

MINUTES

Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee
Date: August 18, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.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 Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 10:00 a.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/d53O-BJuGe4>. Committee Chair Lori Harper presided.

ATTENDANCE

Members were in attendance: Colby Birkes, Benjamin Brandstetter, Lori Harper, Lucas Mentzer, Vidya Ravichandran, and Sherrill Zimmerman.

Members not in attendance: Robert Staat

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the May 20, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed.

AGENCY UPDATE: CAMPUS REOPENING PLANS

Mr. Greg Rush, CPE's Senior Fellow, updated the committee members on the campus reopening plans and discussed the ways CPE has helped facilitate conversations between the universities and the Kentucky Department of Public

Health. All public campuses opened on August 17, 2020 with the exception of Western Kentucky University which opened on August 24, 2020. Each campus plan adhered to both the CPE and Kentucky safety guidelines. Committee members discussed the sudden closure of the University of North Carolina and if Kentucky's campuses have set benchmarks that would require a campus to close in the same manner. They also discussed students who moved into dorms only to find out their classes were converted to online only.

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOR REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION

Dr. Melissa Bell, CPE's Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success presented four 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.

Northern Kentucky University

Applied Software Engineering (B.S.) CIP Code 11.0899

This program provides students with a solid foundation in programming, user experience, software design and development as well as software security. The bachelor's degree in Applied Software Engineering will educate and train the student for jobs in full-stack development, mobile apps and web applications. Graduates would be qualified for a majority of open software development positions.

Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) CIP Code 51.2306

The entry level Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD) curriculum integrates foundational knowledge, basic theoretical constructs and perspectives, and technical skills development for implementing the Occupational Therapy Process with a focus on systems and settings that represent contemporary and emerging Occupational Therapy practice. The curriculum is designed to prepare students to become evidence-based practitioners in the Evaluation, Intervention, and Outcomes stages of the Occupational Therapy Process for individuals, families, organizations, and communities across geographic locations and cultural settings. The proposed occupational therapy program would be the only entry-level Doctor of Occupational Therapy program in the Kentucky Public Higher Education System.

MOTION: Ms. Zimmerman moved the Committee approve the two proposed programs at Northern Kentucky University, and recommend approval by the Council at its September 15, 2020 meeting. Mr. Mentzer seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

University of Kentucky

Health Services Research (Ph.D.) CIP Code 51.2299

This Ph.D. program would provide students with the theoretical and methodological foundations necessary to conduct creative and independent research with the ultimate goal of identifying evidence-based policy and management pathways to improve health care access, quality, and costs. The curriculum was designed for students to complete coursework in 4 core areas as well as an elective course, a grant writing course, and a dissertation.

MOTION: Mr. Mentzer moved the Committee approve the proposed program at the University of Kentucky, and recommend approval by the Council at its September 15, 2020 meeting. Ms. Ravichandran seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Murray State University

Agriculture Education (EDS) CIP Code 13.1301

This program would allow students to pursue advanced course work in agriculture education above the master's degree level, by allowing students to earn an additional, valuable credential prior to completing their doctoral degree. This would help students more seamlessly transition into the in P-20 Leadership, Agricultural Leadership Option doctoral degree.

MOTION: Mr. Mentzer moved the Committee approve the proposed program at Murray State University, and recommend approval by the Council at its September 15, 2020 meeting. Ms. Ravichandran seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

REVISED POLICY FOR NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM APPROVALS

Dr. Melissa Bell presented the proposed changes to the policy for approval of new academic programs, which were developed with the collaboration of institutional representatives to streamline the current program approval process and align it more closely with the requirements of the SACSCOC substantive change process. Both the updated policy and glossary definitions were provided for review.

MOTION: Mr. Mentzer moved the Committee approve the proposed policy changes to the New Academic Program Approval Policy, and recommend approval by the Council at its September 15, 2020 meeting. Ms. Ravichandran seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

AGENCY UPDATE: RESEARCH AGENDA

Dr. David Mahan, CPE's Associate Vice President for Data, Research and Advanced Analytics discussed the staff's current data and research projects and announced the Dual Credit report would be released at the end of the month.

AGENCY UPDATE: STUDENT ADVISORY GROUP

Ms. Heather Faesy, CPE's Senior Associate of Board Relations and Special Projects, updated the committee on the newly formed Student Advisory Group, which offers diverse perspectives on student concerns and policies in higher education. The group is made up of 22 students and there is representation from each of Kentucky's 4-year public universities, and several of the 2-year KCTCS institutions. The group is set to meet at least every other month to discuss their experiences as a postsecondary student, provided feedback on statewide policy and other initiatives that CPE is developing, and voice the unique needs and circumstances of students attending Kentucky's public institutions.

INTRODUCTION: AMANDA ELLIS, ASSOCIATE VP OF P-20 POLICY AND PROGRAMS

Dr. Amanda Ellis, a former teacher and accomplished leader in state education policy, was hired in the summer of 2020 to serve as the Council's new Associate Vice President for P-20 policy and programs. She has more than two decades of experience, including 14 years of service in Kentucky middle and elementary

schools. She most recently worked as the chief academic officer and associate commissioner of the Office of Teaching and Learning at the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), where she has held various positions in senior leadership since 2013.

Dr. Ellis discussed her areas of assigned work and her current focus on teacher workforce and diversity and her work with the K-12 community to develop a more seamless partnership to ensure all students not only are college ready, but enroll and complete a postsecondary degree.

ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW: UPDATE FROM GRAY ASSOCIATES

In 2018, the Commonwealth of Kentucky contracted with Gray Associates, Inc. a strategy consulting firm focused on higher education, to oversee a comprehensive review of academic programs at our public institutions. Their work included the creation of a methodology that provides campuses with consistent, detailed information to help guide internal decisions about program needs and improvement and guide statewide discussions.

The process does not replace each institution's internal program review process and instead supplements and complements it by providing additional sources of data and analyses that faculty and campus leadership cannot easily compile. Ideally, these data help campuses demonstrate the value of programs to students, accreditors, oversight bodies, and the general public. In addition, the process is helpful to campuses as they focus on continuous improvement of its academic programs.

To assist the Committee with understanding their work, Dr. Mary Upchurch, Senior Partner with Gray Associates provided an overview of the methodology and system. Following her presentation, Dr. Cheryl Stevens, Chief Academic Officer at Western Kentucky University discussed how they have utilized the work by Gray Associates and how it has impacted their campus by applying the principles beyond the programs directly involved in the project.

ADJOURNMENT

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 11:45 a.m., ET.