

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF REGENTS OF
NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY
Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

In Open Session

Call to Order: Regent Rich Boehne, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 9:01 a.m., Tuesday, March 12, 2024.

Roll Call: Rich Boehne, Cori Henderson, Isaiah Phillips, Nathan Smith, Sandra Spataro, André Ward, Brad Zapp, Kara Williams
Absent: Ashley Himes, Ken Perry

Quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

Regent Cori Henderson seconded Regent André Ward's motion to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2024 Board of Regents meeting. **(Motion carried)**

Committee Meeting Summaries

Regent Brad Zapp, Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee, provided a summary of the February 29, 2024 committee meeting.

Regent André Ward, Member of the Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee, provided a summary of the February 27, 2024 committee meeting.

President's Report

I am delighted to provide updates about the overall positive momentum of this university and a few particular achievements of our faculty, staff, and students that are worthy of our recognition and praise. We are making progress on many fronts but let me begin this morning by sharing that we are moving forward quickly in areas of presidential priority. As you know, I declared enrollment management, finances, team building, and modernization as critical efforts. Here are several updates, beginning with a few enrollment highlights.

Our Adult and Transfer Center continues to make impressive gains with transfer enrollment for Spring 2024 up by 48% or 136 students. We are seeing the biggest increases with our KCTCS partners where our transfer advisors have been building connections with students, staff, and faculty. As of February 2024, we have three NKU transfer advisors with satellite offices at Gateway Community and Technical College, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College, and Ivy Tech Community College.

Next, in an effort to enhance the accessibility and efficiency of its admissions process, NKU is proud to announce the implementation of a new Direct Admit Program. This innovative approach aims to expand access to higher education in the region by simplifying the enrollment process for prospective students, providing them with a straightforward pathway to securing their spot at the NKU. NKU will be the first public university in the Tri-State and Commonwealth of Kentucky to offer direct admission. Under the Direct Admit Program, qualified students will have the opportunity to bypass the application process and application fee and receive a direct offer of admission to NKU based on predetermined criteria. The program will launch on August

1, 2024 for students considering enrollment to NKU in the fall of 2025. High school students with a GPA above a 2.75 will be contacted about their direct admission into NKU, at which time they can begin the formal enrollment process.

And our Strategic Enrollment Management planning task force work has begun. Co-led by Abdou Ndoeye and Ryan Padgett, this multi-constituent group will work on a 3-year plan with the first year's plan due in July.

Next and relatedly, I want to share a few financial updates. FY 24 is wrapping up well, thanks to sensible spending and solid projections for our enrollment targets. I ask all of our university budget managers to continue to exercise prudence and restraint as we approach the end of this fiscal year. I simply request that you save wherever you can in order for the university to balance our budget for this fiscal year. Moving forward to next year's budget, the cabinet and I have been engaged in efforts to build budget assumptions in order for a balanced budget in FY25. As I speak, our budget team is working through the various units' budget submissions to build the first draft of the budget. You will hear more from Karen Mefford in her presentation this morning about our budget assumptions and status. As you'll learn from her, we are still working to close the gap, but we are getting there!

And I am pleased to welcome Chris Calvert, our new CFO and Vice President of Administration and Finance, to our meeting today—he begins his tenure with us on Thursday. We are happy to have you headed our way, Chris. And special thanks to Barry Kienzle and Karen Mefford who have served as interim VP and CFO respectively—we couldn't ask for better NKU alums and colleagues than Barry and Karen.

And I am pleased to share a couple of updates from our Institute for Health Innovation (IHI)--renovations will be starting soon at the Grant County facility to create skills and practice labs for our new rural Bachelor of Science in Nursing program we are launching there. We are excited to help to build the health care workforce in Grant County and their neighboring counties, thanks to external funding opportunities.

