

**Board of Regents Meeting**  
**Northern Kentucky University, Student Union, Room 104**  
**March 18, 2015**

Regent Dennis Repenning, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, March 18, 2015.

**Roll Call:** Richard Boehne, Jacqueline Emerine, Virginia G. Fox, John P. B. Jose, Terry Mann, Stephen A. Meier, Dennis Repenning, Nathaniel Smith, Elizabeth Thompson, Andr Ward, Brenda Wilson

Other Attendees: Geoffrey S. Mearns, Kathryn Herschede, Wendy Peek, Sara Sidebottom, Sue Ott Rowlands, Ken Ramey, Ken Bothof, Eric Gentry, Sue Hodges Moore, Joe Wind, Kathleen Roberts, Tracy Insko, Chris Bowling, Jeff Butler, Alex Lefebure, Molly Burchfield, Amanda Henderson, Pat Moynahan, Kathy Stewart, Joel Robinson, Russ Kerdolff, Kevin Kirby, Larry Meyer, Jeff Standen, Denise Robinson, Katherine Frank, Becky Porterfield, Cynthia Reed, Bill Thompson, Leah Stewart, Larry Blake, Vickie Natale, Melissa Gorbandt, Jason Willis, Andy Meeks, Ken Kline, Tiffany Budd, Judy Voelker, Jeff Waple, Debbie Poweleit, Alar Lipping, Karen Zerhusen Kruer, Robbie Prince, Tim Sofranko, Tom Ramstetter, Kim Scranage, Jan Hillard, Penny Parsons, Christian Gamm, Victoria Lentz, Shawn O’Mealy, David Raska

Regent Terry Mann seconded Regent John Jose’s motion to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2015 Board of Regents meeting. **(Motion carried)**

**Presidential Comments:**

**Budget Model Development**

Last Fall, I appointed a task force to review our existing process for developing our University’s budget. The task force looked at different types of university budget models across the country, and it recommended that we develop a model that is incentive-based and more de-centralized. The new budget model will promote student success, stimulate strategic growth, encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, and support transdisciplinary and institutional excellence. The guiding principles are accountability, transparency, reasonable predictability, simplicity, performance-based, and data driven. I will continue to keep you updated as we work to transition to this new model.

**Fall Enrollment**

The Division of Enrollment Management reports that for Fall 2015, graduate applications are up 13 percent and admits are trending up by 50 percent. This is the first time in three academic years that these trends are showing positive gains. Overall undergraduate applications are up 18 percent and admits are up 18 percent, but confirmations for Fall 2015 are relatively flat. Those freshman that have confirmed have improved quality indicators over last year (3.43 GPA and 24 ACT composite).

We see overall gains at this time throughout the admissions funnel, and the make-up of the prospective pool is more diverse and from a greater geographic distribution.

But, there are some concerns that we need to continue to monitor. Even though we are up overall in confirmations, we are experiencing a modest decline in traditional freshman (down 5 percent). We are currently working to discern why this decrease is occurring and implement strategies to positively impact the ultimate results. Financial aid packages were sent out starting this week, which is a week earlier than usual. We will continue to monitor and increase confirmations.

And we are engaging in various activities to increase confirmations. One example is a new effort by our Admissions and Alumni Affairs offices. Norse Notes is a program that enables alumni to send notes of encouragement to high school seniors who have been accepted to NKU. So far, more than 35 alumni have participated in the effort and have written more than 700 notes. We are planning another note writing party in April. I encourage all of our alumni to participate in this excellent initiative.

### **State Funding Advocacy**

As you know, over the past two years, I have been advocating for an outcomes- based funding model for Kentucky's public universities. The Council on Postsecondary Education has been working with the university presidents to develop a model to meet key goals and objectives. Several legislators have shown a strong interest in this approach, which could produce more funding for NKU. A joint resolution was introduced in the senate directing the CPE to develop a funding model that would establish metrics and recognize the different missions of the research universities, comprehensive universities, and community and technical colleges. I remain personally committed to advocating for a model that helps to advance the goals of the Commonwealth – and that supports our University, which continues to contribute to those outcomes.

### **SACS Accreditation**

Earlier this week, we submitted our fifth-year interim report to our accreditation agency, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. This interim report is required of all colleges and universities within the SACS region. SACS will review our report and will provide feedback. Our full accreditation process will take place in 2019-2020.

### **Institutional Performance Program**

Earlier this month, we posted a draft of our NCAA Institutional Performance Program plan for review and comment by the University community. The draft document represents significant work and time commitment from the steering committee and from our four work groups. I am grateful to all of the committee members for their diligence, expertise, and support. I am especially grateful to Director of Athletics Ken Bothof, Senior Vice President for Institutional

Effectiveness Sue Hodges Moore, and Assistant Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness Vicki Natale, all of whom have led this work. The report is due to the NCAA on May 15, and a team from the NCAA will visit the campus in the Fall.

