

Members present: Kristi Bishop, Nick Bliven, Chris Bowling, Angela Calhoun, Sara Conwell, Vicki Cooper, Jennifer Davis, Kyle Dorriere, Ali Hannig, Mike Irvin, Dan Jones, Beth Lackey, Brenda Maldonado, Michelle Melish, Kara Olding, Pete Rinto, Connie Seiter, Felicia Share, Terri Smith, Vanessa Steele, Jennifer Stephens, Julianne Stockman, Teresa Walker, Terkerah Washington, Christopher Witt, and Christine Yankovsky

Members absent: Tina Altenhofen, Amanda Andrews, Liz Futscher, Bryan Irby, Amy Ishmael, Christina Knight, Aaron Luken, Crystal Schwab, Steve Slone, and Carolyn Wilhoit

- I. Call to Order at 1:02 PM
- II. Voting Item new member: Christina Knight (to replace Nic Hevey)
 - Motion: Vanessa Steele
 - Second: Kristi Bishop
 - Approval: Voice Vote
- III. Approval of July 10, 2025 Minutes
 - Motion: Jennifer Davis
 - Second: Jennifer Stephens
 - Approval: Voice Vote
- IV. Liaison Reports
 - President – Dr. Cady Short-Thompson - [Report](#)
 - Board of Regents – Staff Regent – Dr. Cori Henderson - [Report](#)
 - Administrative Liaison – Chief Human Resources Officer – Amy Gellen and Lauren Franzen - [Report](#)
 - Faculty Senate – Budget Committee Chair – Dr. Janel Bloch - [Report](#)
 - Student Government Association – Kyah Smith
 - President's Report – Vicki Cooper - [Report](#)
- V. Standing Committees:
 - Benefits – Ali Hannig - [Report](#)
 - Constitution & Bylaws – Chris Witt and Christina Yankovsky
 - Credentials & Elections – Beth Lackey and Teresa Walker
 - Liaison – Steve Slone and Terkerah Washington
 - Policies – Pete Rinto and Aaron Luken
 - Scholarship – Kristi Bishop and Michelle Melish
- VI. University Committees:
 - Benevolent Association
 - Food Service Advisory – Michelle Melish
 - IT Advisory Committee – Dan Jones
 - Strategic Planning – Amanda Andrews - [Report](#)
 - Transportation – Christopher Bowling
 - Parking and Tuition Waiver Task Force – Mike Irvin and Steve Slone - [Report](#)
- VII. Ad-Hoc Committee
 - Outreach – Terri Smith - [Report](#)
 - Roundtable – Amanda Andrews
 - Advocacy – Vanessa Steele

- VIII. Old Business
- IX. New Business
- X. Non-Member Discussion Period
- XI. Norse Appreciation - [Report](#)
- XII. Announcements
- XI. Adjournment at 2:06 PM
 - Motion: Ali Hannig
 - Second: Vanessa Steele
 - Approval: Voice Vote

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 1:02 PM.

President – Dr. Cady Short-Thompson

Dr. Cady Short-Thompson began by sharing that it is just nice to sit down every now and again. She was at Move-In day and multiple college convocations with one more the Chase convocation to go tonight. There are a lot of things going on right now. We are all busy with students descending upon us. They are moving in, they are paying bills, they are getting registered and advised. This is the busy time of year for all of us. She's had a number of doe-eyed students looking at her like where is everything. It is good to have them back. We are watching enrollment super closely as the numbers continue to change every day. We have been watching it closely with emails every morning. Right now, the best word to describe it is choppy. Some of it is unpredictable as it relates to different kinds of trends that we are seeing. Some of it is understandable given the national context. For example, we've had some international students not be able to get visas and come to our campus. They are just not even able to get an appointment, and that's impacting certain colleges and certain programs. We are looking at a significant decrease in graduate AOL right now. It is still several hundred down, though we anticipate and are told to anticipate a number of those folks are coming in the second term of the first semester. For those of you that live in the graduate AOL world that is not entirely unusual as they have some different enrollment patterns. We are down in transfer, and we are up in first time full time. We have a number of folks who just coming in every day. There is a bit of a lag from SAP. The numbers just keep changing back and forth. Turbulent is the best word to use to describe it all. We will learn a whole lot more in a week. We will be looking at the census and at scholarship spend. As you know we've changed our tuition model as well as our scholarship levels so we are hopeful that all of those details will align in a positive way. Until all of the numbers are in we can't really speculate as to the impact of the choppiness. She asked us all to be patient and let them do their jobs and circle back to us when the picture comes into clearer view. She believes that we need to start to figure out how can we get financial aid packages in our students' hands earlier. We've done a really nice job of getting into the schools and doing direct admit and having clear tuition structures in place, but processing financial aid packages has not been easy for us. We are using a pretty dated software sigma that makes it extra challenging. We are looking at options to get financial aid packaging out earlier, multiple times through the year,

