

**Board of Regents Meeting**  
**Northern Kentucky University, Student Union, Room 104**  
**January 9, 2013**

Regent Terry L. Mann, Chair, Called the regular meeting of the board of Regents to order at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 9, 2013.

**Roll Call:** Richard A. Boehne, Martin C. Butler, Jacqueline S. Emerine, Virginia G. Fox, Terry L. Mann, Stephen A. Meier, Dennis Repenning, Erik Pederson, Nathaniel G. Smith, Elizabeth L. Thompson, Brenda L. Wilson

Other Attendees: Geoffrey S. Mearns, Kathryn Herschede, Tammy Knochelmann, Wendy Peek, Sara Sidebottom, Lisa Rhine, Gerry St. Amand, Gail Wells, Ken Ramey, Joe Wind, Sue Hodges Moore, Scott Eaton, Tracy Insko, Chris Bowling, Bill Farro, Leslie Hurst, Stephanie Vogel, Don Gorbandt, Jeff Waple, Jason Willis, Karen Kruer, Peggy DeJaco, Jeff Smith, Karen Campbell, Maggie Gough, Kim Baker, Joe Webb, Kevin Kuykendall, Rick Kolbe, Sarah Aikman, Larry Meyer, Kathy Stewart, Tim Sofranko, Deidre Fajak, Ken Kline, Russ Kerdolff, Rick Meyers, Brent Donaldson, Chris Cole, Cliff Peale, Kevin Kirby, Lori Southwood, Lea Stewart, Paul Orscheln, Jan Hillard, Vicki Natale, Larry Blake, Claire Higgins, Kevin Schultz, Denise Robinson, Arnie Schlachter, Mary Paula Schuh

Regent Erik Pederson seconded Regent Nathaniel Smith's motion to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2012 Board of Regents meeting. **(Motion carried)**

**Presidential Comments:**

I'd like to wish each of you a happy and healthy New Year. I am confident that many great opportunities lie ahead in 2013 for the university. Two significant opportunities come to mind immediately.

First, 2013 will be a year of planning – and continuous progress. On Friday, we'll have our Spring Convocation. The purpose of this convocation is for me to talk about three topics. First, I will share the results from my listening tour and survey. I have held 24 listening sessions and received approximately 600 email responses to the survey I sent out in September. Second, I will share some of our accomplishments related to our current strategic plan, *Points of Focus*. Finally, I will share more information about the future strategic planning process, including the membership of our strategic plan steering committee. The strategic plan represents an important opportunity for us to focus our efforts and continue our progress on behalf of the university and our region. As important as the planning will be the execution of our plan. The plan is just the beginning. The most meaningful work will occur after the plan is adopted.

The second important opportunity that 2013 brings is the opening of the Student Success Center. The greatest opportunity is not the renovation of the building, but rather the synergy of our work across multiple divisions to best serve our students. We have been working for the past several months to cross-train the staff in the Student Success Center and to find joint opportunities in our

work. The focus of everything that happens in the Center will be the support of our students. In addition to our collaborative efforts, we hope the Center will be a one-stop center for students. In terms of the facility, we are on track for occupancy of the plaza level in late February and anticipate we will have occupancy of the first floor level later this year.

I also wanted to share a few other important items:

### **Enrollment Management**

We are monitoring our retention and new student applications for spring closely. As of Friday, our spring enrollment is consistent with budget projections. While we have slight declines in overall undergraduate and graduate enrollment, we have growth in undergraduate non-residents. New freshmen and new transfers are also up a bit.

Our fall 2013 numbers are trending up in every category. Freshman applications are up more than 40 percent and admitted students are up more than 45 percent. Most importantly, confirmation fees are up by nearly 100 students compared to this time last year.

### **Leadership Searches**

As you know, we are currently in the process of searching for four major university leadership positions – Dean of the College of Education and Human Services, Dean of the Chase College of Law, Vice President for Student Affairs and Vice President for University Advancement.

Both dean searches are proceeding well. As of today, the pools are still being developed, and we anticipate that semifinalists will be identified later this month. We hope to have on-campus finalist interviews in March.

The VP for Student Affairs search is nearing completion. Finalists will be on campus this month. It is my intention to make a hiring decision by March 1.

Finally, we are in the initial phases of the VP for University Advancement search. Ken Ramey will be chairing this search, and I will appoint a search committee soon. I anticipate we will use a consultant for this search.

