

Board of Regents Meeting
Northern Kentucky University, Student Union, Room 104
January 11, 2017

Regent Richard Boehne, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 1:00 pm, Wednesday, January 11, 2017.

Roll Call: Richard Boehne, Richard L. Boyce, Normand Desmarais, Virginia G. Fox, Dennis Repenning, W. Lee Scheben, Gregory Shumate, Arnie D. Slaughter, André Ward, John William Weber. Absent: Terry Mann.

Other Attendees: Geoffrey S. Mearns, Wendy Peek, Tammy Knochelmann, Joan Gates, Eric Gentry, Sue Hodges Moore, Daniel Nadler, Sue Ott Rowlands, Kathleen Roberts, Kim Scranage, Mike Hales, Lori Southwood, Kevin Kirby, Diana McGill, Rebecca Porterfield, Cynthia Reed, Dale Scalise-Smith, Jeff Standen, Tracy Insko, Chris Bowling, Bill Farrow, Sam Reynolds, Sara Kelley, Idna Corbett, Leah Stewart, Larry Meyer, Amanda Nageleisen, Russ Kerdolff, Allen Cole, Christian Gamm, Mary Paula Schuh, Pat Moynahan, Vickie Natale, Ryan Padgett, Janel Bloch, Mark Hansel, Cole Grecco, Debbie Kirch, Kalin Holland, Leslie Fields, Kelsey Dunaway, Dan McIver, Tim Sofranko, Chuck Hawkins, Steve Meier, Jason Vest, Brenda Wilson, Kara Williams.

Regent Richard Boyce seconded Regent Gregory Shumate's motion to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2016 Board of Regents meeting. (**Motion carried**)

Regent John William Weber seconded Regent Virginia Fox's motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2016 Board of Regents meeting. (**Motion carried**)

Presidential Comments:

December Commencement

A few weeks ago, we celebrated our annual December commencement exercises. All of you – our Regents – attended these two ceremonies. Thank you for joining our graduates and their families and friends on this special day.

During those commencement exercises, we conferred more than 1,000 degrees upon a talented and diverse group of women and men. Although we have not yet tallied the final numbers, I have been advised that the number of degrees conferred may be the largest ever for our December commencement. That result is the tangible, measurable manifestation of the sustained commitment of our dedicated faculty and staff. They continue to earn our appreciation and admiration.

Enrollment

But as we continue to produce more graduates at higher rates, that success puts increasing pressure on us to recruit more students in the face of increased competition and declining demographics.

In response to these challenges, we have begun to put into effect the new Enrollment and Student Success Implementation Plan that was presented to you last Summer. We have rolled out several of these strategies, and we are beginning to see promising results. For example, we are implementing our new scholarship/need-based model and our new Tuition Incentive Program. We are also hosting the Governor's Scholars Program and enhancing the connection of School Based Scholars to our University. Our scholarship offers and acceptances are seeing significant increases in our strategic markets and student populations; SBS numbers are at an all-time high for spring semester; transfer student numbers are up; the number of GSP scholars applying to NKU has increased; and Pathfinders had the best Fall to Spring retention rate to date.

While we have seen growth in segments of our enrollment, we do face headwinds that impact our overall enrollment. As I mentioned, we graduated one of our largest winter classes in December, which is an achievement to celebrate. But our success in conferring degrees means that we have fewer students enrolled in Spring classes. Moreover, last Fall presented a unique academic calendar structure: Thanksgiving and Winter breaks fell earlier in their respective months, which shortened the academic calendar and reduced the number of available registration days before the Winter break. We learned our lesson; we have already revised our priority registration windows for the next few years to ensure that students have a maximum allotment of time before the Winter break to meet with advisors and register for Spring courses. For this year, we redoubled our efforts to reach out to students who had delayed their registration, with staff from across the campus coming together to implement the "Don't Delay, Register [Today!](#)" campaign to encourage students to register last week, the week prior to the start of classes.

We are presently tracking a bit behind our enrollment for Spring 2017, but our registration efforts continue throughout this week.

Facilities Update

Work on the Health Innovation Center is presently focused on enclosing the building and installing the major mechanical equipment. A majority of the exterior framing for the facade is complete, and one wing has been covered with its exterior insulation. The temporary roof has been installed, and the major mechanical equipment has been delivered and is in place.