rather than waiting so long into the spring would be helpful. We are also looking at how to front-load some of the scholarship packaging from the NKU foundation scholarships, which is external funding from donors. This has been an issue for a number of years and it's been on the list of things to tackle. Wrapping up the conclusion is that cost of college is one of the most important things to get clear for students and their families. Until they know what the real costs are they can't make reasonable decisions and the earlier we can get that information into their hands the more likely they are to pick us because we are such a great value. There is a lot going on as it relates to external partnerships. The Center for Future Leaders will bring leadership Northern Kentucky cohorts to the university to really grow leadership qualities and skills of our neighbors. The goal behind this program being to grow leadership heft in our region. We don't have enough people running for school board, or planning commissions, or for political office. Everyone thinks it's somebody else's job or that somebody else would do a better job. We want more people to recognize that they need to put their hands up. We are going to work with our faculty here on campus with leadership expertise. The work will be with a cohort of 30 or so and will start in January. All of this will be paid for externally. We've already raised about a half a million dollars to fund it. There is a lot of support in the growth organization community including the chamber of commerce. It is an opportunity for us to showcase our leadership and intellectual capital on this campus. There is an opportunity for faculty and staff who have leadership ambitions to possibly enroll in the program themselves. It will be open to our own employees as well. We are heading into a whole host of different partnerships. With federal funding streams changing there is a real need for us to essentially continue to grow and build into our early elementary and secondary ed students. We do this very well as it is. For those of you who don't know we typically bring 10,000 to 12,000 youngsters onto our campus every year for a whole host of enrichment programs. Imagine if funding is cut in Title I, or funding for after-school or summer programs, there will be a real role for us to play here at the university, externally funded of course. She raises all of this with us because it's on her mind. The more mindful of the facts as we think about being stewards of place, and education in our region is about the most important thing for our own future as a university. If we don't have educated students coming our way, they are really going to struggle to even be eligible or able to pursue college degrees. You are going to see more updates that talk about how we're using Truist Arenda. There will be some announcements coming out next week. Many of you who have been here awhile know that it really was funded as an event center. We are going to make more space for non-athletic events in Truist. You hear her use the word vibrant or community often when she talks about what is going on here on campus. She is working hard to continue to bring in other people, other funding streams, to also start to diversify funding into the university. Look for different announcements of different sorts of new partnerships and new ways that folks will come and spend their money to use our space and work with our different communities here on campus. We are going to be heading into a biennial budget season. This will begin in January, and work is already underway. We have put in our requests everything from a base adjustment, requests related to inflation. We've also put in a number of different capital requests. She is optimistic and hopeful that we will be supported by Frankfort. She is sure that we are aware that the federal and state

