

**Board of Regents Meeting
Northern Kentucky University,
James C and Rachel M. Votruba Student Union Ballroom, Room 107A
January 18, 2023**

Regent Rich Boehne, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 9:01 a.m., Wednesday, January 18, 2023.

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

Executive Session

Regent Daniel Myers seconded Chair Boehne’s motion to enter into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(f) in order to discuss a personnel issue relating to a possible appointment. **(Motion carried)**

The Regents moved to Student Union Ballroom B/C to conduct Closed Session discussion. No other matters were discussed.

At 9:14 am, the Executive Session concluded. Chair Boehne reconvened the regular meeting and announced that the Board had returned to Open Session.

Appointment of Interim President

Chair Boehne brought forward for discussion that the Board was moving forward with the appointment of Bonita Brown as Interim President and opened the floor for comments.

Regent Perry stated this is a great new start, expressed his excitement about the future and offered his congratulations to Bonita Brown on her appointment as Interim President.

Regent Henderson agreed with Regent Perry’s comments and said that she looks forward to the next steps with Bonita Brown as our interim president.

Regent Boehne read the proposed Appointment of Interim President resolution and called for a motion to adopt.

**Board of Regents Resolution
Appointment of Interim President**

WHEREAS, under Kentucky law, the Board of Regents is entrusted with governance of Northern Kentucky University and the authority to appoint the institution’s president; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to name an interim president to serve until such time as the board appoints the seventh president of Northern Kentucky University.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents hereby appoints Bonita J. Brown as interim president of Northern Kentucky University, effective January 18, 2023.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Board Chair Richard A. Boehne is hereby authorized to negotiate and execute such agreements and other documents as are appropriate to effectuate the appointment of the Interim President.

Regent Ward’s motion to adopt the Resolution to Appoint Bonita J. Brown as Interim President, effective January 18, 2023 was seconded by Regent Kara Williams.

Chair Boehne ordered a roll call vote to approve the appointment of Bonita J. Brown as Interim President, effective January 18, 2023.

Roll Call Vote		
Appointment of Bonita J. Brown as Interim President		
	Yes	No
1. Regent Baranowski	X	
2. Regent Boehne	X	
3. Regent Henderson	X	
4. Regent Himes	X	
5. Regent Myers	X	
6. Regent Perry	X	
7. Regent Smith	X	
8. Regent Thompson	X	
9. Regent Ward	X	
10. Regent Williams	X	
11. Regent Zapp	X	
COUNT	11	
Motion carried by unanimous decision.		

Regent Working Group for Presidential Search

Chair Boehne brought forward for discussion the presidential search and spoke about the first steps in the process, noting that today is an important day for NKU, not only because we’re celebrating the appointment of an interim president to lead us through this period, but also because we’re taking our first steps in a process that will result in selection of our next permanent president – the seventh president of Northern Kentucky University.

He announced that he was prepared to name the regents who will serve on the search committee, including the chair of the committee. He emphasized that the group being appointed today did not constitute the full committee. The Board would approve the full committee at a later meeting.

Chair Boehne read the following resolution on Regent Representatives for Presidential Search Committee and called for a motion to adopt the resolution.

Board of Regents Resolution: Regent Representatives to Presidential Search Committee

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents will name a search committee to oversee the process for selecting the seventh President of Northern Kentucky University; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to identify the members of the Board who will serve on this Presidential Search Committee, including the chair of the Committee, in addition to other committee members who will be named by the Board at a later date.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Regents hereby appoints the following regents to serve on the Presidential Search Committee:

- *Kara Williams, Chair;*
- *Ashley Himes;*
- *Nathan Smith;*
- *Elizabeth Thompson; and*
- *Brad Zapp.*

Regent Ward’s motion to adopt the Resolution to approve the Regent Representatives recommended to serve on the Presidential Search Committee was seconded by Regent Daniel Myers.

Chair Boehne called for discussion.

Regent Thompson thanked Regent Williams for taking on Chairmanship of this important committee.

Regent Ward thanked Regent Williams for offering her service and said that he believes this is the first time that we have had a presidential search that is chaired by an alum, a past SGA President and a sitting member of the Board.

Chair Boehne ordered a roll call vote to approve the Appointment of Regent Representatives to Presidential Search Committee

Roll Call Vote		
Appointment of Regent Representatives to Presidential Search Committee		
	Yes	No
1. Regent Baranowski	X	
2. Regent Boehne	X	
3. Regent Henderson	X	
4. Regent Himes	X	
5. Regent Myers	X	
6. Regent Perry	X	
7. Regent Smith	X	
8. Regent Thompson	X	
9. Regent Ward	X	
10. Regent Williams	X	
11. Regent Zapp	X	
COUNT	11	
Motion Carried		

Joint Finance & Policy Committee Presentations

- **College of Informatics Reorganization**
College of Informatics Dean Kevin Kirby and a team of faculty and students presented on the reorganization of the college into two new schools.
- **Housing Update**
Scott Patton, Director of University Housing and Dr. Eddie Howard, Vice President for Student Affairs and Enrollment Management provided an update on University Housing.