### **Facilities Updates**

I would like to report on three major projects. First, we continue to make very good progress on the expansion and renovation of the Campus Recreation Center. As you will recall, we expect the project to be completed in time for the beginning of the Fall semester. Presently, because of weather, the new construction portion of the project is behind schedule approximately two weeks. However, the construction team believes that this time can be made up as they begin the renovation portion of the project.

Second, we continue to make excellent progress on the design of the Health Innovation Center. We continue to meet regularly with the architects, who are refining one of the design options that has been presented. We anticipate that we will break ground on the project in late Summer.

Finally, we have closed the Callahan Bistro, the dining hall in Callahan Hall, in order to conduct renovations. These renovations are being funded by housing revenue and also through substantial support from our foodservice provider, Chartwells. The renovation will be complete in time for the beginning of the Fall semester.

### **Basketball Teams**

As many of you know, our women's basketball team competed in the championship game of the Atlantic Sun Conference Tournament. The team played hard, but lost to a very talented Florida Gulf Coast team. I am very proud of our team and look forward to cheering them on during the Women's Basketball Invitational Tournament. We are a #1 seed, and we will host the first round game against Marshall University tomorrow evening at 7:00 pm in the Bank of Kentucky Center. We are very proud that Christine Roush was named to the Academic All-Atlantic Sun Conference team for her outstanding performance in the classroom. She was just one of five players in the conference who earned this honor. Christine is a biological sciences major, and her GPA is in excess of 3.7.

Christine not only excels in the classroom, but also on the court. Christine and her teammate, Melody Doss, both earned a spot on the All-Atlantic Sun second team.

Our men's team also had an excellent season and fought very hard in their final game versus Lipscomb. I am proud that Tayler Persons was honored as the Atlantic Sun's Freshman of the Year.

**B. Presidential Reports:**

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

- a. Health Innovation Center/Founders Hall Renovation
- b. Campus Recreation Center Expansion/Renovation
- c. Founders Hall Astronomical Observatory
- d. Callahan Hall Roof Replacement
- e. Switchgear Condition Assessment
- f. Founders Hall Switchgear Replacement
- g. Exterior Door Security and Access Control
- h. Sustainability

**2. Research, Grants, and Contracts Report (December 1, 2014 – January 31, 2015) (Provost and Executive Vice President Sue Ott Rowlands)**

During the December 2014 and January 2015 time period, 9 grants were awarded. The total amount of money awarded was \$280,938. From July 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015, the cumulative total number of grants awarded is 53 totaling \$4,146,909.

**3. Fundraising Report (July 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015) (Vice President Eric Gentry)**

The Fundraising Report summarizes fundraising resources committed from July 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015 totaling \$4,087,112 in support of the University.

**4. Quarterly Financial Report (July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014) (Vice President Ken Ramey)**

The Quarterly Financial Report depicted the financial activity of the University during the period from July 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, compared to the annual budget and the prior year's activity.

**C. Presidential Recommendations:**

**Consent Agenda Items:** A motion was made by Regent Brenda Wilson and seconded by Regent Steve Meier to approve the following Presidential Recommendations as listed; C-1 through C-14. **(Motion carried)**

**1. Academic Affairs Personnel Actions:**

**a. Administrative Appointments:**

**Ms. Jeanne Pettit**, director of First-Year Programs, effective August 20, 2014.

**b. Faculty Appointments:**

**Alyssa Appelman**, assistant professor in the Department of Communication, effective August 10, 2015; **Dr. Megan Downing**, assistant professor in the Department of Political Science, Criminal Justice and Organizational Leadership, effective August 10, 2015; **Dr. Michael Guy**, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, effective August 10, 2015; **J. Michael Skaggs**, from lecturer (non-tenure-track temporary) in the Department of Communication to lecturer (non-tenure-track renewable) in the Department of Communication, effective January 1, 2015; **Mr. Matthew J. Tokson**, associate professor in the Salmon P. Chase College of Law, effective August 10, 2015; **Jiawei Yuan**, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science, effective August 7, 2015; **Kazi Zunnurhain**, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science, effective August 7, 2015.

**c. Departures:**

**Dr. Jonathan Thomas**, assistant professor in the Department of Teacher Education in the College of Education and Human Services, effective May 17, 2015; **Steven Devoto**, lecturer in the Department of Accounting, Finance, and Business Law, effective January 1, 2015; **Mustafa Fidahussein**, assistant professor in the Department of Business Informatics, to lecturer in the Department of Business Informatics, effective December 31, 2014

**d. Retirements:**

**Dr. Chenliang Sheng**, professor in the Department of English, effective May 16, 2015; **Ms. Donna Bennett**, professor in the Chase Law Library, effective May 31, 2015.