dynamics around funding are not entirely clear at this moment. There are a number of different cuts at the federal level and how those will impact the states has yet to be realized. At the convocation on Monday, she mentioned likely growth areas. The life sciences have a lot of potential to start to grow on our campus. Valerie Hardcastle is working to spearhead additional training for folks who work in health and behavioral roles in our community. There are two properties that you will hear more about in the upcoming months. First is the former civic center building. We have been engaged in planning and design for it to be used as a new medical examiner's office and crime lab. Northern Kentucky does not have one and this will be a major investment for the region. At the moment if an autopsy needs to be done it has to be sent to Louisville which is not typical for a region of our size. The building is being repurposed to serve as the crime lab and they will pay us rent, considerable rent, to be on our campus. It is another revenue stream, and it's also an opportunity to work with our forensic scientists. Additionally, we have plans to put out an RFP for the corner property of Nunn Drive and US 27. We will be looking at economic development opportunities to put some sort of multi-purpose facility on that corner. Some of you will remember the alumni house there that was torn down and then we ended up planning a number of things that never got off the ground. We are now out of the lawsuit about this property, and we can restart the clock and reimagine what that corner could be and how it could serve the university. In her mind an ideal thing would be to have a nice hotel with restaurants so that we can really add a sense of vibrancy to the university. Imagine admissions and folks interviewing candidates it would be so handy to have a hotel right on the corner. It would be nice for athletics and the arts and other activities on campus. It would also be nice to have other options of where to eat on campus. The last item she wanted to mention is that it is never a dull moment here at NKU. On occasion we find ourselves with a negative news story. One was shared on social media yesterday regarding the future of our athletics programs and scholarships. She would argue that the only fact in the article was that there was an athletics meeting yesterday. The rest of the information in the article was false. It was completely taken out of context and inaccurate. There is a new article that was just released, and she would encourage us to read that. We are in a changing higher ed environment, a changing NCAA environment, and there are a number of pressures as it relates to these different programs. Not a single student who's on scholarship will have any change to their scholarship. Once there is a written scholarship offer to student athletes, those are binding. The NCAA requires that, so this notion that they're all going away, or that some sports won't have any, it's completely unfactual. There was a report of a 35 percent cut in reality it's a 3 percent cut. Never a dull moment. She tries to focus on the high points. Today that's move in day. Seeing students and their families. The fun of the work is seeing these students and the world that awaits them. Vicki Cooper thanked Cady for addressing the athletics story as it was gaining some major traction. Vanessa Steele asked about the property on 27 and the idea of putting a park there. Something walkable to bring community to there with some walkable spaces. While Cady loves parks, she is not sure how a park can generate revenue. Over the next two to three years, we are going to hear a refrain of how can we bring more money into our budget from other places in addition to tuition and fees, and state appropriations. There is certainly an opportunity to build more green spaces into

the planning of the project. Cady shared that she has been doing some work in her role on the ArtsWave board. They have an app that literally lists all activities in the region, and you can customize it to arts events that you are interested in. She has asked all of our arts and athletics folks to share all of our dates of events taking place on campus. It is an easy way to get good information in front of a lot of people. Sara Conwell asked that Cady mentioned at convocation about revamping and relaunching RCP. Since she works in the ATC who works directly with Gateway to NKU students she asked if Cady could provide more information on what she is envisioning that looks like. Cady shared that it will be a simple relaunch. Since the program started it has been pretty anemic. Very low numbers the last time she checked of only around 5 or 6 who had traveled all the way to NKU through Gateway. There are a lot of students within those schools and parents who don't know about those opportunities. First step is getting in front of those students and families more explicitly. She is new, 3 of the superintendents in the river cities are new, the President of KCTCS is new. We think there is an opportunity to say a bunch of new leaders, and we are all really invested in making sure that there is a clear path for Pell-eligible students through Gateway and then NKU for graduation. She feels that it's gotten lost in the shuffle. We are working on several other ways to partner with the river cities. The goal is to have a whole continuum of touchpoints with the river city students. She's been told by several different city leaders that Highland Heights and NKU are just so far away. Shining a big bold light on what we have to offer to make that distance not feel as far away. Sara agreed that there is so much untapped potential. We do need to get more awareness around it. Sometimes even our 2NKU programs and our pathways get lost in the shuffle. Who is responsible for promotion it? Is it us or is it them? Strengthening those partnerships is going to be key. Cady shared that she meets with Fernando the President of Gateway on a monthly basis. Gateway is our biggest community college feeder but there is still room to improve. It is her understanding that they are implementing a new IT system where students will indicate where they want to transfer to at the beginning, so we would have the opportunity to engage with them earlier as opposed to near the end of their Gateway career. Sara concluded that this has been on KCTCS's radar for a really long time so this information being on a student's application will be super duper helpful. RCP stands for River City Promise. Vicki Cooper asked if there are any consequences for people who post harmful or non-factual information. She asked if there is anything that Cady would want us as staff or employees to do? Cady responded that it's really helpful to ask questions rather than weigh in on or to say is this true or did you see this. It is always a challenge when you have folks who pile on. There are a number of folks in this world that like to stir the pot. Sometimes people think they are being helpful when in reality they aren't being helpful at all. Vicki Cooper concluded by thanking Cady for coming to our meetings. It is always helpful to get questions in front of her and find out what is happening across campus.