With respect to the renovation of Founders Hall, all of the exterior windows have been replaced. As you know, the interior of Founders Hall was demolished, leaving only the building structure. Contractors are finishing Founders Hall from the top down. Wall framers are now on the third floor, utility rough-ins are finished on the fifth floor and will begin on the fourth, and drywall installers began work on the fifth floor last week. A new five story mechanical shaft has been cut through the building, in the area behind the elevator shafts. Structural modifications to open Founders Hall to the new construction are also under way.

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The bidding for the entire project is now complete. I am very pleased to report that the entire project is currently on schedule and within budget.

US 27 and Student Housing

We are also making steady progress in discussions with Fairmount Properties for the development of the 12-acre US 27 site. Fairmount has indicated a strong interest among hoteliers for a 100-120 room hotel and retail interest is also strong. The project will include market rate apartments and office space, along with a structured parking facility. Fairmount has networked extensively throughout the university and local community, including meetings with representatives of the KY Transportation Cabinet, the NKY Chamber of Commerce, and city and county representatives. I am cautiously optimistic about the ultimate outcome.

As to the student housing project, American Campus Communities completed four focus groups with students and NKU housing staff in early December. Students reacted very positively to the proposed floor plans. Not surprisingly, affordability was a recurring theme expressed by our students. Financial discussions will continue over the next two to three months, as we work to understand the implications of building a new residence hall and completing upgrades to our existing residential facilities.

Invest in Success

In order to ensure that we have the resources to retain the faculty and staff to serve the students who will be attracted to our campus by these facilities, we must continue to advocate for our fair share of state funding. That's why we have resumed again this year our successful public advocacy program – Invest in Success.

At our January convocation last Friday morning, I outlined our two principal objectives for the legislative session that began last week in Frankfort. Our first principal objective is to persuade Governor Bevin and the General Assembly to implement the outcomes-based funding formula that all of the public university presidents have now endorsed.

Our second principal objective is to persuade our elected officials to appropriate an additional annual \$5.1 million to our University to address the funding disparity that has impeded our growth and impact. Last year, as you know, the legislature approved an increase of \$5.1 million for NKU. This increase substantially reduced the funding disparity. Now, we need our elected officials to finish the job – to increase our appropriations by another \$5.1 million to eliminate the disparity entirely.

I am cautiously optimistic that we will achieve these two objectives in this “short session,” or in the next legislative budget session in 2018.

Student-Athletic Academic Success

Speaking of success, I am pleased to report that our student-athletes had another record-breaking semester. For Fall 2016, across all sport programs, our student-athletes earned a collective GPA of 3.27 – that's the highest GPA in the history of the University. And that makes 11 consecutive semesters in which our student-athletes earned a collective GPA of 3.0 or higher.

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These excellent results are the product of the efforts of many people, including the student athletes and their professors.

The academic success of our student athletes is also made possible by the commitment of our dedicated staff: Leslie Fields, our associate athletic director and senior woman administrator; Debbie Kirch, our senior academic advisor; Kalin Holland, our academic advisor; and Kelsey Dunaway, a graduate assistant. Leslie, Debbie, Kalin, and Kelsey are here with us this afternoon. Please stand so that we may express our appreciation for your contributions to this very important work.

Executive Assistant/Secretary to the Board

Finally, I am pleased to report that we have hired a new Executive Assistant to the President and Secretary to the Board of Regents. His name is Ben Jager.

Ben is a native of Northern Kentucky. He graduated from Covington Catholic High School. Ben received his BA in sociology from Eastern Kentucky University, and he earned a MA in education from Virginia Tech.

Since 2009, Ben has worked in student affairs at the University of Nebraska – Omaha, a comprehensive, metropolitan university that has a similar mission to ours. Ben also handled some special projects for the Chancellor.

While it may not be possible to replace Katie Herschede, I am confident that Ben will serve our University and this Board very well. Ben's first day at NKU will be on March 6.

Conclusion

Mr. Boehne, that concludes my report. Thank you.

