

**of Regents Meeting
Northern Kentucky University,
James C and Rachel M. Votruba Student Union Ballroom, Room 107A
November 9, 2022**

Regent Rich Boehne, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 1:03 pm, Wednesday, November 9, 2022.

Roll Call: Michael Baranowski, Richard Boehne, Cori Henderson, Ashley Himes, Daniel Myers, Ken Perry, Nathan Smith, Elizabeth Thompson, Andr Ward, Kara Williams, Brad Zapp.

Other Attendees: Ashish Vaidya, Tammy Knochelmann, Larissa Heck, Jeremy Alltop, Bonita Brown, Matt Cecil, Grant Garber, Eric Gentry, Eddie Howard, Darryl Peal, Christina Roybal, Lori Southwood, Kevin Kirby, Ginni Fair, Andrea Falcone, James Buss, Tracy Insko, Bill Farro, Bill Allison, Larry Meyer, Leah Stewart, Syed Zaidi, Jason Vest, Ryan Padgett, Janel Bloch, Chad Ogle, Rob Haney, Rebecca Hansen, Ren Feil, Cayley Ginn, Andrea Lambert South, Sarah Wice-Courtney, Shelly Deavy, Carmen Hickerson, Samantha Langley, Rob Hartman, Angela Fulkerson, Becky Bishop, Zach Hart, Sean Foley, Madhura Kulkarni, Tracy Songer, Sara Drabik, Ash Nieman, Jennifer Hoover, Rachel Ball, Aaron Sutherland, Jason Steffen, Mike Borchers, Matt Baker, Caitlyn Gottshall, Michelle Gregg, Collin Herb, Stephanie Klatzke, Arnie Slaughter, John Farrar, Collin McGlynn, Jennifer Moeves, Cynthia Aviles, Karen Mefford, Becky Brown, Holly Riffe, Sarah Mann, Tina Altenhofen, Kylie Hoerth, Olivia Landry, Marielisa Moreno-Garza, Luis Rojo, Andres Zaffino, Marius Truta, Grace Hiles, Kimberly Wiley, Alar Lipping, Irene Encarnacion, Wesley Brown, Frank Daniel Batten V, Tom Ramstetter, Clayton Castle, Emma Tallent, Jacob Little, Clauida Johnson, Laura Franzen, Derrick Robertson, Henry Webb, Amy Razor, Misty Middleton, Joe Buerkley, Matthew Turner, Brian Robinson, Stefanie Stubblefield, Chad Molley, Alvin Garrison, Tony Watts, John Slone, MaryBeth Huss, Amanda Dempsey, Jessica Jehn, Malina Owens, Tara Drysdale, Dorothy Dennie, Adam Ritter, Connie Pohlgeers, Shelli Wilson, Greg Duty, Matt Krimmer, Jay Brewer, Diane Huff, Casey Jaynes, Reggie Taylor, Matt Morgan, Jeff Aulich, Mike Stacy, Michele Klein, Jessica Pass, Timothy Smith, Donna Pollard, Laura Pugh, Lusa Manor, Jeff Pierce, Amber Beebe, Cheri Griffin, Jeremy Michell, Peter Rinto, Eileen Shanahan, Ginger Blackwell, James Allen, Randy Poe, Jan Cruz, Daniella Ostorga, Kathrine Creech, Sydney Klemm, Emily Ferry, Ashley Collins, Cayce Daniels, Anthony Tsetse, Rasib Khan, Stephen Yungbluth, Mildred Nguyen, Zelda Hughes-Howard, John Gaffin, Crystal Daugherty, Jacqueline Emerine

Regent Kara Williams seconded Regent Nathan Smith’s motion to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2022 Board of Regents meeting. **(Motion carried)**

Public Participation:

At the November 9, Board of Regents meeting, Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Education Services Board members Amy Razor and Misty Middleton requested to appear before the Board to voice the NKCES Superintendent Board’s strong opposition to NKU being the authorizer of a charter school in Northern Kentucky.

Northern Kentucky University Faculty member John Farrar requested to appear before the Board of Regents to speak about the NKU Repositioning Plan and its effect on faculty.

Northern Kentucky University Staff member Rebecca Hansen requested to appear before the Board of Regents to speak about the barriers for international student enrollment caused by the repositioning plan.

Presidential Comments:

Thank you Chair Boehne and members of the Board.