Board of Regents – Dr. Cori Henderson

Dr. Cori Henderson shared the following updates...

- Budget and Finance Committee now meeting September 15 at 1:30pm
- BOR Meeting September 17 at 9am

Administrative Liaison – Chief Human Resources Officer – Amy Gellen and Lauren Franzen

Chief Human Resources Officer Amy Gellen shared the following...

Benefits update:

Humana Dental:

- Provided funds which were split and applied to the Picnic and to the Employee Appreciation event in April
- They also provided toothbrushes and floss to give out at the picnic. (any left toothbrushes/floss were donated to FUEL.)

Express Scripts

- Kroger back in the Express Scripts network effective 8-4-25!
- If you wish to transfer a prescription from your current pharmacy to a Kroger pharmacy, please visit the Kroger pharmacy you wish to use and let them know you would like to transfer a current prescription to them. You will need to supply them with the name of the medication, Rx number (from your current medicine bottle), current pharmacy name and phone number. **If you need assistance or have specific questions, please contact the Know your Rx coalition at: 1-855-218-5979 or www.kyrx.org**

Social Security and Medicare presentation

- **Social Security/Medicare presentation Wednesday September 10 Noon-1pm presented by Hub/Horan.**
- Student Union Room 109
- Information about social security and Medicare planning. (Good information for yourself or your parents or other family members.)

(Open enrollment)

Will be approximately same time frame as last year although dates not firm yet. (October 23-November 7 was last year.) More information to come.
Premium prices have not yet been determined.

Fall University Wellness supports:

1. Healthy Habits in Action: From Knowing to Doing Virtual Series with NKU Personal Wellness Coach Lyndsay Barto (Registered Dietician), begins September 9
2. Employee Assistance Program 30-minute orientations with Rudy Schenk, August 27, September 15, October 20, and November 17
3. Faculty/Staff Yoga with Whitney Jorgensen, begins September 3
4. Meditation Made Simple with Ashley Siemer, begins September 18 with an introduction to meditation, then weekly guided meditation workshops
5. CPR/AED Training and Certification Classes, October 6 and 7

6. St. Elizabeth Preventive Health Screenings on Campus: Mobile Cardiovascular Unit October 22 and 23, Mobile Mammography November 4 - registration coming soon 7. Airrosti Rehab Center events: Monthly Musculoskeletal Health webinars continue, Free Injury Assessments October 22, Experience Airrosti On-campus Treatment days October 29, November 5 and 12 - registration coming soon.

Get details and register on the University Wellness Upcoming Classes and Events page.

Thanks!