For those with tweens and teens in the house, the IHI will run a full complement of pre-collegiate camps for middle and high school youth—grades 6-12-- on NKU's campus this summer. Camp Norse will offer a mix of day and overnight opportunities, introducing students to in-demand careers and a taste of college life. Over 400 campers can participate in one-week themed camps between June 17 – August 16.

Across campus, there's an upcoming change in our early childhood center. We recently learned that our vendor, the ELC, will not renew their contract with us and will leave at the end of May. As many of you know, childcare staffing has been a considerable challenge since Covid, yet we are now working quickly to prepare and release an RFP with the hopes of securing another suitable learning center care vendor to operate at NKU as soon as possible.

On another note, I am pleased to share that we were recently recognized as the 9th safest campus in the United States alongside universities like Princeton and Purdue. We are fortunate to have our NKU police officers, regional agencies, and our campus community who take great care of one another.

Now, I'd like to turn to offer a few highlights of truly exceptional faculty from our colleges. In addition to voting upon their reappointment, tenure, and promotion of select faculty members, I wanted you to learn about a few of our stars. First, from the College of Arts and Sciences, Professor Kelly Moffett has been selected for a Fulbright U.S. Scholar award to Poland for next year. Professor Moffett will be based at the University of Warsaw in the Department of North American Cultures and Literatures assisting with the development of a creative writing program in English and teaching courses in creative writing and American literature. The Fulbright Program is devoted to increasing mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries. Approximately 800 awards are provided annually to more than 135 countries—it is a noteworthy honor to be named a Fulbright Scholar.

Second, NKU continues to maintain an outstanding biomedical research program with extensive faculty and student involvement. NKU leads the State in National Institutes of Health R15 funding with a continuing cycle of submissions from both junior faculty seeking their first R15 award to more senior faculty competing for their 2nd, 3rd, or 4th award. Indeed, only three faculty in the KY INBRE (IDeA Networks of Biomedical Research Excellence) have reached the milestone of receiving 4 NIH research grant awards, and two of those three faculty members are at NKU—Dr. Mark Bardgett & Dr. Chris Curran. They are amazing! NKU is clearly meeting the important goal of the NIH INBRE program to develop a sustainable biomedical research program, involving students, which is competitive for NIH funding.

Third, Dr. Eric Jackson, Associate Dean and Professor of History and Black Studies was awarded the 2023 Thomas D. Clark Medallion Award for his book “An Introduction to Black Studies.” Connecting the growth and impact of Black studies to the broader context of social justice movements, the book emphasizes the historical and contemporary demand for and importance of Black studies.

And fourth, from the College of Informatics, Dr. Maureen Doyle was elected last month as co-chair of the influential global Joint Steering Committee on Undergraduate Data Science. This is a leadership role for the most prestigious computing, statistics, and mathematics organizations in the world. Dr. Doyle was an architect of NKU's Data Science Bachelor's program, one of the first in the US when launched in 2013, and the first in the world to earn ABET accreditation in 2022.

And we simply must recognize and celebrate some of our outstanding students and their successes. First, the NKU student newspaper *The Northerner* has won the 2024 Jon Fleischaker Freedom of Information Award. It only goes to one student publication. The *Northerner* also won 14 additional awards at the Kentucky Press Association convention, including three first place, seven second place and three third place honors. These awards are indicative of how well the *Northerner* has been advised by Professor Michele Day and given her May retirement from NKU, show that she's ending on a high note with her student journalists.

In addition, the College of Informatics hosted 17 graduate students from St. Andrews University in the former Soviet republic of Georgia for two weeks at NKU as part of our joint Master of Science program in Cybersecurity. They are part of a cohort of Georgian public sector professionals awarded full-ride scholarships by the Georgian Orthodox Church, to help build up the country's cyber defenses. The week prior to the visit, Dean Kevin Kirby and Executive

Director Francois LeRoy traveled to Washington DC to meet with US State Department officials from the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, who emphasized the importance of this NKU program for the foreign policy goals of the United States.