### **Graduation**

We had an outstanding commencement last month with more graduates than in fall 2011. Overall, we believe we will have at least five percent growth in fall graduates. We hope to continue this positive trend with spring graduation.

### **Tobacco-Free Policy**

In just a few minutes, I will ask you to take action on a tobacco-free policy. As was shared this morning, the University of Kentucky and Morehead State University are already tobacco-free and the University of Louisville is smoke-free. In the United States, 1,130 campuses are tobacco

or smoke-free. This recommended action is consistent with the university's ongoing commitment to support and create an environment that is clean, healthy and safe for all members of the campus community. Approving this policy gives two charges to me and the university. They are:

1. To adopt a "tobacco-free" campus policy. The transition toward the policy adoption will be deliberate, with input from the campus community on how best to put our new policy into practice, ensuring that the needs of the university's varied constituents are fully understood. It is understood that this transition will take 12-18 months.
2. To appoint a Tobacco-Free Campus Task Force to provide recommendations for this transition, which will address, through the work of subcommittees, issues related to specific policy implementation plans. Such plans will reflect a commitment to respecting the voices and needs of all our campus constituents, including students, faculty, staff, visitors as well as our community neighbors.

I support this proposed policy. And, if you approve this recommendation, we are prepared to proceed with implementation.

In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation to the members of the Strategic Planning Committee, as well as to the many other women and men who will serve on the various working groups. As you know, this process is vital to the future of our university, and I am grateful to all who are contributing to our success.

I also want to thank our faculty and staff who have been preparing diligently over the winter break for the start of the spring semester. The beginning of an academic term is always an opportunity for renewal and reinvigoration. We look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday.

**A. Joint Finance and Policy Committee Summary:** (Reports given by Dennis Repenning, Secretary)

### **Strategic Planning**

This morning, President Mearns, Sue Hodges Moore (Vice President for Planning, Policy, and Budget) and Vickie Natale (Executive Director of Planning and Performance) made a presentation on the university's 2013 strategic planning process. They reviewed the steps that were undertaken this fall to seek feedback from the university about the upcoming process, which included a planning collaboration retreat as well as meetings with deans, chairs, leadership of the Staff Congress, Faculty Senate and Student Government Association, and directors and administrators. They also reviewed the key elements of strategic planning, guiding principles, role of the strategic planning committee and seven work groups, plans for stakeholder involvement, and the overall timeline. Finally, President Mearns introduced the members of the Strategic Planning Committee.

### **Tobacco Free Policy Presentation**

Lori Southwood, Senior Director of Human Resources and Karen Campbell, Director of Wellness, presented an overview of the efforts to promote and adopt tobacco-free environments on college and university campuses across the nation. Discussion points highlighted current trends, health and economic impacts, and best practices related to tobacco-free policy adoption.

The presentation provided valuable information for the Board to evaluate and give full consideration for progressing towards adopting and implementing a tobacco-free campus policy within the next 12-18 months pursuant to our vote this afternoon. Such an effort would include the development of a broad task force that would be representative of a wide array of key stakeholders, who would work collaboratively to identify needs and concerns related to policy development, communication, tobacco treatment/cessation, compliance and neighborhood impacts.

### **Campus Beautification Presentation**

This morning the Board heard a presentation from the Campus Beautification Committee which is comprised of Facilities Management staff from the custodial, grounds, horticulture and skilled trades areas. The committee was co-chaired by Mary Lee Schott, the university's interior designer and Ray Mirizzi, Director of Operations and Maintenance.

The committee was created at the request of President Mearns to consider ways to further enhance campus appearance. The committee recommended five possible projects: The addition of student artwork installations throughout campus; upgrades to the traffic circle on Nunn Drive; additional exterior campus directories that are multi-sided and internally illuminated; upgrades to the campus bus shelters; and the addition of exterior planters throughout campus including hanging baskets. Funding totaling \$50,000 will be made available by President Mearns to begin implementation of these initiatives. The committee is to be commended for their efforts.

### **Sabbatical Presentations**

This morning Dr. Gail Wells, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, presented an overview of the three faculty development programs offered at NKU – sabbatical leaves, summer fellowships, and project grants.

Dr. Miriam Kannan, Regents Professor, Department of Biological Sciences and Dr. Vanessa Hunn, Assistant Professor, Department of Counseling, Social Work and Leadership shared their recent professional development experiences with the Board.

A booklet summarizing 2011-12 faculty development award activities was shared with the Board.