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT - STAFF CONGRESS UPDATE:

1. Summer projects - The project team is very appreciative of staff and faculty in academic departments and those working directly on the projects, for the cooperation, patience and support received enabling all projects to be completed before the end of summer. While construction activity is still going to continue around campus, every effort will be made to minimize disruptions. Work along Kenton Drive will be completed in a few weeks and additional work in the parking garages will continue without closure and with limited spaces being blocked off during repairs. The new Science Circle drop off will open later this Fall while sidewalk access to Plaza-level will open for class start next week.
2. Facilities Management would like to remind everyone to contact Work Control when repairs are needed, such as an elevator not responding or an automatic door malfunctioning. That way, the concerned shop gets notified promptly and the request is documented for effective follow up. During regular hours, you may create an online work order using TeamDynamics, or by calling Work Control at 5660 or the Power Plant during off hours at 5548.
3. The project to replace bollard and lights around the Lake has been slightly delayed because of supply chain challenges. However, we should see new lights going in during the Fall semester.
4. Several trees on campus have died owing to the drought and soil issues. We have a project in progress to take down and remove unsafe trees on campus. Replacement trees will be planted over the next few months.

IT Update:

Classrooms – If you are teaching this fall, please take a few minutes to visit your assigned classroom in advance to test the podium computer, projector, and connections.

The first login to a classroom computer may take longer as your profile is configured, so logging in before your first class will help avoid delays.

During the first two days of the semester, IT staff will be stationed at tables in academic buildings to provide quick smart classroom support and answer technical questions. As always, the IT Help Desk is available for assistance at 859-572-6911 or you can submit a service request. <http://nku.edu/help>

Get Connected on Day One - make sure Wi-Fi, Canvas, and email work before classes begin! Visit www.nku.edu/it for setup guides and support resources.

Workday Updates – check out NKU’s Workday webpage for updates on the project.
www.nku.edu/workday

Dr. Marquita Barron shared the following...



2025-26 Professional Development Opportunities

Questions? Contact Dr. Marquita Barron



Decisioning with Analytical Thinking

2-Hour Workshop & Recognition
Oct 23, Nov 12

Open to all employees, this **workshop** will provide participants with an opportunity to engage in the process and steps of problem-solving and decision-making using real work that aligns with NKU's new strategic plan.

Facilitated By:
Dr. Cori Henderson
Ms. Amy Ishmael



Percipio Demo Brief Video

A **recording** to demonstrate how an employee can better own and create their learning path and take advantage of a vast library of topics and AI resources to help enhance and/or advance an employee's knowledge, skills, aptitude for the job of today and tomorrow.



HR Topics for Supervisors/Managers

On-demand, Online

An **on-demand online course** that offers a range of HR topics for greater awareness of and guidance on how **supervisors/managers** are to manage people from a legal, regulatory, and policy perspective.

Facilitated By:
Ms. Natalie Gabbard

Faculty Senate – Dr. Janel Bloch

Dr. Janel Bloch that she should have more updates at our next meeting. She did finish up the faculty senate budget survey that she was working on at the end of the semester and it is now posted on their website. Contained therein are a lot of ideas for issues that we can work on this year. Obviously, a lot of those revolve around compensation and workload. The provost has put together the Parking and Tuition Waiver Committee and one positive result so far from their work is that family and staff non-Kentucky residents will now be charged the 3 states one rate instead of non-Kentucky resident rate. So make sure to check your bill if you are using the tuition waiver.

President - Vicki Cooper

Vicki Cooper shared the following...

Staff Congress President's Report, 8/14/2025

August signals the start of the academic year – both here at NKU and throughout our greater community. As an NKU employee you may also be a student yourself, or have a spouse, partner, or children returning to classes. It is a busy and exciting time of the year, full of anticipation. I hope everyone enjoys a wonderful academic year filled with learning and discovery.

A huge thank you to Terri Smith, the Outreach Committee, Michelle Melish, Natalie Gabbard, Jen Moeves and all of the additional volunteers, who helped make this year's picnic a tremendous success. Employees embraced the spirit of giving and donated generously to FUEL NKU. The sheer number of prize donations from our local community and campus offices was astounding. If you attended, had a great time, or even won something, please let them know how much their efforts were appreciated.