I am pleased to report that the Haile College of Business recently achieved new heights in the U.S. News and World Report Rankings. The online Master of Accountancy program is ranked No. 71 in the country. This is the first time the Master of Accountancy program has made the list. The online Master of Business Administration (MBA) program is ranked No. 102. This is the fourth consecutive year the program has been ranked among the top programs in the nation. Finally, the online MBA program has been ranked No. 62 among MBA programs for veterans.

And on March 15, our colleagues from the Chase College of Law will visit the United States Supreme Court to witness 25 alumni being sworn in to practice before the High Court bar. This marks Chase's 10th trip to the Supreme Court for a swearing-in ceremony, which is often accompanied by a visit with the Chief Justice and Associate Justices on the Supreme Court.

And finally, I will conclude with some athletics updates:

- On January 20, we recognized coaching legends Nancy Winstel and Ken Shields at halftime of the women's and men's games by hanging up banners in Truist Arena honoring them as all-time winningest coaches.
- In women's basketball, Carter McCray received the Horizon League Freshman of the Year recognition and Khamari Mitchell-Steen joined Carter as an All-League honoree.
- Just last week, NKU's baseball program had an historic series win beating Missouri two games to one in the program's first ever series win over a Power Five institution.
- And this weekend, NKU's softball program won its second ever game over the University of Michigan, a Power Five institution.
- In men's basketball, Trey Robinson was named Horizon League Defensive Player of the Year, Marques Warrick received the Sportsmanship Award, and Randall Pettus II was recognized on the league's All-Freshman Team.
- A true testament to how remarkable of a player and person he is, Marques Warrick donated \$2,067 to the NKU scholarship fund which represented a dollar for every point it took to break the school's all-time scoring record. He also donated to the Queen City Book Bank supporting their efforts to increase literacy in the Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky area.
- And of course, the Men's basketball team advanced to the Horizon League semifinal game last night after a thrilling overtime win over Wright State last week. And last night's semifinal game in Indianapolis was exciting to watch. At this season ended, I felt proud of our men's basketball team—a terrific group of athletes, students, and good sports. I can't wait until next season.
- And finally, speaking of upcoming seasons and related to the new Varsity sports being introduced next year, we recently hired our first stunt head coach, Shayla Myles-Aaron. She is no stranger to NKU as she is a two-time NKU alumna and has led the NKU cheerleading program for the last 14 years. Shayla hit the recruiting trail immediately.

- The searches for the head triathlon, swimming, and men's volleyball coach positions are nearing completion. Students who are interested in these new sports have been applying to NKU as we wrap up the search for our new coaches. Before long, they'll be headed our way to learn and compete at NKU!

This report conveys a tiny fraction of the incredible work we're doing here at NKU. Every day, our faculty, staff, and students work hard and stay on mission. I am really proud of their achievements and the progress we are making together. NKU is accelerating its positive momentum, and I couldn't be happier to be a part of it.

University Reports:

1. FY 25 Budget Assumptions

Karen Mefford, Associate Vice President of Financial Services and Interim Chief Financial Officer, provided an update on the FY25 budget. After \$5 million in reductions in FY24 and an additional \$1.8 million in instructional cost reductions identified as part of year 2 of the repositioning plan the starting point for the FY25 budget was a shortfall of \$2.8 million.

Revenue sources are being reviewed. In person enrollment continues to decline while accelerated online (AOL) enrollments increase. A tuition increase of 2% will be proposed in June. Along with a 5.9% housing and board increase. In addition, we anticipate that NKU will see an increase in state appropriations.

NKU assumes an increase in the following expense categories for FY25; utilities, contracted services (due to the growth in AOL), debt service, and costs related to the investment in the athletic sports expansion.

NKU will continue to work to identify areas of cost containment as well as revenue enhancements. The University has prepared a 2% budget reduction model that will be used to bridge the budget gap if needed. The final budget will be presented in June. The Office of Budget, Financial Planning, and Analysis will continue to collaborate with the University community to build a balanced budget for FY25.