**e. Phased Retirements:**

**Ms. Adele Dean**, associate professor in the Department of Nursing, beginning August 10, 2015 and terminating at the end of the academic year 2016-17; **Mr. Gerard St. Amand**, professor in the Salmon P. Chase College of Law, beginning August 15, 2015 and terminating at the end of the academic year 2016-17; **Dr. R. Kent Curtis**, professor in the Department of Political Science, Criminal Justice and Organizational Leadership, beginning August 10, 2015 and terminating at the end of the academic year 2016-17; **Dr. James Thomas**, professor in the Department of Psychological Science, beginning August 10, 2015 and terminating at the end of the academic year 2016-17.

**2. Academic Affairs Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure:**

The Board of Regents approved recommendations on reappointment, promotion and tenure.

**3. Non-Academic Personnel Actions:**

The following categories of non-academic personnel actions which occurred between December 3, 2014 and, February 17, 2015 received approval by the Board of Regents: Activations/Rehires; Reassignments, Reclassifications, Title/Status Changes, Promotions; Transfers; Contract/Temporary to Regular and Regular to Contract; Departures; Retirees; Administrative/Executive.

**4. Emeritus Status Appointments:**

The Emeritus status for the following individuals received Board of Regents approval:

**Dr. Robert Rhode**, professor of English in the Department of English, effective July 1, 2015; **Dr. David Hogan**, associate professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychological Science, effective July 1, 2015; **Dr. Chenliang Sheng**, professor of English in the Department of English, effective July 1, 2015.

**5. Posthumous Degree:**

The Board of Regents approved that Gary Webb receive a posthumous Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism.

**6. Honorary Degree:**

The Board of Regents approved that Mr. Fred Hersch receive an honorary degree – Doctor of Musical Arts.

**7. New Bachelor of Arts Degree in Secondary Education:**

The Board of Regents approved a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary Education degree in the Department of Teacher Education.

**8. New Bachelor of Music Education Degree:**

The Board of Regents approved a Bachelor of Music Education degree.

**9. Major Gifts Acceptance:**

The Board of Regents officially accepted contributions totaling **\$687,500.00** received by the NKU Foundation Inc. and the University during the period December 1, 2014 through January 31, 2015.

## **10. Naming Recommendations:**

The Board of Regents approved the following naming actions:

- (1) The naming of a scholarship in support of students enrolled in the Salmon P. Chase College of Law “The William H. and Kathryn F. Hawkins Scholarship.”
- (2) The naming of an endowed undergraduate 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 Boehne Family Scholarship.”
- (3) The naming of an undergraduate scholarship in support of study abroad educational opportunities for students enrolled in an undergraduate degree program in biological sciences “The Straws Biology Study Abroad Endowed Scholarship.”
- (4) The naming of an undergraduate scholarship in support of students pursuing an undergraduate degree in an Electronic Media and Broadcasting field of study within the College of Informatics “The Elsa M. Heisel Sule Scholarship.”
- (5) The naming of an undergraduate scholarship in support of students who have financial need and are pursuing degree programs in the areas of accounting, finance, business law, management, construction management or marketing within the Haile/US Bank College of Business “The Sandra W. Easton Memorial Scholarship.”
- (6) The naming of an observatory facility on the rooftop of Founders Hall “The Julie and David Schneider Observatory.”

## **11. KYTC Property Transfer and Easements:**

The Board of Regents authorized the sale to the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet of a 11.471 acre parcel; an easement of 2.429 acres; and, a temporary construction easement of 18.87 acres. The various acquisition and easement areas will allow for the construction of the North Connector Road by the Transportation Cabinet.

## **12. FY 2015-2016 Tuition Rate and Fee Schedule:**

The Board of Regents approved the tuition and mandatory fee rates for the 2015-16 academic year at the rates proposed in the Authorized Schedule of Tuition and Mandatory Fees.

## **13. FY 2015-2016 Fee and Service Charges:**

The Board of Regents authorized the Schedule of Fees and Service Charges for the 2015-2016 academic year.

**14. Statement of Non-Discrimination:**

The Board of Regents approved a revised Statement of Non-Discrimination that brings Northern Kentucky University into compliance with all applicable federal legislation, state laws and university policies and to advance the University's commitment to inclusive excellence.

**D. Board Recommendations:**

**1. External Audit Firm Selection:**

The Board of Regents authorized the administration to enter into a contract with the audit firm of BKD, LLC for the annual audit of the University's financial records for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015. The contract cost for the year ending June 30, 2015 will be \$104,000 prior to any anticipated discounts. This contract allows for three one-year renewable options with the concurrence of both parties.

**2. Bylaws Update:**

The Board of Regents approved the recommended changes to their bylaws.

**E. Executive Session:**

Regent Andr  Ward seconded Regent Dennis Repenning's motion to enter into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(C) and 61.810(1)(G) in order to discuss potential and pending litigation and for discussion concerning a specific proposal. **(Motion carried)**

No other matters were discussed. No final action was taken.

At 3:24 p.m., Regent Nathan Smith seconded Regent Terry Mann'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, Nathaniel Smith, 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 March 18, 2015, and that such matters are still in force and effect.

Signature On File  
**Nathaniel Smith**  
**Secretary of the Board of Regents**