Vice Chairman John Land welcomed all to the January Board of Trustees meeting and stated he wanted to move into executive session.

Vice Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to go into executive session to discuss legal and personnel matters at 1:35 p.m.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting resumed in open session at 2:00 p.m.
1/10/08

Vice Chairman Land announced that if anyone wished to record the audio portion of the meeting, Delaware law requires that they announce their intention before they begin recording and that minutes of this meeting will be taken and made available once approved. There was one individual who asked for permission to record the open sessions of the meeting, i.e. a private citizen.

Following the agenda, Vice Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2007 meeting of the Board of Trustees.

The motion passed unanimously.

After the motion was passed, Vice Chairman Land called for Committee Reports.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (Dr. John Land, chair)

Vice Chairman Land reported that the Student Affairs Committee met with the Public Safety & Security Department’s Administrative Staff on January 9, 2008. Vice Chairman Land commented that he visited the Security Dispatch facility last year and that they are using cutting edge technology. He commented that during the meeting on 1/9/08, Chief Overton gave an excellent presentation on crime stats at the University in comparison with other schools in the MEAC (Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference). Vice Chairman Land yielded the floor to Chief Overton who commented on the Department of Public Safety’s accomplishments and the path forward. Chief Overton stated that the last two Homecoming events were incident free. He commented on the high-tech improvements, i.e. blue light technology on campus, increased lighting and the dispatch center were instituted without any budgetary increases. Chief Overton commented on a text messaging program that is pending upon approval by the administration and Board of Trustees.

Vice Chairman Land returned to the chair, and commented that the text messaging system would be a web-based set up, with group distribution lists with remote messaging capabilities to flow information to different lists or groups. He stated this proposal was presented during the Finance Committee meeting held on 1/10/08 which was tabled for further discussion and information gathering purposes. President Sessoms indicated that a resolution on the emergency notification system should be forthcoming in a couple of weeks. Dr. Land commented that the presentation given by Chief Overton would be forwarded to Board Members for their information.
A brief discussion ensued regarding security and police presence at the DSU versus UD Football Game. Mr. Costello commented that the game had a huge impact on DSU’s recruitment effort as a result of the game being nationally televised on ESPN. Mrs. Curry stated there was a “pop” in enrollment, and good response from the public relation side to track prospective students (especially out of state).

Vice Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report from the Student Affairs Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE (Dr. A. Richard Barros, chair)

Dr. Barros was not able to attend the Board meeting; therefore, there was no report by the Educational Policy Committee. There were no items for Board action.

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE (Mr. Marvin Lawrence & Ms. Richelle Vible, Co-Chairs)

Ms. Vible reported that the Finance Committee met during October, November, December 2007, and January 10, 2008. She commented that the operating budget from December 2007 was on track. The University closed bond financing as approved during the September Board meeting. She commended Mr. Amir Mohammadi and the Finance and Administration staff for all their hard work.

The discussion turned to the State of DE giving more financial support to the University. Mr. Oliver commented that the University has needs and should put pressure on Governor Minner for more financial support. Dr. Sessoms indicated the Governor has a tall task of balancing the budget and that the University needs to build better facilities, we asked, but the money is not there. The University will continue to make its case to push its budget request through.

In other matters, President Sessoms commented that the Schwartz Center is currently operating in the black.

Vice Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report of the Finance Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.
1/10/08

THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENTS (Mr. Marvin Lawrence, chair)

In the absence of Mr. Lawrence, Mrs. Carolyn Curry reported that the Development and Investments Committee met on January 10, 2008. She commented on the following highlights: on-line giving is a reality, E-Solicitation on giving by corporate and foundation grants tripled thanks to Caroline Glackin, and the Committee received an investment report which contained information on the 2008 economic forecast. President Sessoms remarked positively on the DSU on-line giving link.

Vice Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report of the Committee on Development and Investments.

The motion passed unanimously.

AUDIT COMMITTEE (Mr. Jose Echeverri, chair)

Mr. Echeverri reported that the Audit Committee met on December 10, 2007. He commented that the annual audit report was very good and the internal audit continues to work to educate faculty and staff to help keep costs down. Mr. Echeverri stated that an RFP would be prepared for financial management services as the three year term is due to expire for the University’s current financial management service provider. He commented that the RFP will contain the University’s goals on what returns should be.