I will begin my remarks today with my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the Northern Kentucky University campus community. As you know, we are faced with a short-term financial challenge, but like with any adversity, what matters is how we respond, what we learn in the process, and that we are in a stronger position as a result.

Hearing from the faculty, staff and students this past month has been extremely beneficial as we develop collective solutions to reposition the university.

Over the past month, more than 820 faculty, staff and students have participated in 50 listening sessions about the university's draft repositioning plan, and I am thankful for the engagement in this important work. Provost Cecil, Vice President Alltop and I also met with Faculty Senate, Staff Congress and SGA. In addition, the provost had separate meetings with several academic departments and colleges.

The sessions gave attendees an opportunity to ask clarifying questions and offer suggestions. Some shared their concern that we have to address yet another budget challenge. We heard that while budget challenges are not new to NKU, we must find a way to break this cycle. And yet many offered words of comfort that we will persevere as we have in the past.

During the listening sessions, I was also reminded that we must adhere to the principles of shared governance, be transparent during the process, and use data-informed approaches to make decisions. In addition, our actions must not diminish the significant progress we have made with respect to diversity, equity and inclusion on campus.

We also received many emails with great ideas and suggestions that we are discussing and considering for implementation. These ideas have ranged from better utilizing software and technology to improve efficiency and reduce costs, ways to become more sustainable by reducing our utility and energy footprint, and opportunities to leverage our alumni and corporate partners to help in the recruitment of students.

We have encouraged the campus community to visit the repositioning web site to share their thoughts and feedback.

The university has already begun moving forward with strategies to address the current budget deficit. Over the next two fiscal years, we will focus on three broad sets of outcomes – achieving financial sustainability, stabilizing and growing enrollment, and encouraging academic innovation.

I take great pride in serving this institution. Finding ourselves in this situation has been professionally and personally difficult for me. Not only am I committed to successfully resolving this challenge, but also ensuring that we never find ourselves in this position again. Therefore, I have instructed my leadership team to determine as best they can, the factors that led to this budget shortfall, but more importantly, to identify the steps that must be taken to avoid such unexpected shortfalls in the future.

While the work will not be easy, I have every confidence in the repositioning plan and the collective and collaborative efforts of the faculty, staff, students and community that will enable us to meet those outcomes.

NKU's core foundation remains strong – consistent improvement in student success outcomes, an attractive campus which will benefit even more with the \$47 million in asset preservation dollars we have received, a history of exemplary regional stewardship, and as VP Alltop shared earlier this morning – a healthy cash position, a significant improvement in the net financial position due to the successful pension exit, and an A1 bond rating, higher than all other KY regional public universities.

Before I end my comments today, I want to note a few important dates coming up for the community.

Veterans Day

This Friday, we will recognize the individuals who serve our country and veterans at NKU and across our country at an event arranged by the NKU Veterans Resource Station (VRS).

VRS is making news in the tristate for its Green Zone Brigade training, which provides faculty and staff attendees with an appreciation and deeper understanding of the military, veteran and dependent experience.

Commencement and Thanksgiving

Fall Commencement is on the horizon. It is truly the highlight of every semester, and I look forward to celebrating the hard work of our students.

We will host two ceremonies in Truist Arena on Saturday, December 17, at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. It is a matter of pride that we help students achieve their educational goals as they embark on fulfilling and exciting lives ahead.

We are also just two weeks away from Thanksgiving, and I am excited to share that FUEL NKU, our on-campus food pantry, will host its fourth annual Friendsgiving Celebration on November 21. Students, faculty and staff are invited to join the feast that evening.

Finally, **NKU's basketball** season has begun and on Wednesday, November 16, the Men's team hosts the University of Cincinnati. We hope to see a great turnout to cheer on the Norse.

I would like to express my gratitude to the entire university community for their resilience and commitment this year. And to all of you—members of the Board—for your support of and dedication to NKU.

Chair Boehne and members of the Board, that concludes my remarks for today's meeting.

Joint Finance & Policy Committee Meeting Summary: Board Secretary Williams provided a summary of the Joint Finance & Policy Committee Meeting.

Audit & Compliance Committee Meeting Summary: Board Secretary Williams provided a summary of the October 4 Internal & External Audit Committee Meeting.