At 11:30 am, Chair Boehne announced the Board would break for lunch and that the meeting would reconvene at **12:45 pm** and begin with the Repositioning Update.

At 12:55 pm, Chair Boehne reconvened the meeting.

- **Repositioning Plan Update**

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Matt Cecil and Vice President for Administration and Finance and Chief Financial Officer Jeremy Alltop discussed the progress of the implementation of the Repositioning Plan as well as the work currently underway.

Approval of Minutes

Regent Michael Baranowski seconded Regent Nathan Smith's motion to approve the Revised minutes of the September 14, 2022 Board of Regents meeting. **(Motion carried)**

Regent Michael Baranowski seconded Regent Nathan Smith's motion to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2022 Board of Regents meeting. **(Motion carried)**

Regent Michael Baranowski seconded Regent Nathan Smith's motion to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2022 Board of Regents meeting. **(Motion carried)**

Regent Michael Baranowski seconded Regent Nathan Smith's motion to approve the minutes of the December 13, 2022 Board of Regents meeting. **(Motion carried)**

Joint Finance & Policy Committee Meeting Summary: Board Secretary Williams provided a summary of the presentations given at the Joint Finance & Policy Committee Meeting held earlier in the day. These presentations included discussions on the proposed reorganization of the College of Informatics from three academic departments to two schools, the *School of Computing and Analytics* and the *School of Media and Communication*; an update on University Housing; and an update on the progress of the Repositioning Plan.

Audit & Compliance Committee Meeting Summary: Board Secretary Williams provided a summary of the January 17 Audit Committee Meeting where Director of Financial and Operational Auditing, Larry Meyer provided updates on internal audit reports issued since the last committee meeting, audits in process, and the search for the next external audit firm and Grant Garber, Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel, provided updates on the work of the staff compliance working group and the upcoming annual compliance training. At the conclusion of the open meeting, members of the committee had the opportunity to meet privately with Grant and Larry.

Presidential Comments:

Good afternoon.

I want to start by thanking the Board of Regents for selecting me for this opportunity. I am honored and excited to be of service to NKU. I am also grateful to the Board as they have been working very diligently behind the scenes on numerous matters to ensure that NKU remains connected to its mission and its place in the region. Thank you for all that you do.

In my role of VP and CSO, I have been privileged to work with many of you across the campus on our strategic plan, Success by Design, so I am very excited about continuing to work with you in this new role.

I want to start by thanking each of you for all that you have done over the past two years and in particular, the past few months. I know it has been difficult and challenging at times to deal with uncertainty, but NKU is known for its resiliency and how it supports students in reaching their academic goals. I have seen many of you go above and beyond to get the work done and to support our students.

And we have seen the results:

Our overall retention rate is up to 77.5%--up from 70% during COVID--2021.

Our 6-year graduation rate has increased to 51%--up from 49% during COVID.

If you recall--we just graduated more than 1300 students this past December.

We are doing the hard work. But while we have had successes, there is more to be done.

I wish I could tell you that things were going to immediately be different going forward, but I think we all know that we still have difficult work to do.

As we work through our finances and our enrollment challenges, I ask for your support and your patience. There is a lot to work through. And it won't be easy.

As you can imagine--I have not yet determined any plans for my tenure, but I do know that we will need to do 3 things:

Focus on stabilizing our campus—budget, processes, policies and procedures.

I want us to build on our sense of community—bring back vibrancy to campus and build new connections all across campus and to refocus on our purpose: Student Success and being a steward of place for this region.

I will be on tour and holding listening sessions all across campus in the near future, and I really want to hear your thoughts and your ideas –and I want you to be thinking about what you can do in this moment. –Staying the same, or maintaining the status quo is not an option. So be ready to embrace change.

NKU has a special place in the hearts of many people in this community, the region and across the state, and we are vital to the growth of this region.

Together we can continue to exemplify the NKU spirit while, at the same time, positioning ourselves for the new realities we are faced with.

I am excited and humbled and cannot wait to work with this amazing campus. Thank you.

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) Steely Library Generator Replacement (AP))
- g) Fine Arts Freight Elevator Modernization (AP)

- h) Maintenance Building Roof Restoration (AP)
- i) Business Academic Center and Mathematics-Education-Psychology Center Fire Alarm System Replacements (AP)
- j) Campbell Hall Return Air System Upgrade (AP)
- k) Regents Hall Bleachers and Floor Replacement (AP)
- l) Kentucky and Commonwealth Halls / Emergency Generator Replacement (AP)
- m) Administrative Center Electrical Switchgear Replacement
- n) Replace Lake Pavers
- o) Steely Library Glass Elevator Modernization
- p) Replace Callahan Boilers #2 & 3
- q) University Suites Exterior Façade Repairs
- r) NPHC Plots
- s) Various Upgrades at Callahan Hall
- t) Light Pole Replacement

2. Research, Grants, and Contracts Report (September 1, 2022, through October 31, 2022) (Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Matt Cecil).