B. Presidential Reports:

1. Facilities Management Report (Senior Vice President Sue Hodges Moore)

- a. Health Innovation Center/Founders Hall Renovation
- b. Replace Campus Light Poles
- c. Regents Hall Repairs
- d. High Voltage Loop Switch
- e. Education at Work
- f. University Center Ballroom Roof Replacement
- g. Lucas Administrative Center Roof Replacement
- h. Herrmann Science Center HVAC Recommissioning
- i. Greenhouse
- j. Commonwealth Hall Water Heater Replacement
- k. Sustainability
- l. North Connector Road

2. Research, Grants, and Contracts Report (October 1, 2016 – November 30, 2016)
(Provost and Executive Vice President Sue Ott Rowlands)

During the October 1, 2016 through November 30, 2016 time period, 41 grants were awarded. The total amount of money awarded was \$3,786,614.

3. Fundraising Report (July 1, 2016 through October 31, 2016) (Vice President Eric Gentry)

The Fundraising Report summarized fundraising resources committed from July 1, 2016 through October 31, 2016 totaling \$1,283,292 in support of the university.

4. Quarterly Financial Report (July 1, 2016 – September 30, 2016) (Senior Vice President Sue Hodges Moore)

The Report was reviewed by the Board of Regents Audit Committee in accordance with Article III (D) (2) of the Board of Regents Bylaws.

5. Faculty Development Awards – Project Grants (Provost and Executive Vice President Sue Ott Rowlands)

The Project Grant Report reflected the grants that have been awarded for 2017-2018.

6. Faculty Development Awards – Faculty Summer Fellows (Provost and Executive Vice President Sue Ott Rowlands)

The Faculty Summer Fellows Report reflected the fellows that have been awarded for the summer of 2017.

7. Intercollegiate Athletics Report

The Board of Regents approved the December 2016 Intercollegiate Athletics report.

C. Presidential Recommendations:

Consent Agenda Items: A motion was made by Regent Dennis Repenning and seconded by Regent Virginia Fox to approve the following Presidential Recommendations as listed; C-1 through C-5. **(Motion carried)**

1. Academic Affairs Personnel Actions:

a. Faculty Appointments:

Dr. Erica Lemberger, assistant professor in the Nursing Department in the College of Health Professional, effective January 3, 2017.

b. Transitions:

Mr. John Valauri, from full-time professor (with tenure) in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics to part-time professor (with tenure) in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the College of Arts and Sciences, effective January 1, 2017.

c. Retirements:

Dr. Daniel Curtin, professor in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics in the College of Arts and Sciences, effective June, 2017; **Mrs. Patty Fairbanks**, senior lecturer in Learning PLUS in the Department of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, effective June 2017; **Dr. Margaret Myers**, associate professor in the Department of Marketing Sports Business and Construction Management in the Haile/US Bank College of Business, effective June 2017; **Mr. Dempsy Smith**, senior lecturer in Learning PLUS in the Department of Undergraduate Academic Affairs, effective June 2017.

d. Phased Retirements:

Dr. J. Robert Lilly, professor in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences, beginning at the start of the 2017 fall semester and terminating at the end of the 2019 spring semester.

2. Non-Academic Personnel Actions:

The following categories of non-academic personnel actions which occurred between October 5, 2016 and November 28, 2016 received approval by the Board of Regents: Activations/Rehires; Reassignments, Reclassifications, Title/Status Changes, Promotions; Transfers; Contract/Temporary to Regular & Regular to Contract; Departures; Retirees;

3. Major Gifts Acceptance:

The Board of Regents accepted contributions totaling \$50,000.00 received by the NKU Foundation Inc. for the benefit of Northern Kentucky University during the period October 1, 2016 through October 31, 2016.

4. Posthumous Degree:

The Board of Regents approved that Kirsten Smithson receive a posthumous Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science.

5. Sabbatical Leaves

The sabbatical leave recommendations for the 2017-2018 academic year received Board of Regents approval.

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D. Executive Session:

Regent Gregory Shumate seconded Regent Richard Boehne's motion to enter into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(b), (c), and (f). (**Motion carried**)

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

At 4:40 p.m., Regent Virginia Fox seconded Regent Andr  Ward's motion to adjourn. (**Motion carried**)

Signature On File

Wendy J. Peek
Senior Administrative Assistant
Office of the President

I, Virginia Fox, 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 11, 2017, and that such matters are still in force and effect.

Signature On File

Virginia G. Fox
Secretary of the Board of Regents