B. Presidential Reports:

- 1. Facilities Management Report** (Vice President for Administration & Finance/CFO Jeremy Alltop).
 - a. Fine Arts Floor Heaving and HVAC Replacement (AP)
 - b. Nunn Hall Floor Heaving/Restrooms and HVAC Renewal (AP)
 - c. Replace Norse Commons Rooftop HVAC Units (AP)
 - d. Power Plant Boiler Controls Upgrade (AP)
 - e. Rebuild Power Plant Cooling Towers (AP)
 - f. Business Academic Center Exterior Caulk & Seal (AP)
 - g. Replace Callahan Boilers #2 & 3
 - h. All-Gender Restroom Renovations
 - i. UC Plaza Drain and Plaza Repair
 - j. Replace Lake Pavers
 - k. Administrative Center Electrical Switchgear Replacement
 - l. NPHC Plots
 - m. Various Upgrades at Callahan Hall
 - n. Roof Replacements at Kentucky Hall, Commonwealth Hall, and University Suites
 - o. Light Pole Replacement

- 2. Research, Grants, and Contracts Report (July 1, 2022 through August 31, 2022)** (Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Matt Cecil).

During the July 1, 2022, through August 31, 2022 time period, **22** grants were awarded. The total amount of money awarded was **\$6,650,561**. For the fiscal year 2022-23, the cumulative total number of grants awarded is **22** totaling **\$6,650,561**.

3. **Fundraising Report (July 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022)** (Vice President of University Advancement Eric Gentry).

The Fundraising Report summarized fundraising resources committed from July 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022 totaling \$2,559,845 in support of the university.

4. **Policies Report** (Vice President for Administration & Finance/CFO Jeremy Alltop and Vice President for Legal Affairs/General Counsel Grant Garber).

The Policies Report summarized all policies that were approved at the executive-level after proceeding through the campus vetting process. The President and other university administrators determined that approval of these policies by the Board of Regents was not needed per the criteria established in Presidential Recommendation C-7 of the January 2015 regular meeting.

C. **Presidential Recommendations:**

Consent Agenda Items: A motion was made by Regent Andr  Ward and seconded by Regent Michael Baranowski to approve the Presidential Recommendations as listed; C-1 through C-5. **(Motion carried)**

1. **Academic Affairs Personnel Actions:**

The following academic affairs personnel actions received approval by the Board of Regents:

a. **Faculty Appointments:**

Usamah Al-Farhan, assistant professor in the Department of Accounting, Economics & Finance, College of Business, effective August 15, 2022; **Sima Fortsch**, assistant professor in the Department of Management, College of Business, effective August 15, 2022; **Jacob McCartney**, assistant professor in the Department of Management, College of Business, effective August 15, 2022; **Trung Nguyen**, assistant professor in the Department of Accounting, Economics & Finance, College of Business, effective August 15, 2022.

b. **Transitions:**

Roxanne Gall, from lecturer I to lecturer II in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, effective August 15, 2022; **Karen O'Connell**, from assistant professor and associate director, graduate programs to assistant professor and director, NIRC in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, effective September 01, 2022; **Angela Powell**, from lecturer I to lecturer II in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, effective August 15, 2022; **Tracy Ripberger**, from lecturer I to lecturer II in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, effective August 15, 2022.

d. **Departures:**

Nancy Bellucci, assistant professor in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, effective August 22, 2022; **Kristine Byers**, lecturer in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, effective August 15, 2022; **Patricia Deane**, clinical assistant professor and MSN program director in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, effective January 7, 2023; **Ashley Vaughn**, assistant Professor of Practice and Associate Director, Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics, College of Arts and Sciences, effective August 27, 2022.

e. **Phased Retirement:**

Gregory De Blasio, associate professor in the Communication Department in the College of Informatics, beginning fall semester 2022 and terminating at the end of spring semester 2023.