2. Science Center Expansion Rationale

Syed Zaidi, Assistant Vice President for Facilities Management, Bethany Bowling, Interim Dean of Arts & Sciences; Dr. Diana McGill, Provost and Executive Vice President; and Mary Paula Schuh, Sr. Director for Planning, Design & Construction provided an overview on the background for, and design progress of, the Science Expansion project. The University received \$79.9 million in state appropriated funding in the 2022 legislative session to expand the Dorothy Westerman Herrmann Science Center.

The project includes much-needed new space for the Engineering Technology program, currently located in the Business Academic Center, as well as limited renovations and capital renewal in the existing building. Highlights include new Anatomy & Physiology labs, 9,000 square feet of new or renovated research space, and a new K-12 Outreach Center. Renovations in the existing building include modernization of classrooms for today's active learning styles, in the process reducing the number of classrooms by one.

This project has been in the planning pipeline since completion of the Science Center in 2002, when due to significant budget challenges during design, the building size was scaled

back. The 2020 Master Plan identified expansion of Science as the top priority project for the university, and an enabling for subsequent priorities.

NKU has less natural science space than other KY regional institutions and less research space than all but 3 of its 26 SACS and national benchmarks. Creating additional research labs in other campus buildings was determined to be cost in-effective due to the need to duplicate sophisticated systems and research support equipment already in place in the Herrmann Science Center.

The 83,000 gross square foot (GSF) addition is three levels with a mechanical penthouse; the existing 167,000 GSF Science Center is four levels with a penthouse. The building has a glass and composite metal panel façade resulting in light-filled interiors. Site development is extensive, and includes a terrace on the west side, a “learning commons plaza” on the north, and a “machine pavilion” to the east.

Early site work will begin this summer and construction is scheduled to start in fall of 2024. Project completion is expected in summer 2027.

Presidential Reports

1. **Facilities Management Report** (Interim Vice President for Administration & Finance Barry Kienzle)
 - a. Herrmann Science Center Expansion
 - b. Fine Arts Floor Heaving/Corbett & HVAC (AP)
 - c. Nunn Hall Floor Heaving/Restrooms and HVAC Renewal (AP)
 - d. New Moot Courtroom - Chase College of Law
 - e. Fine Arts Freight Elevator Modernization (AP)
 - f. Administrative Center Plumbing Infrastructure (AP)
 - g. Renew/Renovate Steely Library (AP)
 - h. Kentucky Hall Transformer and Water Heater (AP)
 - i. Replace Maintenance Building Rooftop HVAC Units (AP)
 - j. Replace Steel Gas Lines (AP)
 - k. Kentucky and Commonwealth Halls / Emergency Generator Replacement (AP)
 - l. Underground Water Valves (AP)
 - m. Business Academic Center and Mathematics-Education-Psychology Center Fire Alarm System Replacements (AP)
 - n. Campbell Hall Roof Restoration (AP)
 - o. Campbell Hall Return Air System Upgrade (AP)
 - p. Nunn Hall Roof Restoration (AP)
 - q. Concrete Sidewalk/Plaza Repairs (AP)
 - r. University Center Replace Switchgear (AP)
 - s. University Center Miscellaneous Renovations (AP)
 - t. Replace Flooring/Main Campus (AP)
 - u. Nunn Hall Façade Repairs (AP)
 - v. Regents Hall Generator and Switchgear Replacement (AP)
 - w. Lake Area Repairs (AP)
 - x. Steely Library Glass Elevator Modernization
 - y. University Suites Exterior Façade Repairs
 - z. Miscellaneous Housing Repairs
 - aa. Replace Road and Sidewalk Lighting

2. **Research/Grants/Contracts Report)November 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 for Fiscal Year 2023-24)** (Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Diana McGill).

