

**Board of Regents Meeting  
Northern Kentucky University, Student Union, Room 104  
November 13, 2013**

Regent Dennis Repenning, Chair, called the regular meeting of the Board of Regents to order at 1:00 pm., Wednesday, November 13, 2013.

**Roll Call:** Richard A. Boehne, Virginia G. Fox, Jacqueline Emerine, Terry L. Mann, Stephen A. Meier, Erik Pederson, Dennis Repenning, Nathaniel Smith, Elizabeth L. Thompson, André Ward, Brenda L. Wilson

Other Attendees: Geoffrey S. Mearns, Kathryn Herschede, Tammy Knochelmann, Wendy Peek, Sara Sidebottom, Gail Wells, Ken Ramey, Joe Wind, Sue Hodges Moore, Peter Gitau, Ken Bothof, Eric Gentry, Tracy Insko, Chris Bowling, Bill Farro, Casey Long, Don Gorbandt, Jeff Waple, Jim Nilson, Pat Moynahan, Kathy Stewart, Tim Sofranko, Rick Meyers, Carole Beere, Leah Stewart, Joel Robinson, Mary Lou Singleton, Carol Ryan, Larry Blake, Russ Kerdolff, Kevin Kirby, Chris Cole, Larry Meyer, Ken Kline, Rick Kolbe, Denise Robinson, Karen Kruer, Kevin Schultz, Zach Hart, Mac Peyton, Vickie Natale, Kerri Beach, Mary Paula Schuh, Bill Thompson

Regent Elizabeth Thompson seconded Regent Nathan Smith's motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2013 Board of Regents meeting. **(Motion carried)**

Regent André Ward seconded Regent Terry Mann's motion to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2013 Board of Regents meeting. **(Motion carried)**

**Presidential Comments:**

**New Provost**

Two weeks ago, I announced that I have selected Sue Ott Rowlands as our next Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. I am very pleased to welcome Sue to our team. I know that she will provide excellent leadership across our entire campus. Sue is presently the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences at Virginia Tech. She will join us on January 6. She looks forward to meeting you at the Board of Regents meeting on January 8.

**Dean Searches**

As you know, we are in the process for searching for three new academic deans: the College of Arts and Sciences, the Haile/US Bank College of Business, and the College of Education and Human Services. Search committees are now in place for each of these positions. We have also retained Isaacson Miller to assist us with these three searches. The search committees are presently developing job descriptions and recruitment materials, and building strong candidate pools. We anticipate interviewing finalists in the Spring. We will welcome the new deans in July.

### **Strategic Plan**

As you heard this morning, over the last 11 months, the campus community has engaged in an extensive and thorough strategic planning process. Hundreds of faculty, staff, and students attended open forums in the Spring and Fall semesters to contribute their ideas on what should be included in our five-year strategic plan. Nearly 2,000 students and 1,000 faculty and staff completed a comprehensive survey online that asked what *is* important to NKU and what *should* be important. In addition, more than 100 faculty, staff, students, and community members served on work groups to provide detailed analyses on trends and issues impacting the university. We also conducted more than 20 meetings with external constituents to recognize the needs of our community and regional employers. This participatory process has been transparent. The end result is something that we should all be proud of.

This morning, I presented the results of these efforts to you. Our strategic plan identifies a clear, succinct mission with a vision for 2018 that will guide our work over the next five years. The strategic plan includes the goals and directions to enable us to achieve that ambitious vision.

As I have said before, though, our work does not end today. Today the real hard work begins, because the implementation of the plan is the most important part of this entire process. Indeed, the implementation is what will make our university distinctive and what will bring us success when we celebrate our achievements in 2018.

The committee has invested an extraordinary amount of time into this project. I'd like to thank each of them for their dedication, time, and thoughtful input. I'd also like to thank Sue Hodges Moore, Vickie Natale, and Kerri Beach for their outstanding support of the committee.

### **Faculty Excellence**

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Linda Wermeling, associate professor of social work. Dr. Wermeling was recently selected as a Fulbright Specialist. The Fulbright program helps connect scholars in the United States with colleagues overseas for collaborative projects. Dr. Wermeling has routinely worked with international social work scholars. She has previously participated in projects in Cuba and Moldova. As part of her Fulbright responsibilities, Dr. Wermeling will work with a university in Romania on curriculum development and international social work education standards. Congratulations Dr. Wermeling. Thank you for bringing honor and prestige to our university.

