

**Minutes of the Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
Northern Kentucky University Board of Regents
November 18, 2025**

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Himes at 4:00 pm.

2. Roll Call

Present: Victoria Grooms, Ashley Himes, Collin Jarrell

Absent: Nathan Smith, Debbie Wulfeck

3. Approval of Minutes

Regent Jarrell moved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2025, committee meeting. Regent Grooms seconded. The motion carried.

4. Presentations and Discussion

A. Dr. Brandon Thompson, Vice President for Student Affairs presented updates on Student Life and the Norse Neighborhood Housing Community:

Student Life:

- VictorFest Fall 2025:
 - 36 official events; 61 total campuswide.
 - 1,015 unique students attended at least one event; 2,335 total check-ins.
 - Overall engagement: 6,923 total check-ins across campus activities.
- Student Organizations:
 - 160 active organizations involving 3,659 students.
 - Data shows involvement correlates with higher GPAs (87% of FTF in RSOs had GPA > 2.0 vs. 82.6% for non-members).
- Student Services:
 - Expanded accessibility registrations (+4% YoY), counseling sessions (595 appointments), and wellness programs.
 - Initiatives supported commuter and first-generation students and promoted belonging through the Norse Center for Belonging.
- Opportunities for Improvement:
 - Strengthen fraternity and sorority life staffing.
 - Define engagement through data.
 - Increase outreach to online students.
 - Promote MyEngagement platform.

Norse Neighborhood Housing Community:

- Pilot program successful; efforts underway to increase student presence.

- One house at 19 Clearview currently vacant; Sigma Phi Epsilon considering spring move-in.
- Additional houses available in fall; interest from Alpha Tau Omega, cheerleading, and possibly international students.
- Housing process mirrors traditional residence hall applications; smaller organizations may benefit from three-bedroom option.

B. Dr. Diana McGill, Executive Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs presented an overview of Academic Programs:

- Current Degree Inventory:
 - Undergraduate: 1 Associate, 69 Baccalaureate, 10 Certificates, 12 Post-bac Certs.
 - Graduate: 26 Master's, 2 Specialist, 7 Post-master's Certs, 3 Doctorates, 1 JD.
- Strategic Decisions:
 - New programs guided by workforce needs, faculty expertise, and financial viability.
 - Existing programs undergo annual assessment and five-year review cycles for quality and accreditation compliance.
- Enrollment Trends:
 - Closures of low-demand majors (e.g., German, Geography, Athletic Training).
 - Growth in high-demand fields: nursing, business, psychology, IT, and graduate programs in health and cybersecurity.
- Program Development Criteria:
 - Workforce alignment, competitive landscape, faculty capacity, cost analysis, and enrollment projections.

Corrected on March 3, 2026/tkk

C. Collin Jarrell, Student Government Association President and Student Regent provided the following SGA updates:

- Membership:
 - Executive leadership stable; vacancies remain in legislative (14) and judicial (3) branches.
 - Composition: 8 first-year, 6 sophomores, 4 juniors, 5 seniors, 2 master's students.
- Budget Overview:
 - 2025–2026 allocation: \$19,000 (primarily officer stipends and programming).
 - Funding pools support RSOs through operational, travel, and program/activity grants.
- Programming Highlights:
 - Events: Pizza with the President, advocacy talks, SGA Retreat, Victor Talks, Big Pink Volleyball.
 - Initiatives: Book Awards, Food Drive, Finals Week Swag, FUEL NKU extended hours.

- Future Goals:
 - Expand programming (Town Halls, Roundtables).
 - Offer scholarships and grants (childcare, leadership).
 - Increase campus collaborations.

5. Next Meeting Agenda

The committee requested the following topics be included on the agenda the March 3, 2026, meeting.

- a. Student Areas and Clearview tour
- b. SGA Report

6. Adjourn

There being no further business to come before the committee, Chair Himes adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Executive Assistant to the President
& Secretary to the Board of Regents