During the November 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023 time period, 7 grants were awarded. The total amount of money awarded was \$578,934. For the fiscal year 2023-24, the cumulative total number of grants awarded is 39 totaling \$8,523,990.

3. **Fundraising Report (July 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024)** (Vice President for University Advancement Eric Gentry).

The Fundraising Report summarized fundraising resources committed from July 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024, totaling \$3,553,631 in support of the university.

4. **Policies Report** (Vice President for Legal Affairs and 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.

The following policies were approved on this report:

- Acceptable Use
- Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)
- Credit Card Processing and Security
- Records And Information Management
- Risk Acceptance – Information Security
- Tailgating
- Release of Semester Enrollment Information to the Public Media and to the University Board of Regents (Policy Retirement)

5. **Quarterly Financial Report (July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023)** (Interim Chief Financial Officer Karen Mefford)

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

Consent Agenda Items: Regent Brad Zapp and seconded Regent Cori Henderson’s motion to approve the Presidential Recommendations as listed; C-1 through C-14. **(Motion carried)**

1. **Academic Affairs Personnel Actions:**

a. Faculty Appointments:

Eric Barker, assistant professor in the School of the Arts, College of Arts & Sciences, effective August 12, 2024; **Alexandra Brennan**, lecturer in Political Science, Criminal Justice, and Organizational Leadership, College of Arts & Sciences, effective August 12, 2024; **Emily Gearding**, lecturer in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, effective January 01, 2024; **Jonathan Ko**, lecturer in the School of Allied Health, College of Health and Human Services, effective January 01, 2024; **Nathan Putnam**, lecturer in the W. Frank Steely Library, effective January 29, 2024.

b. Transitions:

Bethany Bowling, from senior associate dean to interim dean, College of Arts and Sciences, effective January 8, 2024; **Charlisa Daniels**, from associate professor in Chemistry and Biochemistry to associate professor in Chemistry & Biochemistry and Director of Recruitment & Retention in CINSAM, College of Arts and Sciences, Effective January 2, 2024; **Maureen Doyle**, from professor of Computer Science and Software Engineering in the School of Computing and Analytics to part-time tenured professor in Computer Science and Software Engineering in the School of Computing and Analytics, College of Informatics, effective August 12, 2024.

c. Departures

David Cain, lecturer in Physics, Geology & Engineering Technology, College of Arts and Sciences, effective May 8, 2024; **Olugbemiga Ekundayo**, associate professor in the School of Allied Health, College of Health and Human Services, effective December 8, 2023; **Brittany Sorrell**, assistant professor in the School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, effective January 5, 2024.

d. Retirement:

Bianca Prather-Jones, associate professor in Teacher Preparation and Educational Studies, College of Education, effective December 31, 2023; **Dennis Honabach**, professor in Law School Instruction, Chase College of Law, beginning August 12, 2024 and terminating May 30, 2026.

e. Temporary Faculty Appointments:

Jessica Edwards, Teacher Preparation and Educational Studies. College of Education, Spring Semester 2024; **Shauna Kinnard**, School of Nursing, College of Health and Human Services, Academic Year.

2. 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 6, 2023 and February 1, 2024 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.

4. Faculty Emeritus Status:

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

Nancy Campbell, associate professor in the W. Frank Steely Library, effective December 31, 2023; **Mary Chesnut**, professor in the W. Frank Steely Library, effective December 31, 2023; **Lois Hamill**, professor in the W. Frank Steely Library, effective December 31, 2023; **Philip McCartney**, associate professor in Mathematics and Statistics, College of Arts and Sciences, effective January 1, 2024; **Mike Scola**, senior lecturer in Biological Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, effective December 20, 2023; **Lois Schultz**, professor in the W. Frank Steely Library, effective December 31, 2023; **Laura Sullivan**, associate professor in the W. Frank

Steely Library, effective December 31, 2023; **Steven Wilkinson**, professor in Mathematics and Statistics, College of Arts and Sciences, effective January 1, 2024.