Finally, I encourage everyone to involve themselves in some type of campus activity this year. There are many ways to stay engaged – volunteer at Victorfest, serve on a committee, attend events such as the Board of Regents meetings or First and Final Fridays. Even something as simple as stepping out of your office for a walk around campus, touring the new Welcome Center or feeding the fish and turtles at the lake during a lunch or mental health break can make a difference.

The Fall Semester officially begins on Monday. Let's give our students a warm and enthusiastic welcome back!

Staff Congress Standing Committee Information

Benefits – Ali Hannig

Ali Hannig shared that the benefits update was handled in Amy Gellen's report.

University Committees**Strategic Planning – Amanda Andrews**

Pete Rinto shared that if you were unable to attend the summit on Monday the information is available on Strategic Planning's website. There were around 150 folks that attended. There were a lot of great discussions. We were able to switch up the tables so that individuals got to meet people from across campus and not repeat the same conversations. The only item that they didn't do was finish up trivia because everyone wanted to have snacks and drinks afterwards. If you were unable to attend the event there is going to be a virtual engagement session tomorrow morning as well. An email was sent out, so you are welcome to sign in and have a chat. It will be a repeat of Monday but a little abbreviated because folks are so busy right now. We are looking forward to having additional forums and engagement sessions like that in the future.

Parking and Tuition Waiver Task Force – Mike Irvin and Steve Slone

Mike Irvin echoed what Dr. Janel Bloch shared about the tuition waiver. Make sure to check if you live outside of Kentucky and you are using the waiver. On the parking front we've had meetings with our new liaison Danielle McDonald from the Provost's office. She has been incredibly helpful in getting us some data. It is so much easier when you have someone who is in those conversations. We are not ready to share our initial draft yet, but we have a great supporter there in looking at implementing or proposing some sort of a tier-based system. These are not final numbers but if you make, let's say 30,000 or less you pay a certain amount, between 30,000 and 50,000 you would pay another amount. The idea being to build some equity into the parking structure without having parking see a difference. We are still in the beginning stages of conversations, but work is ongoing.

Ad-Hoc Committees**Outreach – Terri Smith**

Vicki Cooper began by thanking Terri Smith for all of her hard work planning the picnic. Terri continued that the picnic was last Thursday at the CRC with 450 attendees. 260 of those individuals were employees. We had requested donations for Fuel and the Care Closet. Fuel reported they received 440 donations. Care Closet reported that they had a good amount of donations as well. We were able to give away 45 raffle prizes including gift baskets, a bike, an apple watch, yeti items such as coolers and tumblers, rocking chairs, and a lot of gift cards. If you won something and you weren't present Grace Hiles has the list of winners, and she is going to contact anyone who hasn't picked up their prize yet. Jen Moeves has the gift cards in her office on the 8th floor of the admin building. The next item that we are going to begin planning is the Christmas holiday party. The planning process for that event will be in September. Once the date is set, we will send out a Save the Date flyer. If you would like to help us even if you can just come to a meeting or two or you want to give comments and suggestions, reach out to Terri, Vicki Cooper, or Michelle Melish. Vicki Cooper shared that you do not have to be a staff congress member to join our outreach committee. There aren't currently too

many members on the committee so please, if you are willing to serve reach out. Vicki concluded by acknowledging that the prizes were well over 2,600 dollars. Michelle Melish shared a thank you to all the volunteers who helped out on that day. She also echoed the call out for members because every little bit helps.

Old Business

Vicki Cooper shared that she has the raw data from the Administrator evaluations. She is beginning to work on organizing it to send it out to everyone.

Ali Hannig shared on behalf of the benevolent committee. The chili cook off is November 5th. Ali Hannig and Steve Slone will be co-chairing this committee. Save the date for the event and watch for a sign-up sheet for volunteers for the day of the event and start thinking about some good chili recipes. We are not going to turn down a soup if you want to make a soup, but judging will favor a chili for the winning of the event.