### **Enrollment Management**

I have previously reported on the strength of our freshman class. I am pleased to report that we are continuing our efforts to recruit both outstanding first year students and outstanding transfer students. Last month, NKU and Gateway announced a major new partnership. The Gateway2NKU program will allow students to transfer seamlessly from Gateway to NKU to earn a four-year degree in four years. There are 25 identified degree pathways and advisors at both Gateway and NKU who work directly with students to ensure an efficient transfer process. We expect to increase the number of transfers from Gateway to NKU, and we anticipate

partnering with other Kentucky Community and Technical College Schools and regional community colleges to expand this program.

Last Spring, a group of superintendents expressed interest in enhancing our School Based Scholars Program. This program allows high school students to take NKU classes in their high schools or at the university. I met with several superintendents earlier this year and as a result of their feedback, I recently approved the recommendations of a joint task force of school-district personnel and NKU staff to enhance our School-Based Scholars program. The revisions are intended to increase access to dual-credit courses for students throughout our service region. Specific program changes included: reducing the price from \$337 per course to \$225 per course, effective Fall 2013. This change resulted in an immediate savings of \$83,778 for participating families, increased to eight the number of courses that can be completed through NKU at the discounted rate, and waived the application fee for SBS students who apply to NKU. We are presently working with school districts on a plan to help their teachers add the credentials necessary to teach college content in their schools, and we are working to develop an innovative hybrid approach that will team NKU faculty with high school teachers to provide intensive online content specifically for high school students. The first course will be piloted in Spring 2014 with approximately 50 students from five high schools.

Further, as part of the Strategic Planning process, we have identified an enrollment management implementation team to continue to work on new student, transfer, and graduate enrollment strategies. The group is being led by Joel Robinson, our Interim Assistant Vice President for Enrollment Management. I look forward to sharing more about their work at an upcoming meeting.

### **Tobacco Free/Commitment to Wellness**

Earlier this year, the Board of Regents voted unanimously to adopt a tobacco-free campus policy and to develop recommendations for the implementation of this policy. Over the past 11 months, faculty, staff, and students have worked diligently on multiple aspects of this policy and plan. This afternoon, I will ask you to approve our tobacco free policy. The policy explicitly states that the Northern Kentucky University community deserves a healthy place in which to learn, work, live, and visit. Going tobacco-free is a major health initiative that reflects our commitment to a healthy campus.

### **Athletics**

I am very pleased to announce that we have captured our first A-Sun championship. J.J. Webber, a junior majoring in nursing, and a cross country runner finished first in the eight kilometer race. Overall the team finished second. Additionally, Mr. Webber was named the A-Sun Runner of the Year. This is a strong accomplishment for our team, and we have much to continue to look forward to.

## **Thank You**

Mr. Chairman, before I finish my remarks, I want to take a moment to recognize a major transition at the University. In just about 45 days, Gail Wells will finish a nearly ten-year term as NKU's Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. That is a remarkable achievement. Gail has also dedicated many more years of her career to NKU as a professor, Chair of the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science, and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. In all, her service to the university has spanned more than three decades. I'd like to thank Gail for her commitment and counsel. She has been instrumental in helping the university grow and expand, and it is difficult to find an area where she hasn't made a significant difference. On December 3, we will host a lunch recognizing and thanking Gail for her service. At that time, many of us will share more thoughts about her contributions. Until then, Gail, thank you for your service, and thank you for your commitment to our faculty, staff, students, and our community.

**A. Joint Finance and Policy Committee Summary:** (Reports given by Regent Nathaniel Smith, Secretary)

## **Chase College of Law**

This morning Jeffrey Standen, Dean of the Chase College of Law, shared an overview of the College. Lawrence Rosenthal, Associate Dean, and Nate Lennon, student, highlighted some of the College's student accomplishments, including moot court competitions and the prestigious victory in the Scribes "Best Brief of the Year" competition.

## **Strategic Plan**

This morning, President Mearns presented the 2013-18 Strategic Plan. The plan includes revised Mission, Vision, and Core Values, as well as the goals, objectives, and strategic directions for the next five years. President Mearns recapped the extensive involvement of faculty, staff, students, and community members in the planning process over the past 11 months. Our five primary goals will focus on: Student Success; Talent Development; Academic Innovation; Community Engagement; and Institutional Excellence. The campus will begin forming teams to work on implementation plans, and metrics and targets will be presented to the Board at the March meeting. President Mearns thanked the members of the Strategic Planning Committee for their diligence and hard work on drafting the plan.

## **Annual Financials**

Vice President Ramey and Comptroller Kerdolff presented highlights from the University's 2012-13 Annual Financial Report, including a review of the University's revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and net position.