5. **Staff Emeritus:**

Staff Emeritus status for the following individual received Board of Regents approval:

Sue Murphy Angel, senior coordinator, operations and budget, Office of the Dean, College of Informatics, effective January 1, 2024.

6. **Honorary Degree (William P. Butler)**

The Board of Regents approved that Mr. William P. Butler receive an Honorary Doctor of Education Degree.

7. **Honorary Degree (Frank Caccamo)**

The Board of Regents approved that Mr. Frank Caccamo receive an Honorary Doctor of Education Degree.

8. **Copyrights Policy**

The Board of Regents approved the Copyrights Policy which, along with the Inventions and Patents Policy, replaces the Intellectual Property Policy, which is a University policy on the NKU policy site and is also included in the Faculty Handbook Appendix F and Section 16.16 (which simply refers to Appendix F).

9. **Inventions and Patents Policy**

The Board of Regents approved the Inventions and Patents Policy which, along with the Copyrights Policy, replaces the Intellectual Property Policy, which is a University policy on the NKU policy site and is also included in the Faculty Handbook Appendix F and Section 16.16 (which simply refers to Appendix F).

10. **Naming Recommendations:**

The Board of Regents approved the following naming actions:

1. The naming of an endowed fund for the UR-STEM program to underwrite student stipends. “Newman Endowment for Undergraduate Research in STEM”
2. The naming of an endowed scholarship for students in the College of Health and Human Services. “Leslie Miles Lavender and L. Michael Lavender M.D. Endowed Scholarship”
3. The naming of an endowed scholarship for students majoring in accounting within the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation College of Business. “Charles A. Stein Endowed Scholarship”
4. The naming of a fund for operating support for the accounting program within the Carol Ann and Ralph V. Haile, Jr. Foundation College of Business. “Charles A. Stein Fund for Accounting”
5. The naming of an endowed scholarship for students pursuing a degree in Chemistry (B.S.) – Biochemistry track out of the Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry. “James A. Monton Biochemistry Endowed Scholarship”

11. Major Gifts Acceptance:

The Board of Regents accepted contributions totaling **\$1,450,000.00** received by the NKU Foundation Inc. for the benefit of Northern Kentucky University during the period December 1, 2023, through January 31, 2024.

12. Bucks for Brains

The Board of Regents accepted contributions totaling **\$725,000** to be submitted to the state of Kentucky for matching funds through the Bucks for Brains program. Gifts received by the NKU Foundation Inc. for the benefit of Northern Kentucky University after November 15, 2021 to create or expand endowments are eligible and officially acknowledges responsibility for oversight of the endowments established or expanded with these funds in accordance with Council guidelines and procedures.

13. Bachelor of Arts Degree in Special Education

The Board of Regents approved the immediate implementation of a Bachelor of Art Degree in Special Education.

14. Bond Resolution

The Board of Regents adopted the Resolution which provides for the sale and issuance of approximately \$30,000,000 in General Receipt Obligations for the purpose of (i) refunding outstanding Northern Kentucky University General Receipts Bonds, 2014 Series A, dated January 7, 2014 and (ii) paying costs of issuance in connection with the Northern Kentucky University General Receipts Refunding Bonds, 2024 Series A.

Executive Session:

Regent Cori Henderson seconded Chair Boehne's motion to enter into executive session pursuant to KRS 61.810(1) (b) in order to discuss a possible future acquisition of real property. **(Motion carried)**

At 11:54 am, Executive Session concluded, and the regular meeting was reconvened.

At 11:55 am, Regent Sandra Spataro seconded Regent Isaiah Phillips' motion to adjourn. **(Motion Carried)**

Signature On File

Tammy Knochelmann
Secretary to the Board of Regents

Signature On File

Kara Williams
Secretary of 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 regular meeting held on March 12, 2024. and that such matters are still in force and effect.