During the September 1, 2022, through October 31, 2022 time period, 10 grants were awarded. The total amount of money awarded was \$3,699,987. For the fiscal year 2022-23, the cumulative total number of grants awarded was 33, totaling \$11,014,548.

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

Fundraising Report summarized fundraising resources committed from July 1, 2022 through November 30, 2022 totaling \$3,185,208 in support of the university.

4. Quarterly Financial Report (Vice President for Administration & Finance/CFO Jeremy Alltop).

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. Organizational Changes Report (Vice President for Administration & Finance/CFO Jeremy Alltop).

The Division of Academic Affairs created the Department of Integrative Studies in the College of Arts and Sciences effective 7/01/2022.

As a result of the university restructuring plan, the Division of Enrollment and Degree Management, with the exceptions of Dr. Ryan Padgett and Career Services, combined with the Division of Student Affairs.

C. Presidential Recommendations:

Regent Henderson submitted a timely request to remove item C-4 (Organizational Chart) from the Consent Agenda. The request was approved, and item C-4 was removed.

A motion was made by Regent Nathan Smith and seconded by Regent Michael Baranowski to approve the Presidential Recommendations as listed; C1 through C3 and C5 through C7. **(Motion carried).**

Chair Boehne called for a motion to address item C-4, Organizational Chart, and requested explanation on the basis for the motion.

Regent Henderson moved to postpone action on the organizational chart to the March meeting to allow the newly appointed interim president the opportunity to review the changes to the organizational structure.

Regent Myers seconded Regent Henderson's motion to postpone action on the Organizational Chart to the March meeting. **(Motion Carried) (Regent Nathan Smith Opposed)**

1. Academic Affairs Personnel Actions:

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

a. Faculty Appointments:

Sherly Boulay, clinical assistant professor in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, effective October 01, 2022; **Emily Detmer-Goebel**, Director, General Education and Assessment effective January 1, 2023; **Roshundia McKenzie**, clinical assistant professor in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, effective October 01, 2022; **Megan Wolfe**, clinical assistant professor in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, effective October 01, 2022.

b. Transitions:

Flore Jesuca, from lecturer to clinical assistant professor in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, effective October 01, 2022.

c. Departures:

Megan Lindsey, assistant professor in the School of Social Work, College of Health and Human Services, effective October 19, 2022; **Elizabeth Psyck**, assistant professor in the W. Frank Steely Library, effective August 19, 2022; **Jennifer Smith**, professor in the W. Frank Steely Library, effective January 4, 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.

2. Non-Academic Personnel Actions:

The following categories of non-academic personnel actions which occurred between September 30, 2022 and December 1, 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:

Hilde Baldrige, lecturer in Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, effective November 15, 2022; **Deborah Dempsey**, lecturer in Biological Sciences, College of Arts

and Sciences, effective November 15, 2022; **Robert Kues**, lecturer in Biological Sciences College of Arts and Sciences, effective November 15, 2022; **John Metz**, associate professor in History and Geography, College of Arts and Sciences, effective November 15, 2022; **Elinor Rambo**, lecturer in Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, effective November 15, 2022; **Robert Wilcox**, professor in History and Geography, College of Arts and Sciences, effective November 15, 2022.

5. Major Gifts Acceptance:

The Board of Regents accepted contributions totaling **\$276,125.00** received by the NKU Foundation Inc. for the benefit of Northern Kentucky University during the period October 1, 2022, through November 30, 2022.

6. Naming Actions:

The Board of Regents approved the following naming actions:

- 1) The naming of an endowed scholarship for student-athletes – in the Haile College of Business – for the duration of their tenure at NKU. “Clos Family Scholarship”
- 2) The naming of an endowed scholarship for either undergraduate or graduate student(s) pursuing studies in special education. “Aly's Purpose – The Alyson Rae Von Handorf Scholarship”
- 3) The naming of a scholarship that will support graduates of Newport High School (Kentucky) who have been accepted for admission to Northern Kentucky University. “Linda Smith Meier Scholarship”
- 4) The naming of a scholarship to support first-generation college students pursuing an undergraduate degree at Northern Kentucky University. “First Grads for First Gens”

7. College of Informatics Reorganization:

The Board of Regents approved that the three academic departments of the College of Informatics be reorganized to consist of two schools, the *School of Computing and Analytics* and the *School of Media and Communication*. The reorganization is to be fully implemented by July 1, 2023.

D. Executive Session:

Regent Kara Williams seconded Chair Boehne’s motion to enter into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1)(c) to discuss proposed or pending litigation. **(Motion carried)** No other matters were discussed.

At 2:45 p.m., Executive Session concluded, and the regular meeting was reconvened.

At 2:47 p.m., Regent Daniel Myers seconded Chair Boehne’s motion to adjourn. **(Motion carried)**

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 January 18, 2023, and that such matters are still in force and effect.

Signature On File

Kara Williams

Secretary of the Board of Regents