

Minutes of Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
Northern Kentucky University
Tuesday, June 11, 2024

The Student Success & Academic Affairs Committee (SSAAC) of the Northern Kentucky University (NKU) Board of Regents met on Tuesday, June 11, 2024, in Votruba Student Union 109.

Committee Chair Ashley Himes called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm and asked Tammy Knochelmann to call roll.

Roll Call: The following members of the SSAAC answered the call of the roll: Ashley Himes, Isaiah Phillips, Nathan Smith, Sandra Spataro, André Ward. Ms. Knochelmann confirmed that a quorum was present.

Other Attendees: Sarah Aikman, Grant Garber, Tammy Knochelmann, Diana McGill, Andy Meeks, Cady Short-Thompson, Jason Vest, Mary Paula-Schuh, Phil Moberg, Sara Parlow, Mattie Macquire

Regent Ward's motion to approve the minutes of the January 16, 2024 and February 27, 2024 committee meetings was seconded by Regent Smith. (**Motion carried**)

New Business:

1. MSIO Survey Results

Graduate students Sarah Parlow and Mattie Maguire from Dr. Phil Moberg's MSIO class presented the results of the Housing Survey Research Project and answered questions from the Committee.

A novel survey was conducted utilizing cognitive interviews and convenience sampling to gather quantitative evidence on the factors affecting a student's decision to live on or off campus.

170 students were surveyed – 82 living on campus and 88 living off campus.

Survey results indicated the top factors students consider when deciding where to live are access to high-speed internet, a secure and safe living environment, affordability and cleanliness. These factors were consistent among students living on and off campus.

Limitations to the survey included the difficulty in controlling response bias, small sample size and important factors may not have been the decision makers.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the floor was opened to the Committee for questions. Regent Phillips commented that socioeconomic status should be a factor and more directional questions were needed, e.g., how do students typically pay for school.

Regent Smith inquired about other surveys of this nature, in particular for institutions in the Midwest and those not classified as "commuter schools."

Regent Ward expressed interest in looking at students who lived through COVID, with particular interest in Internet availability and cleanliness.

Ms. Schuh commented that the results of this survey were consistent with those done in 2016 and 2017.

Members of the Committee requested an electronic copy of the survey.

2. Meal service

Andy Meeks, Director of Business Operations & Auxiliary Services, reviewed the changes to meal plans for the upcoming year that include dropping the 8 Meal + \$700 Flex Plan and adding a \$2500 Flex plan for juniors and seniors. He then discussed the metrics that would allow for the opening of a second dining hall, citing 2500 residential students as the “magic number” to justify opening two residential cafeterias.

Mr. Meeks also noted concerns with retaining our current food service vendor given the decreases in number of residential meal plans sold and dining traffic in the student union.

Regent Smith inquired about YSA meal plans and requested that ***Andy Meeks provide him with a summary of information on the residential food and beverage program for YSA to Regent Smith.***

Regent Spataro raised concerns over the increase in the Commuter Meal Plan fee (from \$50 to \$75) and inquired on the number of students affected by the fee. Mr. Meeks stated that 5100 students were assessed with the Commuter Meal Plan in prior year. He further clarified that NKU’s fee were the lowest among the Kentucky comprehensive universities, whose commuter meal plan fees ranged from \$100-\$400.

3. Housing Update

Andy Meeks provided an update on housing occupancy for Fall 2024, noting that bookings for the Residence halls were at 54% occupancy as of the week of June 10, with 6 new confirmations needed per day to hit target goal. He reported that the 12-month program was moving forward.

4. Overview of Rental Properties

Mary Paula Schuh, Sr. Director, Planning, Design, and Construction an overview of the rental property owned by the university, local regulations on non-family members in residences, renovations needed to meet local regulations and ADA compliance, and rental income for cost recovery/revenue generation.

Ms. Schuh reported that the university currently owns 55 single family homes, with university employees being the largest rental group.

In response to the question about selling existing property to an affinity group, Ms. Schuh cautioned that required upgrades would be costly. As an example, dwellings with more than 2 occupants are required to have an automatic sprinkler system. Committee members also raised questions about safety concerns, financial implications, and allocation of state funding.

5. Affinity Housing Implementation

VP & General Counsel led the group in an early discussion on how we might consider developing a proposal process for affinity housing.

New Business:

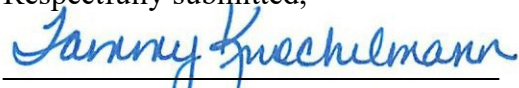
At the conclusion of the business items, Chair Himes called for final questions/comments from the committee.

A request was made to extend future meetings to 2 hours.

6. Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, at 6:30 pm the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Tammy Knochelmann
Secretary to the Board of Regents