The University's financial performance for fiscal year 2013 was very positive. The University continued to make significant progress in building its capacity to serve the needs of our students while managing the fiscal challenges of declining state and federal funding. The University is in a strong financial position as it launches a new five-year strategic plan.

### **Construction Update**

This morning the Board received a report on the status of the recreation center project by the University Architect, Mr. Steve Nienaber, and the Recreation Center Project Manager, Mr. Rob Knarr. The outdoor recreation field portion of the project is now complete and the fields are open.

We also received an update on the status of the renovation/expansion of the Albright Health Center Building. This portion of the project will double the size of the existing recreation space in the building and open it to provide natural light throughout the space. The building will be constructed to achieve LEED Silver certification. The new construction portion of the project and the pool water will be conditioned using a geothermal system, the first significant installation of a renewably energy source on our campus.

### **Audit Committee Summary** (Report given by Nathaniel Smith, Secretary)

The Audit Committee met on September 27<sup>th</sup> with representatives from the accounting firm Dean Dorton Allen Ford to review the University's 2012-13 financial statements. Also in attendance were President Mearns, Vice President Ken Ramey, Comptroller Russ Kerdolff and representatives from the University's accounting, internal auditing offices. Crissy Fiscus, from DDAF, led the review and discussion.

Ms. Fiscus discussed all matters related to the audit that they are required to communicate to the Audit Committee in accordance with auditing standards. Ms. Fiscus reported to the Committee that the financial statements and A-133 audit report were issued with unqualified opinions, commonly referred to as a clean opinion.

At the end of the formal meeting members of management were excused and the Audit Committee met privately with the external auditors. After this discussion the meeting was adjourned.

### **B. Presidential Reports:**

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

- a. Campus Recreation Center Expansion
- b. Norse Commons Dining Renovation
- c. Fine Arts Roof Repairs and Replacement
- d. Steely Library Roof Repairs and Replacement
- e. Central Plaza Phase II
- f. Lakeside Terrace Renovation
- g. Central Receiving/Loading Dock Roof Replacement
- h. Landrum Elevator Renovation
- i. Arc Flash Hazard Assessment
- j. Switchgear Assessment

- k. Callahan Switchgear Replacement
- l. Founders Hall Switchgear Replacement
- m. Business Academic Center Variable Air Volume (VAV) Box Replacement
- n. Campus Air Handling Unit (AHU) Coil Cleaning
- o. Mathematics·Education·Psychology Exterior Caulking and Sealing
- p. Exterior Door Security and Access Control

**2. Research, Grants, and Contracts Report (July 2013 - September 2013)** (Vice President Gail Wells)

This report lists the grants awarded, with the amount awarded for each grant, for NKU faculty and staff. During the July 2013 – September 2013 time period, **39** grants were awarded. The total amount of money awarded was **\$3,540,443**.

**3. Fundraising Report (July 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013)** (Vice President Eric Gentry)

The Fundraising Report summarized fundraising resources committed from **July 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013 totaling \$795,788** in support of the university.

**4. Organizational Changes Report** (Vice President Sue Hodges Moore)

The organizational changes report summarized that the department of Testing & Disability Services within the Division of Student Affairs has been split into two departments, namely Testing Services and Disability Services. Also, the Center for Applied Ecology, under the Associate Provost for Regional Stewardship, requested that its name be changed to Center for Environmental Restoration.

**5. Annual Financial Report** (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013) (Vice President Ken Ramey)

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

**C. Presidential Recommendations:**

**Consent Agenda Items:** A motion was made by Regent Nathan Smith and seconded by Regent Erik Pederson to approve the following Presidential Recommendations as listed; C-1 through C-11. **(Motion carried)**

**1. Academic Affairs Personnel Actions:**

**a. Administrative Appointments:**

**Joel Robinson**, Interim Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, effective October 1, 2013.

**b. Transitions:**

**Carrie McCoy**, from Chair and Professor in the Department of Nursing to Professor in the Department of Nursing, effective July 1, 2014; **Eileen Weisenbach Keller**, from Associate Professor and Entrepreneurship Institute Director in the Department of Management to Associate Professor in the Department of Marketing, Economics and Sports Business, effective January 1, 2014; **Samuel Zachary**, from Professor of Theatre in the Department of Theatre and Dance and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences to Professor of Theatre in the Department of Theatre and Dance, effective June 30, 2014.

**c. Faculty Appointments:**

**Megan Talley-Lindsey**, Lecturer (non-tenure track renewable) in the Department of Counseling, Social Work & Leadership, effective August 12, 2013.

