

Minutes of the Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
Northern Kentucky University Board of Regents, SU 106
February 25, 2025, 4:00 pm

The Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. on February 25, 2025. All members were present. Regent Smith arrived following the roll call at 4:02 pm.

November 11, 2024, and February 10, 2025, meeting minutes were approved.

The following discussions were held:

Fraternity Lodge Project Update: VP Garber provided an update on the proposed fraternity lodge project on Clearview Drive, specifically discussing the potential to close the street and transform it into a "Fraternity Row" or "Norse Neighborhood." President Short-Thompson expressed strong support for the Norse Neighborhood initiative, viewing it as an opportunity to enhance campus vibrancy. The committee recommended a phased approach, focusing on developing one property as a pilot for a more financially viable and successful execution.

Next Steps:

- Evaluate the possibility of identifying an additional property for the project.
- Determine the required work, estimated costs, and resources needed.

Small Houses & Clearview Village Update: VP Garber also discussed the strategy regarding small house dispositions. The primary focus for the upcoming year is expanding the property portfolio. He noted that the Duke Easement will pass through an existing property, and there was a decision point on whether the 91 Faren Drive property could serve as a backup to relocate the current tenant. The committee also discussed exploring funding options for this move. Additionally, properties north of Sunset may be considered for sale.

VP Garber acknowledged that these plans conflict with the university's overarching goal of minimizing involvement in real estate ventures. Regent Ward noted that the Norse Neighborhood proposal has shifted significantly from its original concept, evolving from a plan for affinity housing to a more diverse university living model. He recommended reframing the initiative, not solely labeling it as Greek housing.

Cost Estimates for Northern Terrace Kitchens: VP Calvert presented cost estimates for renovations to the Northern Terrace kitchens, with a quote of \$130,000 per stack for six kitchens. Regent Smith requested a visual design of the proposed kitchens. VP Garber clarified that the renovation is to add kitchens to the existing units, not to revert them to efficiency units, as heating issues would make returning to efficiencies impractical. The goal is to have students occupy these spaces by Fall 2025.

Discussion:

- Regent Smith expressed support for the project and raised the idea of not limiting residency in Northern Terrace to 21+ students. The committee discussed the university's decision to limit Northern Terrace residents to those aged 21 and over, primarily due to liability concerns.
- President Short-Thompson suggested separating the wings into two groups: one for students 21+ and another for students under 21.
- Regent Spataro suggested eliminating the alcohol policy change but adding kitchens.
- Regent Smith suggested adopting a “No Policy” stance, but VP Garber emphasized that a policy is necessary to meet insurance carrier requirements. However, no increase in the insurance premium is expected if the alcohol policy is revised. There were concerns about the liability risk of underage alcohol consumption, with Scott Patton noting that some students seek RA support in addressing such issues.
- President Short-Thompson noted this was a pilot policy where 21+ students could possess and consume alcohol in Northern Terrace, with a one-year trial.

Next Steps for Northern Terrace

- Committee approved the renovation of two stacks of six kitchens.
- Administration will continue to monitor space fill rates and may trigger the next phase based on demand.
- The committee will have an idea of Fall occupancy rates by May, with a presentation at the June Board of Regents meeting.
- If demand is high, an Executive Committee meeting may be called to make further decisions.

Action: President Short-Thompson will work with Regent Burns, VP Garber and Mr. Patton to organize information sessions for students regarding the new housing options.

Live-On Radius Policy and Recruitment Strategy: Mr. Patton updated the committee on recent changes to the live-on radius policy and new recruitment strategies aimed at increasing student engagement. The committee discussed maintaining the current live-on requirement for first-year students (based on county limits) while adopting a second-year live-on requirement. This change would apply to incoming students.

President Short-Thompson questioned the exclusion of a broader radius, but the committee noted that interest had primarily been limited to a 60-mile radius, and there was no appetite for further reducing it.

Regent Sparato questioned whether this would negatively impact enrollment.

The committee agreed they were comfortable with the 2-year residency requirement and staying with counties as a determinant, emphasizing that broad exceptions will continue to exist. VP Garber noted that this is currently an administrative policy that does not require Board approval.

Following the discussions, with no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

The next Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Knochelmann". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Knochelmann
Secretary to the Board