

**Minutes of the
Special Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee
Northern Kentucky University
Board of Regents
Monday, February 10, 2025**

A **special meeting** of the Student Success and Academic Affairs Committee (SSAAC) of the Northern Kentucky University (NKU) Board of Regents convened on Monday, February 10, 2025, in room 106 of the Votruba Student Union and in videoconference.

Election of Chair Pro Tem: Regent Andr  Ward called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. and called for a motion to elect a chairperson pro tem. Regent Sandra Spataro's motion to elect Regent Andr  Ward as Chairperson pro tem was seconded by Regent Nathan Smith. (***Motion Carried***)

Roll Call: The following members of the SSAAC were present: Lucy Burns, Nathan Smith (joining by video conference), Sandra Spataro, Andr  Ward. The following member was absent: Ashley Himes.

A quorum was confirmed.

Other Attendees: Sarah Aikman, Grant Garber, Tammy Knochelmann, Andy Meeks, Diana McGill, Scott Patton, Cady Short-Thompson and Jason Vest.

New Business/Discussion:

A. Proposal to initiate capital project in Northern Terrace to add kitchens

Vice President Chris Calvert presented a proposal to improve a stack of Northern Terrace units by adding kitchens, with a goal to have the project completed and the units online before Fall 2025. He noted that asset preservation funding will be utilized for this project.

Project Details:

- Proposal involves renovating 6 units, potentially accommodating up to 12 students (4 per unit).
- An estimated cost of the project is between \$300,000 to \$500,000, based on preliminary discussions with contractors.
- Rent for each unit would increase by \$200 per month.

Discussion:

Concerns were raised about the high cost of renovations, with a query on the feasibility of recovering the investment. Further discussion on the financial implications and potential demand for the units followed.

Next Steps:

Regent Smith's motion to direct the administration to seek quotes on kitchen installations to get actual costs and share with the Committee was seconded by Regent Burns. (***Motion carried***)

Regent Ward noted that Chair Himes can reconvene the Committee for further discussion as needed.

B. Alcohol policy

Vice President Garber provided an overview of a resolution that would allow legal-age residents and their guests in Northern Terrace to consume alcohol responsibly in private rooms. This adjustment aims to make East Village, particularly Northern Terrace, more appealing to a more mature group of students.

Current Policy Overview:

The existing campus alcohol policy, which has been in place since 1988, prohibits alcohol possession and consumption in all university residence halls. Approval from the Board is required to amend this policy for Northern Terrace.

Proposed Changes:

The resolution would permit alcohol consumption only by residents and guests who are 21 years of age and older, and only in their private rooms. Additional guidelines would include:

- No common sources of alcohol (e.g., kegs)
- Prohibition on drinking in common areas or hallways
- Emphasis on maintaining an apartment-style living atmosphere

Pilot Program:

A one-year pilot program is proposed to begin in Fall 2025. The committee will be kept informed throughout the pilot to assess its progress.

Questions and Discussion:

A question was raised regarding the rationale for faculty involvement in the alcohol policy decision-making. VP Garber clarified that previous Board authorization allowed the inclusion of alcohol policy in the faculty handbook, empowering faculty to have input on this matter.

Next Steps:

- Gather feedback and finalize the resolution for the Board meeting.
- Continue discussions with faculty governance regarding policy approval.

Regent Spataro's motion to recommend that the Board of Regents approve the adoption of a resolution approving the proposed pilot program for one year was seconded by Regent Burns. (***Motion carried by unanimous approval***)

The committee tasked President Short-Thompson with delivering a comprehensive report by June 2026, detailing the outcomes of the pilot study. This report will include a thorough comparison of the current volume of alcohol-related incidents to the figures recorded when alcohol consumption is permitted.

C. Housing and Dining Fees

Andy Meeks presented the proposed housing and dining fees for the upcoming year, highlighting the changes made to the Chartwells contract and noting the proposed recommendation includes a general rate increase in dining fees based on CPI, estimated at around 3-4% for this year.

Changes to the Dining Plan:

A new dining plan was discussed:

- Replacing the current plan of 250 swipes and \$200 flex dollars with a new option of 125 swipes and \$1,000 flex dollars. This change is based on student feedback for more flexibility in using dining facilities such as food courts and coffee shops

Action Items:

Administration to conduct a review of the dining plan after one year to evaluate the effectiveness of the changes and monitor the financial impact of the new contract and dining plan changes.

Regent Ward noted to the Committee that the Housing & Dining Fees recommendation was item D-4 in the Board packet.

D. Extending Housing Terms for Graduating Students

President Short-Thompson kicked off a discussion on an idea for providing affordable housing solutions for recent graduates, emphasizing the need to not only fill housing but also support recent graduates in securing affordable accommodation.

Proposal:

The proposal allows recent graduates to stay in residence halls for an additional year if space permits. It leverages existing housing software and systems for ease of enrollment verification. No substantial system changes are required, as the data are already in the housing database.

Rationale:

- Some graduates are not ready to transition to independent living and may benefit from continued access to campus housing.
- Potential positive impact on employment: Many graduates remain employed at the university, providing stability while they adjust to post-graduation life and job markets.
- Potential for continued revenue from alumni residing in university housing for up to six months post-graduation, which positively impacts university financials
- International grad students, who typically have a year of work authorization after graduation, could also benefit from continued residence on campus during this period.

Current Policy Constraints:

The current policy mandates that residents must be enrolled in at least one credit hour to maintain a housing contract. Therefore, graduates and certain graduate employees may not qualify under the existing rules.

Conclusion:

- It was agreed that a pilot initiative could be developed to test this housing framework while addressing current policy limitations.
- Further discussion and planning are needed to determine the specifics of the pilot, including duration of stay and enrollment requirements.
- President Short-Thompson was tasked with reviewing the pilot's results with the Committee in one year.

VP Garber provided a brief update on the status of the small houses project.

E. **Adjournment:** Having no further business to discuss, at 11:16 a.m., the meeting adjourned.

The next Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tammy Knochelmann", positioned above a horizontal line.

Tammy Knochelmann
Secretary to the Board of Regents