarily concentrated in Liberal Arts and Sciences (CLAS), Engineering and Engineering Technology (CEET), and Health and Human Sciences (HHS). These funds represent competitive grants from Federal and private agencies as well as industry supported research and development. Research funding under Other Academic Units reflects the previously mentioned IMEC funding administered through the Provost’s Office.

The significant portion of funding for Instruction/Public Service projects in CLAS and Outreach and Engagement primarily reflects State of Illinois contracts for the provision of court ordered social services and training activities.

Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Instruction/ Public Service</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Business</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
<td>$12,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>$4,431</td>
<td>$771,782</td>
<td>$776,213</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering and</td>
<td>$435,459</td>
<td>$88,451</td>
<td>$523,910</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering Technology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Human Sciences</td>
<td>$186,366</td>
<td>$16,250</td>
<td>$202,616</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberal Arts and</td>
<td>$2,690,691</td>
<td>$4,657,145</td>
<td>$7,347,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach and Engagement</td>
<td>$27,501</td>
<td>$3,482,876</td>
<td>$3,510,377</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visual and Performing Arts</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Academic Units</td>
<td>$1,691,180</td>
<td>$22,104</td>
<td>$1,713,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other University Units</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
<td>$7,500</td>
<td>$17,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$5,045,628</strong></td>
<td><strong>$9,058,608</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,104,236</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Faculty continue to collaborate across discipline lines to secure external funds. Table 3 outlines the portion of FY 16 funding to date that has been supported by or secured through NIU’s interdisciplinary units.

Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY 16 Funding to Date</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Interdisciplinary Centers/ Institutes</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for the Study of Family Violence and Sexual Assault</td>
<td>$ 3,568,451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northern Illinois Center for Accelerator and Detector Development</td>
<td>$ 1,286,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for Southeast Asian Studies</td>
<td>$ 750,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nano Science, Engineering, and Technology</td>
<td>$ 168,317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute for the Study of Environment, Sustainability &amp; Energy</td>
<td>$266,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Center for the Interdisciplinary Study of Language &amp; Literacy</td>
<td>$ 241, 161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$6,281,245</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
RESEARCH IN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

College of Education faculty and staff are active researchers, with a number of ongoing projects that connect research to classroom teaching and community needs/demands. Throughout the college, faculty are engaged in large-scale research projects that include partnerships with other universities and community agencies, as well as faculty working on smaller projects oriented around particular education policy issues. Currently, faculty are involved as primary investigators (PIs) and co-PIs, or as part of research teams with other colleges and universities, on 17 research and training grants totaling over $8 million over the life of the grants. In addition to these funded projects, faculty and staff across the six academic departments in the college conduct a number of innovative research projects on numerous topics, including:

- Science and technology education
- Technology and integration in instruction
- Role of mobile technologies in teaching life skills to individuals with developmental disabilities
- Curriculum, accountability, and assessment
- Reading and literacy, including for adult learners and for non-native English speakers
- ESL/Bilingual instructional design
- Sport management and athletic training
- Civic engagement and democratic education
- Training of students with visual impairments
- Alcohol, sport, and college and national policy
- Rise of college athletics and effect on campus
- College access and transition from high school
- Diversity and multiculturalism in higher education
- Mental health, counseling, and identity
- School funding and effect of unequal distribution across districts
- Youth sport and social change
- Youth and student empowerment and engagement
- School lunch and nutrition policies
- Educational motivation

These are just a few examples, and faculty have received grants for these and other projects from multiple sources, including the Spencer Foundation, the US Department of Education, and the National Science Foundation, in addition to other agencies and foundations. Overall, in 2014, faculty and staff in the college published 13 books, 46 book chapters, and 152 articles, and presented over 350 presentations at national and international conferences.

Woven across many of the projects in the college is a focus on research that often has clear, immediate applicability to the work of K-12 and higher education classrooms and to community centers and agencies. Another consistent characteristic is the way in which projects include multiple partners in other universities throughout the state and country, and even globally. Faculty in the college further strive to involve graduate students and undergraduate students in many of their research projects, which helps these students develop their scholarly abilities and interests.

There are many projects to highlight, but one in particular that exemplifies research across the college, that involves external partners, and that includes undergraduate and graduate students is the work of Paul Wright. Dr. Wright holds the Lane/Zimmerman Endowed Professorship in the Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education (KNPE), and has developed an action-oriented research agenda that
centers on the design, implementation, and evaluation of sport and physical activity programs for youth. In particular, he is an expert on the Teaching Personal and Social Responsibility (TPSR) instructional model. This model and his research explore how physical activity can be a vehicle to teach life skills, such as leadership and goal setting. Supported by grants from the Fulbright Program, the US Department of State, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, his work takes him around the world. He has explored coaching programs and practices in Belize while also exploring sport intervention programs in a local middle school. As part of his research, he includes direct programming for local youth, professional development for teachers and coaches, as well as program and policy development with schools and community organizations. With his commitment to mentoring students and working with the community, he involves undergraduate and graduate students in his research, which allows NIU students to apply academic content in real-world situations. In short, his research focus generates important scholarship while making a difference in the lives of individuals and communities at NIU, in DeKalb, and globally.

To support the research that Dr. Wright conducts and to support the development of strong research among faculty at all stages in their careers, the College of Education has implemented a number of key initiatives:

- The restructuring of positions to ensure that there is staff time dedicated to building partnerships with schools and community agencies. This staff time is essential for helping faculty and staff make contacts in schools and agencies, so that they are able to conduct their research in real-world settings and in a way that benefits schools and communities.
- Support from the dean’s office, through a Dean’s Grant program, to provide funding for smaller research projects. This program also is geared toward helping faculty develop pilot projects that may lead to successful applications for external grants.
- The development of regular workshops and events to highlight faculty and staff research and to build research capacity among students and faculty, including:
  - An upcoming workshop in February for undergraduate students. Titled “Recycling Classwork into Research Projects,” this forum will help to demystify the research process for undergraduates and encourage them to get involved with research;
  - A similar workshop in March for graduate students.
- The creation of a Student Research Symposium for graduate and undergraduate students. To be held on April 21, this conference will allow students to present their research, share ideas, and learn from each other in a supportive setting. For many students, this is the type of experience they need prior to presenting their research at state and national conferences.
- Support for Writing Groups for faculty who are working on similar or cross-disciplinary topics. Designed to provide a venue so that faculty can share their research agendas with each other and get input and feedback, these writing groups also help faculty develop collaborative projects with colleagues.
- The hosting of regular faculty research presentations over lunch where faculty and staff can learn from each other and hear about the exciting work that everyone in the college is doing.

Many of these initiatives are led by faculty and are based on their ideas, as well as on the needs that undergraduate and graduate students identified through a college-wide survey. These are just a few initiatives within the college to support and further the innovative, engaging research currently taking place.