

MINUTES

Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee
Date: May 20, 2020
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting - Committee members by ZOOM, Public viewing hosted on CPE YouTube Page

CALL TO ORDER

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Wednesday, May 20, 2020, at 2:00 p.m., ET. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243 and a memorandum issued by the Finance and Administration Cabinet dated March 16, 2020, and in an effort to prevent the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Committee met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting virtually on the CPE YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/wldzx444Stc>. Committee Chair Lori Harper presided.

ATTENDENCE

All members were in attendance: Ben Brandstetter, Lori Harper, Lucas Mentzer, Grant Minix, Vidya Ravichandran, Robert Staat, and Sherrill Zimmerman.

Heather Faesy, CPE's senior associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the March 25, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed.

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOR REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION

Dr. Melissa Bell, CPE's Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success presented six proposed new academic programs for review and approval. KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council on Postsecondary Education to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree, certificate, or diploma programs

in the public postsecondary education institutions. Council staff reviewed the following proposed programs and recommended approval by the board.

Western Kentucky University

1) Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies (B.S.) CIP Code 03.0103

This program focuses on environment-related issues using scientific, technological, and humanistic approaches to generate a systems-thinking mindset. The program also provides students with the option of attaining a certificate in Geographic Information Systems, which is relevant for a variety of disciplines that require the mapping and analysis of geographic, demographic, and/or environmental data. The program prepares students for careers in the environmental and sustainability job sectors and in the geospatial technology work force, as well as for graduate school.

2) Film Production (B.F.A.) CIP Code 50.0602

The BFA in Film Production is a pre-professional major providing an immersive, conservatory-style educational experience for students pursuing a career in the film industry. Hands-on instruction in pre-production, production, and post-production provides students foundational concepts and practical skills which are reinforced through their work on short films. Film studies courses emphasize critical and analytical thinking through the study of global film culture, history, and aesthetics.

MOTION: Dr. Staat moved the Committee approve the two proposed programs at Western Kentucky University, and recommend approval by the Council at its June 19, 2020 meeting. Mr. Mentzer seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

University of Louisville

1) Business Administration (B.A.) CIP Code 52.0101

This program is a 120-credit hour undergraduate degree that prepares versatile, broadly educated graduates to accelerate their professional success as managers. In addition to the core business courses required of all BSBA students, the curriculum covers a range of management functions: project management, human resources management, team management, and operations management. In addition, students will develop basic proficiency in

business analytics, add functional knowledge in another business domain to support initial job placement, and gain relevant hands-on experience through a capstone project and a required internship.

2) Materials and Energy Science and Engineering (M.S.) CIP Code 14.1801

With this Master of Science, students will be trained with fundamental concepts on advanced materials, energy devices, and processing and systems engineering. The educational experiences will be enhanced by research opportunities in laboratories conducting basic and translational research on solar energy conversion, energy storage, biofuels and biomass conversion, solar fuels, materials characterization, and advanced energy materials. The MS in MESE will prepare students for career tracks in industry such as semiconductor/opto-electronics, materials, catalysts and energy. Students will also be able to pursue entrepreneurship, government and corporate labs, and doctoral studies in their respective disciplines.

MOTION: Mr. Minix moved the Committee approve the two proposed programs at the University of Louisville, and recommend approval by the Council at its June 19, 2020 meeting. Dr. Staat seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Murray State University

1) Respiratory Therapy (B.S) CIP Code 51.0908

The Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy was developed in partnership with Madisonville Community College and West Kentucky Community and Technical College. The initial development of this program was funded by a USDA Health Services Grant based on an identified need for additional respiratory therapists in the region. Students will be able to transfer to Murray State University from the community college and complete the degree, one in which they can complete in as few as three semesters.

2) General Studies (B.S.) CIP Code 24.0199

The Bachelor of Science in General Studies is a baccalaureate degree for traditional students with at least 72 hours of consecutive college credits entering their junior or senior year. This program is for students who resolve to obtain a college degree in a timely manner, though different from their previous declaration of major, and plan to use a college degree to find

employment, strengthen future employment opportunities, and reach personal goals.

MOTION: Mr. Minix moved the Committee approve the two proposed programs at Murray State University, and recommend approval by the Council at its June 19, 2020 meeting. Ms. Ravichandran seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

AGENCY UPDATE: CARES ACT FUNDING

Ms. Lee Nimocks, CPE's Chief of Staff and Vice President for Strategy provided an update on the status on the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which provided several streams of funding that will impact Kentucky's colleges and universities and the students they serve. It includes more than \$30 billion for education, with at least \$13.5 billion for the nation's K-12 schools and more than \$14 billion for higher education. Funding for colleges and universities will run through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund.

AGENCY UPDATE: GUIDELINES FOR REOPENING CAMPUSES FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

CPE staff have developed guiding principles and a planning template for the fall 2020 reopening of Kentucky's campuses. Mr. Greg Rush, CPE's senior fellow, presented the guidelines, which adhere to all State, Federal and Centers for Disease Control Guidelines including Governor Beshear's 10 Rules to Re-opening and President Trump's Guidelines for Opening Up America Again. Colleges and Universities may begin the phase-in process of fully opening each institution by June 1, 2020, in order to ensure scheduled opening dates as established by each college and university.

AGENCY UPDATE: ACADEMIC AND STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVES

Dr. Melissa Bell provided an update on a number of initiatives including college readiness indicators for the 2020-21 academic year, the development of the online portal system, the series of virtual webinars being offered, the development of the statewide repository of online learning guidelines, the expanded services of the Kentucky Virtual Library, and efforts to streamline the current program approval process.

AGENCY UPDATE: RESEARCH AGENDA

Dr. David Mahan, CPE's Associate Vice President for Data, Research and Advanced Analytics presented the highlights of the CPE research agenda for the 2020-21 academic year. The research agenda was organized by month of expected work and/or completion and was provided in the agenda materials.

ADJOURNMENT

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 3:30 p.m., ET.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE: August 18, 2020