f. **Temporary Appointments:**

Seyedeh Sepideh Ghaffari, Department of Physics, Geology and Engineering Technology, 2022-23 Academic Year; **Johnathon Hopper**, Department of Political Science, Criminal Justice and Org. Leadership, 2022-23 Academic Year; **Corey Shaun Owens**, Department of Political Science, Criminal Justice and Org. Leadership, 2022-23 Academic Year; **Jeri Deckard Gatch**, Department of Theatre and Dance, 2022-23 Academic Year; **Erin Elfers**, Department of Educational Leadership & Advanced Studies, 2022-23 Academic Year; **Melissa Hess**, Department of Educational Leadership & Advanced Studies, 2022-23 Academic Year; **Jena Hinds**, Department of Teacher Preparation & Educational Studies, 2022-23 Academic Year; **April Bertoli**, School of Allied Health, 2022-23 Academic Year; **Ashley Nicole Brooks-De La Torre**, School of KCRS, 2022-23 Academic Year; **Lynn S. Brown**, School of Nursing, 2022-23 Academic Year; **Keith Collins**, School of KCRS, 2022-23 Academic Year; **Emily Greis**, School of Nursing, 2022-23 Academic Year; **Anita Philips**, School of Nursing, 2022-23 Academic Year; **Amber Thomas**, School of Nursing, 2022-23 Academic Year.

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

The following categories of non-academic personnel actions which occurred between August 12, 2022 and September 29, 2022 received approval by the Board of Regents:

Activations/Rehires; Reassignments, Reclassifications; Title/Status Changes, Promotions; Transfers; Contract/Temporary/Student to Regular & Regular to Contract; Departures; Retirements; Administrative/Executive

3. Faculty Emeritus Status:

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

Ms. Julia Bedell, lecturer and retention specialist in Chemistry and Biochemistry, College of Arts and Sciences, effective June 1, 2022 and **Toru Sakaguchi**, professor in the Business Informatics Department, College of Informatics, effective November 2022.

4. Major Gifts Acceptance:

The Board of Regents accepted contributions totaling **\$1,994,000.00** received by the NKU Foundation Inc. for the benefit of Northern Kentucky University during the period August 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022

5. Naming Actions:

The Board of Regents approved the following naming actions:

- 1) The naming of an endowed scholarship for Chase College of Law students who demonstrate high academic promise and passion for the law. There shall be a preference for female students. “Honorable Candace J. Smith Endowed Scholarship”
- 2) The naming of a scholarship to support students in business-related, sciences, technical, and/or liberal arts majors at Northern Kentucky University who have a GPA of 3.0 or higher. “The Game Changers Scholarship Program”
- 3) The naming of an endowed chair faculty position in which the faculty member will oversee, support, and direct several aspects of Chase College of Law’s program of legal education as it relates to ethical conduct and social justice in legal education and the practice of law. “David and Nancy Wolf Chair in Ethics and Professional Identity”
- 4) The naming of an endowed scholarship to support students with declared majors in a medical or health field who are in their sophomore year (or above) and have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher. “Ben and Marie Lauer Family & Paul Lauer Endowed Medical Profession Scholarship”

6. Revised Fiscal Year 2022-23 Annual Unrestricted Operating Budget for Northern Kentucky University):

Vice President for Administration and Finance and CFO Jeremy Alltop presented item C-6 to the Board and addressed questions.

Regent Kara Williams seconded Regent Nathan Smith’s motion that the Board of Regents approve the revised Fiscal Year 2022-23 Annual Unrestricted Operating Budget for Northern Kentucky University. **(Motion Carried) (Regent Ken Perry Opposed)**

7. Voluntary Separation:

Vice President for Administration and Finance Jeremy Alltop presented item C-7 to the Board and addressed questions.

Regent Daniel Myers seconded Regent Ken Perry's motion that the Board of Regents approve the offering of a voluntary separation program for eligible tenured and tenure-track faculty of Northern Kentucky University. **(Motion carried)**

8. Consolidating/Realigning Outreach Efforts:

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Matt Cecil presented item C-8 to the Board and addressed questions.

Regent Ken Perry seconded Regent Nathan Smith's motion to that the Board of Regents approve the discontinuation of *Informatics+*. **(Motion carried) (Regent Cori Henderson opposed)**

D. Executive Session:

Regent André Ward seconded Chair Boehne's motion to enter into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f) and KRS 61.810(1)(c). **(Motion carried)**

At 3:56 p.m., Executive Session concluded, and the regular meeting was reconvened.

At 3:57 p.m., Regent Kara Williams seconded Regent André Ward's motion to adjourn.

Signature on File

**Tammy Knochelmann
Executive Assistant to the President and
Secretary to the Board of Regents**

I, Kara Williams, Secretary of the Board of Regents of Northern Kentucky University, certify that the foregoing is a true copy of the minutes of the meeting held on November 9, 2022, and that such matters are still in force and effect.

Signature on File

**Kara Williams
Secretary of the Board of Regents**