The Board of Regents approved the report. **(Motion carried)**

### **Audit Committee Summary** (Report given by Dennis Repenning, Secretary)

The audit committee met on January 8<sup>th</sup> with Larry Meyer, Director of the Financial and Operational Audit Office, Vice President Ken Ramey and President Mearns to discuss recent internal audit activity. This was one of three regularly scheduled meetings between the Internal Auditor and the Committee.

Larry provided a report on the activity completed by his office since our last meeting in September. He gave the committee an update on the progress made to correct the two recommendations submitted by our external auditors as part of their year-end testing. We anticipate that these items will be resolved before Dean Dorton returns for this year's audit. After this discussion Larry summarized the findings and recommendations for recently completed internal audits. He also gave the committee an update on the projects that are currently in process and a status update on follow-up testing for audits that were previously completed.

Finally, Larry reviewed a letter published by Dean Dorton Allen Ford that identified Best Practices for universities to consider for their internal control structure. NKU has already established these best practices but will continue to monitor their effectiveness.

Regent Virginia Fox seconded Regent Nathaniel Smith's motion to approve the report. **(Motion carried)**

### **Chair's Recommendation: Endowed Scholarship Naming**

The naming of an endowed scholarship in support of students who are the first generation in their family to pursue an undergraduate degree and who have demonstrated a commitment to service of others: "The Mearns/Proud Family Endowed Scholarship."

The recommendation was presented by Chairman Terry Mann. Regent Erik Pederson seconded Regent Nathaniel Smith's motion to approve the recommendation. **(Motion carried)**

## **B. Presidential Reports:**

### **1. Facilities Management Report** (Vice President Ken Ramey)

- a. University Center Renovation – Student Success Center
- b. Campus Recreation Center Expansion/Renovation
- c. Roadway Lighting and Campus Gateways
- d. Johns Hill Road
- e. Nunn Hall Third Floor Renovation

- f. Fine Arts Roof Repairs and Replacement
- g. Stealy Library Roof Repairs and Replacement
- h. Generator, Lucas Administrative Center
- i. Power Plant Tunnel Waterproofing Repair
- j. Lucas Administrative Center Room 220 Renovation
- k. Bill Aker Baseball Field Site Renovations
- l. Founders Hall Air Handler Replacements
- m. Sustainability

**2. Research, Grants, and Contracts Report (October 2012 - November 2012)** (Vice President Gail Wells)

This report lists the grants awarded, with the amount awarded for each grant, for NKU faculty and staff. During the October 2012 – November 2012 time period, **9** grants were awarded. The total amount of money awarded was \$347,909. From July 1, 2012 through November 30, 2012, the cumulative total number of grants awarded is 52 totaling \$3,562,085.

**3. Fundraising Report (July 1, 2012 through November 30, 2012)** (Vice President Gerry St. Amand)

The Fundraising Report summarizes fundraising resources committed from July 1, 2012 through November 30, 2012 totaling \$1,555,800 in support of the university.

**4. Quarterly Financial Report (July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012)** (Vice President Ken Ramey)

The Quarterly Financial Report depicts the financial activity of the University during the period July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, compared to the annual budget and the prior year's activity.

**C. Presidential Recommendations:**

**Consent Agenda Items:** Regent Stephen Meier's seconded Regent Nathaniel Smith's motion to approve the following President Recommendations as listed: *C-1 through C-10*. (**Motion carried**)

**1. Academic Affairs Personnel Actions:**

- a. Administrative Appointments:

**Katherine Kurk**, continuing as Professor in the Department of World Languages and Literatures and Interim Chair in the Department of World Languages and Literatures, effective January 1, 2013 through June 30, 2013.

b. Faculty Appointments:

**Justine Burchell**, Extended Collections Services Librarian/Lecturer (non-tenure track renewable) in W. Frank Steely Library, effective August 1, 2012; **Stephen Johnson**, Lecturer (non-tenure track renewable) in the Communication Department, effective January 1, 2013.

c. Retirements:

**Gary Johnston**, Associate Professor in the Department of Music, effective May 18, 2013.

d. Resignations:

**Jeanne Holmes**, from the position of Assistant Professor in the Management Department, effective December 31, 2012; **Francis Sheehy**, from the position of Lecturer for the Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics (CINSAM) in the Department of CINSAM, effective December 21, 2012.

e. Leaves Paid/Unpaid:

**Mary C. Cupito**, Assistant Professor in the Communication Department, from partial medical leave to full-time paid medical leave with benefits, through May 18, 2013.