**d. Retirements:**

**Carole Beere**, Senior Director of Special Projects, effective December 31, 2013; **David Bishop**, Professor in the Department of Teacher Education, effective May 18, 2014; **Janis Cassiere**, Assistant Dean and Lecturer in the College of Arts & Sciences, effective June 30, 2014; **Joy Churchill**, Associate Professor in the Department of Nursing, effective June 30, 2014.

**e. Phased Retirements:**

**Jon Hastings**, Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences (participation for two calendar years), effective August 11, 2014 and terminating his employment after the spring semester of 2016; **Debra Pearce**, Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences (participation for two calendar years), effective August 11, 2014 and terminating her employment after the spring semester of 2016.

**f. Departures:**

**Paul Orscheln**, from the position of Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, effective September 25, 2013.

**g. Leaves, Paid/Unpaid:**

**Carrie McCoy**, Professor in the Department of Nursing, paid administrative re-entry leave with benefits, beginning August 11, 2014 through December 30, 2014; **Samuel J. Zachary**, Professor in the Department of Theatre and Dance, paid administrative reentry leave with benefits, beginning August 11, 2014 through December 30, 2014.

**h. Academic Affairs Temporary Appointments:**

**Reuben Bullard**, CINSAM, 2013-2014 Academic Year; **James Anthony Chowning**, Department of Communication, 2013-2014 Academic Year; **J. Michael Skaggs**, Department of Communication, 2013-2014 Academic Year; **Connie Bruins**, Department of History & Geography, 2013-2014 Academic Year; **Gary De Jesus**, Department of Marketing, Economics & Sports Business, 2013-2014 Academic Year;

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

The following categories of non-academic personnel actions which occurred between August 14, 2013 and October 15, 2013 received approval by the Board of Regents: Activations; Reassignments, Reclassifications, Title/Status Changes, Promotions; Transfers; Contract/Temporary to Regular; Departures; Retirees; Administrative/Executive.

**3. Emeritus Status Appointment:**

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

**Dr. Gail W. Wells**, who served effectively as Provost for a decade (2004-2013), effective January 1, 2014.

**4. Emeritus Status Appointment:**

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

**Dr. Carole Beere**, Professor in the Department of Psychological Science effective January 1, 2014.

**5. Major Gifts Acceptance:**

The Board of Regents officially accepted contributions totaling **\$250,000** received by the NKU Foundation Inc. for the benefit of Northern Kentucky University; **\$102,484.20** received by the Greater Cincinnati Foundation for the exclusive benefit of Northern Kentucky; and **\$10,800.00** received in In-Kind gifts for the benefit of Northern Kentucky University during the period August 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013.

**6. Naming Recommendations (O'Neill Elliott, Eble):**

The Board of Regents hereby approved the following naming actions:

(1) The Naming of a scholarship in support of students enrolled in the Master's Degree in Social Work program. Preference will be given to African American applicants who have earned a degree from Kentucky State University and who demonstrate a strong desire to make a difference in the world, in recognition of a private gift: The Mary O'Neill Elliott Endowed Scholarship.



(2) The Naming of a third floor student lounge in Nunn Hall, in recognition of a private gift: Timothy E. Eble '81 Student Commons.

**7. 2014-2016 Capital Budget Request:**

The Board of Regents adopted the 2014-2016 Capital Budget.

**8. Audited Financial Statements Acceptance:**

The Board of Regents accepted:

(1) The NKU audited financial statements for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013.

(2) The independent auditor's report on internal controls based on the audit of the University's financial statements.

(3) The federal program audit required by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget Circular A-133.

**9. Teacher Education Policy Update:**

The Teacher Education Policy update received Board of Regents approval.

**10. Tobacco-Free Policy:**

The Board of Regents adopted the NKU Tobacco-Free Campus Policy: Effective January 1, 2014. Regent Reppenning asked for a roll call vote to be taken regarding the Tobacco-Free Campus Policy. (Motion carried)

**11. Strategic Plan:**

The Board of Regents approved the 2013-18 strategic plan, including the Mission, Vision, and Core Values for the University.

**D. Executive Session:**

Regent Erik Pederson seconded Regent Dennis Reppenning's motion to enter into executive session pursuant KRS 61.810 (1) (C) in order to discuss potential litigation against the university. (Motion carried)

At one point during the executive session, Regent Thompson recused herself due to a conflict of interest.

Regent Erik Pederson seconded Regent Nathaniel Smith's motion to close the Executive Session. No action was taken. (Motion carried)

NKU Board of Regents Meeting  
November 13, 2013

At 2:33 p.m., Regent Virginia Fox seconded Regent André Ward'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 November 13, 2013, and that such matters are still in force and effect.

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