Vice Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report of the Audit Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE (Dr. John Land, chair)

Vice Chairman Land reported that the Buildings and Grounds Committee met on January 10, 2008. He commented that the MCI budget is on target and under budget for FY07-08 projects (i.e. dorm renovations). He commented that the new student center and pool projects are on schedule and due to be completed by December 2009.

A brief discussion ensued on the status of the Civic Center. The City of Dover is expecting a report that will be presented on Monday, January 14, 2008 on this matter. According to President Sessoms, DSU is taking steps to move ahead without the DCCC.

Vice Chairman Land asked for and received a motion that was seconded to accept the report from the Buildings and Grounds Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.
NOMINATING COMMITTEE (Mr. Charles McDowell, chair)

Mr. McDowell stated that he did not have anything to report and there were no items for Board action.

THE PRESIDENT’S REPORT (Dr. Allen Lee Sessoms, president)

President Sessoms gave the following report:

• Happy New Year to everyone! We look forward to a very productive academic semester. It is off to a very good start.
• 77 of our athletes have been recognized for academic excellence by our athletic conference, this is the largest number ever.
• Two football athletes have been recognized nationally as academic All Americans. We will celebrate them at the next Board Meeting.
• Ben Goertz, a senior TV Production major, has been selected by NBC Sports for the 2008 Olympic Internship Program and will spend July and August in Beijing, video assisting at the Olympics.
• He was chosen from a pool of over 1000 applicants for 107 positions.
• In addition, seven of our Mass Communication students are going to Beijing next month to continue their Chinese language studies and they will be working through the Beijing Sports University as interns at the Olympics.
• We are beginning to work hard on the assessment issues related to the accreditation process with Middle States.
• This was discussed extensively at Tuesday’s general faculty meeting and I am pleased to note that the faculty has taken a major role in this process.
• Given the federal pressures on accreditation agencies, all colleges and universities are experiencing closer scrutiny by the accrediting agencies. The discussions in DC continue.
• We do not expect a final legislative package for sometime but there are issues on the extension of the HEA that are problematic. I will discuss this with the Board as the issues become more clearly defined.
• I expect three new Ph.D. programs to be initiated this fall in Neuroscience, Applied Optics, and Applied Chemistry.
• These are essential to the University’s future development and we look forward to shepherding them to fruition.
• Our provost search continues. It will be concluded before the end of May.
• We are close to concluding our search for a new Dean of Education. That should be resolved by the end of this month.
• As we reported, our construction projects are well underway. If you haven’t done so, I recommend a short walk around campus to get a sense of the progress to date.
• Finally, I would like to introduce Dr. Eurmon Hervey, an MLI mentee, who will be shadowing me from time to time. Dr. Hervey introduced himself.
President Sessoms concluded his report and yielded to the Vice Chairman of the Board. Vice Chairman Land asked for public comments. There were two individuals who signed up for public comment as follows: Mr. Robert Reeder and Mr. Syl Woolford.

Mr. Reeder commented that he intended to file a complaint with the state attorney general’s office alleging a June Board teleconference meeting broke Freedom of Information Act standards. He read the complaint letter which alleges that a quorum was not present in a single place (physically present in a single geographic place), thus an illegal meeting and perhaps a secret meeting took place. He commented that the Board of Trustees should follow the law. He provided the Board with a copy of his letter.

Mr. Woolford commented that the Board of Trustees should obey the laws of FOIA (Freedom of Information Act). He commented that DSU is a public institution, using public funds and he thanked Mr. Reeder for his comments. He commented on racial discrimination suits that were filed in December. He concluded by stating that the University practice self-policing and should obey the law.

Following public comments, the meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Land, Vice Chairman
For Claibourne D. Smith, Chairman

Cynthia Y. Williams, Board Secretary
1. The Board went into Executive Session to discuss personnel and legal matters.
2. The Board reconvened in regular session.
3. Approved the minutes of the meeting of September 13, 2007.
4. Accepted the report from the Student Affairs Committee.
5. Accepted the non-report from the Educational Policy Committee.
6. Accepted the report from the Committee on Finance.
7. Accepted the report from the Committee on Development and Investments.
8. Accepted the report from the Audit Committee.
9. Accepted the report from the Committee on Buildings and Grounds.
10. Accepted the non-report from the Nominating Committee.
11. Approved adjournment.