**2. Non-Academic Affairs Personnel Actions:**

The following categories of non-academic personnel actions which occurred between October 10, 2012 and December 4, 2012 received approval by the Board of Regents: Activations; Reassignments, Reclassifications, Title/Status Changes, Promotions; Transfers; Contract/Temporary to Regular; Departures; Retirees; Administrative.

**3. Temporary Faculty Appointments:**

**Philippe Byosiere**, temporary faculty in the Management Department effective November 2012 – May 2013; **Brent Doss** temporary faculty in the World Languages and Literatures Department effective January 2013 – May 2013.

**4. Emeritus Status Appointment:**

That Emeritus status for the following individual receives Board of Regents approval: **Margo Jang**, Associate Professor in the English Department, effective May 18, 2013.

**5. Major Gift Acceptance:**

The Board of Regents officially hereby accepts contributions totaling \$460,202.29 received by the NKU Foundation Inc. for the benefit of Northern Kentucky University during the period October 1, 2012 through November 30, 2012.

**6. Naming Recommendation:**

The Board of Regents hereby approves the naming of an endowed scholarship the “Sadie and Chuck Brown Honorary Scholarship.”

**7. Naming Recommendation:**

The Board of Regents hereby approves the naming of one of the six tennis courts at the Joyce A. Yeager Tennis Complex the “Kevin and Maria Molony Court.”

**8. Student Media Board Standing Committee Revision:**

The Board of Regents hereby approves a Revised Student Media Board which reflects the organizational realignment of Student Media within the Academic Affairs division.

**9. Student Financial Aid Standing Committee Revision:**

The Board of Regents hereby approves the revised Student Financial Aid Committee which reflects updated titles and clarifies duties related to review of state and federal laws governing student financial aid.

**10. Honor Code – NKU Chase College of Law Approval:**

The Board of Regents hereby approves the revised NKU Chase College of Law Honor Code. This revised Honor Code will replace the existing Honor Code at Section XXV in the Chase Student Handbook. The existing Honor Code is difficult to understand and cumbersome. The revised policy streamlines the steps and procedures and is easier to understand.

**Discussion Agenda Item:** A motion was made by Regent Nathaniel Smith and seconded by Regent Erik Pederson to approve the following Presidential Recommendation as listed; C-11. **(Motion carried)**

**11. Adoption of Resolution for General Receipt Obligations:**

The Board of Regents adopted a Resolution which provides for the authorization, sale and issuance of approximately \$5,230,000 in General Receipt Obligations for the purpose of (i) refunding the Consolidated Educational Building Revenue Bonds - Series L dated January 1, 2004 and (iii) paying costs of issuance in connection with the Northern Kentucky University General Receipts Bonds, 2013 Series A.



**Discussion Agenda Item:** A motion was made by Regent Erik Pederson and seconded by Regent Virginia Fox to approve the following Presidential Recommendation as listed; C-12. **(Motion carried)**

**12. Tobacco Free Policy:**

The Board of Regents hereby:

1. Approves the adoption of a “tobacco-free” campus policy. The transition towards the policy adoption will be deliberate, with input from the campus community on how best to put our new policy into practice, ensuring that the needs of the University’s varied constituents are fully understood. It is understood that this transition could take twelve to eighteen months.
2. Directs the President to appoint a Tobacco Free Campus Task Force to provide recommendations for this transition, which will address, through the work of subcommittees, issues related to specific policy implementation plans. Such plans will reflect a commitment to respecting the voices and needs of all our campus constituents, including students, faculty, staff, visitors, as well as our community neighbors.

**D. Executive Session:**

Regent Erik Pederson seconded Regent Terry L. Mann’s motion to enter into executive session pursuant KRS 61.810 (1) (C) in order to discuss litigation against the university and KRS 61.810 (1) (B) in order to discuss property acquisition. **(Motion carried)**

Regent Virginia Fox seconded Regent Terry Mann’s motion to close the Executive Session. No action was taken. **(Motion carried)**

At 3:42 p.m., Regent Steve Meier seconded Regent Nathaniel Smith’s motion to adjourn. **(Motion carried)**

Signature On File  
**Wendy J. Peek**  
**Senior Administrative Assistant**  
**Office of the President**

Signature On File  
**Kathryn J. Herschede**  
**Executive Assistant to the President/**  
**Secretary to the Board of Regents**

I, Dennis Repenning, Secretary of the Board of Regents of Northern Kentucky University, certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 9, 2013, and that such matters are still in force and effect.

Signature On File  
**Dennis Repenning**  
**Secretary of the Board of Regents**