New Business

Mike Irvin shared new/old business about our continued partnership with Reis promotions to offer NKU apparel at a discounted rate. We believe that last go round we had 175 faculty and staff participants, and we heard that there were many across campus who wanted to participate and weren't able to. We are waiting on confirmation from Brandon Reis but it is our intention to reopen the shop with a back-to-school theme. We believe the shop will be open from August 25th and remain open for two weeks until September 8th. All of the feedback from the first go round of the shop was shared. Expect to see some different offerings this time around based on the weather and what folks are requesting. Watch for more information as the store opens back up. On the fish feeder front SGA has 120 pounds of fish food. They have taken over refilling the fish feeders from us. We will of course still be consulting but they have effectively taken over the maintenance of the fish feeders at the lake.



Vicki Cooper shared Norse Uppreciation for this month...

Staff

Jim Nedderman

Quite simply, Jim Nedderman is the best and is a wizard at fixing Degree Audit issues. He is always quick to respond and usually will resolve any issues within the day. He has made my and many other Advisors' lives much easier thanks to his efforts. He deserves recognition for his instrumental role in the Registrar's Office.

Kaylah McFarland

I want to recognize and compliment Kaylah, HR's Benefits Assistant, for her outstanding support. I reached out with some questions regarding how to change my benefits. Kaylah was exceptionally prompt, knowledgeable, and professional in her assistance. She took the time to explain the details clearly, ensured I had all the necessary information, and asked to make sure everything I needed was resolved. Her approachable manner and attention to detail made the process smooth and simple. I truly appreciate the level of care she provided. She is an asset to the HR team and to the university as a whole.

Lisa McElfresh

Lisa is a true gem. I have never seen anyone care as much about our university and our students as much as she does. She goes above and beyond in everything she does and constantly pushes herself to grow and try new ways of engaging students and connecting with campus partners. We should all strive to be more like Lisa!

Robert McKenzie

Robert is not new to NKU but is newly working in AC. He shared his homemade fudge with multiple areas in the building. Such a kind gesture and very yummy fudge! Thanks Robert!

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 2:06 PM.

Staff Congress Portal Questions

Date Received: 8/4/2025

Question:

I would like to know where the money came from for the "updates" to the University Center. I overheard one of the workers saying that the "flame" that's in the stairwell cost over \$50,000! Where did the funds come from to pay for these changes and how much was spent on the entire project?

Action Taken: Submission forwarded to Amy Gellen for any possible updates from Administration and Finance.

Response: Project information and some updates included as part of Board of Regent minutes and are available on their [website](#).

January 17, 2024

Funding for the New Welcome Center

- NKU was designated \$46.8M in asset preservation from the state; NKU matched with \$7M
- Asset preservation can only be used for asset preservation, no other base-budgeted lines
- Total cost of \$2.0M for the Welcome Center project (including design fee, materials, construction, etc.)

March 12, 2024

A new strategic investment in the renovation and relocation of the NKU Welcome Center into the University Center. The \$2.0M project will be funded through asset preservation, with no new monies or base-budgeted lines being utilized. Anticipated project completion is Fall 2025. (BOR minutes, page 13)

June 12, 2024

University Center Renovations. Administration is requesting approval to initiate a project to relocate the Welcome Center to the University Center building in an amount estimated at \$2,300,000. Bidding will begin no later than June 2024 and construction is intended to begin in August. The project will be funded via asset preservation state funding. (BOR minutes, page 136)

Date Received: 8/11/2025

So, the elevator in the University Center has been down and not operational MULTIPLE times, almost daily, over the past few weeks. With forced office moves and people who have a hard time with and/or can't use the stairs, it's been very inconvenient and troubling to come into work and find you can't get to your office OR that stuff can't be moved via the elevators because they simply are not working consistently! It's very old and has had issues multiple times over the years. Why can't it be fixed or even

replaced?!?!? You can spend thousands of dollars on new "decorations" for the building but can't fix a disfunctional piece of equipment that is necessary for the safe operation of the building? PLEASE fix the elevator!!!!

Action Taken: Submission forwarded to Syed Zaidi and Amy Gellen.

Response: Zaidi responded on 8/11/2025 that he will provide a response after conferring with the divisional VP.