

MINUTES
Council on Postsecondary Education
March 15, 1999

The Council on Postsecondary Education met March 15, 1999, at 10:30 a.m. (ET) at the Council offices in Frankfort, Kentucky. Vice Chair Whitehead presided.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Ms. Adams, Mr. Baker, Mr. Barger, Ms. Bertelsman, Mr. Greenberg, Mr. Hackbart, Mr. Huddleston, Ms. Ridings, Mr. Todd, Ms. Weinberg, and Mr. Whitehead. Mr. Cary, Mr. Cody, Mr. Hardin, and Ms. Menendez did not attend.

Mr. Whitehead thanked everyone for attending. He announced that the discussion sessions scheduled for Council members the previous day were cancelled due to inclement weather and would be rescheduled.

*APPROVAL OF
MINUTES*

There being no corrections, the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

*RESOLUTION FOR
MARLENE HELM*

Mr. Davies read a resolution honoring and commending Marlene Helm. Ms. Helm resigned from the Council March 14, 1999, to accept appointment by Governor Paul E. Patton as the Secretary of the Education, Arts, and Humanities Cabinet. The resolution was approved by acclamation. Mr. Whitehead asked that the resolution be suitably prepared and presented to Ms. Helm.

Ms. Helm thanked the Council. She said that she is very excited about her new opportunity and looks forward to continuing to work with the Council.

*PRESIDENT'S
REPORT*

Mr. Davies introduced Dr. Mary Beth Susman, the new chief executive officer of the Kentucky Commonwealth Virtual University. Dr. Susman made a presentation on the KCVU to the Distance Learning Advisory Committee earlier in the day.

Mr. Davies said that the Task Force on Middle School Mathematics and Science, which he and Mr. Cody had appointed, has completed its work. He commended Ms. Greenberg for her staff assistance. The staff will present the report at the April 11 joint meeting with the Kentucky Board of Education. Mr. Davies announced that he has been appointed to serve on the Governor's Task Force on Teacher Quality and hopes that the work of the math-science group can be reviewed by this task force.

Mr. Davies reported that during the past several weeks he has met with the faculty senates of Murray State University and the University of Kentucky. These are important meetings where faculty perspectives can be heard and working relationships established. The staff has recently appeared before

several legislative committees to discuss various issues, including the KCVU, the guidelines for operating budgets, and the guidelines for space planning.

Mr. Davies has worked with Mr. Hackbart on the Workforce Investment Act, a federal act that devolves to the states responsibility for such activities as job partnership training and workforce development at the local and state levels. The federal government is sending money back to the states for these initiatives. Kentucky will make one of the first formal proposals to the federal government to make this program operational. The key ingredient here was provided by Mr. Hackbart, who said this is not just a matter of taking several federal programs and adapting them into a state administration, but of training a workforce for Kentucky in the 21st century. The state needs to focus on training Kentucky's workforce, not merely dividing up the old federal programs and continuing what used to be done. Mr. Davies said that he is certain this work will intertwine with the work of the Council and the KCVU.

KCVU

Dr. Susman gave an update on the KCVU. She commended the staff and the institutions on the amount of work that already has been accomplished. She said that inaugurating nine pilot programs in the fall is very ambitious. The KCVU is unique in the United States because it involves the resources of all of the public and private institutions in the state. The KCVU is issuing an RFP for a virtual bookstore, although other bookstores will not be excluded from providing students with their materials. A courier service for the library will be provided so students not close to a public library can get materials within 24 hours. The KCVU service center is being built and job descriptions for five employees will soon be distributed. The KCVU web site address is "cvu.collegis.com." Dr. Susman said that the plan is to brand the Kentucky postsecondary education product as synonymous with quality, convenience, and robustness. The KCVU will be an integral part of Kentucky's initiative to develop the workforce, export curriculum, and import new dollars to higher education in Kentucky.

*NORTHEAST
REGIONAL
POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION CENTER*

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council approve the plan developed by the Kentucky Community and Technical College System and Morehead State University for implementing the Northeast Regional Postsecondary Education Center in Prestonsburg.

Mr. Walker said that this plan is consistent with the provisions of the 1998-2000 appropriations bill to construct new facilities in various locations around the state and addresses the planning assumptions and guidelines for regional centers established by the Council in July 1998. A single new facility will be constructed on the Prestonsburg Community College campus, but the concept of the regional center will incorporate all of the facilities available on that campus. The building will be designed to support the KCVU.

MOTION: Ms. Weinberg moved that the recommendation be approved. Mr. Huddleston seconded the motion.

Mr. Barger said that the Council should follow up on the statements in the agreement that the regional center will address the basic adult education and literacy needs of the region and that other institutions will be invited to offer programs as appropriate.

VOTE: The motion passed.

*WEST REGIONAL
POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION CENTER*

An information item was presented on the fifth of the five regional postsecondary education centers authorized by the 1998-2000 appropriations bill. A memorandum of agreement has been signed by the presidents of the KCTCS and Murray State University for the West Regional Postsecondary Education Center in Hopkinsville. Representatives of these institutions are developing a plan to implement the provisions of this memorandum of agreement. The Council staff will present the plan for action at a future Council meeting.

*NKU PROGRAM OF
DISTINCTION*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That the Council approve the Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics as a program of distinction for Northern Kentucky University.
- That the Council award to Northern Kentucky University from the Regional University Excellence Trust Fund \$737,000 in the 1997-98 appropriation, \$739,000 in the 1998-99 appropriation, and \$739,000 in the 1999-2000 appropriation.

Mr. Walker presented a summary of the proposal. He said that the proposed center will address three primary needs as identified in the northern Kentucky region: (1) preparing mathematics and science teachers for elementary, middle, and secondary schools; (2) preparing graduates with mathematics and science majors for jobs in business and industry; and (3) preparing undergraduate NKU students (regardless of major) with the skills of critical inquiry and analysis through better understanding of mathematics and science.

MOTION: Mr. Hackbart moved that the Council tentatively approve the NKU Program of Distinction subject to incorporation of those issues raised by the Council work group and final approval of that work group. Mr. Barger seconded the motion.

Mr. Hackbart said that the process used for other programs of distinction has been that the institutions developed their proposals, submitted them to the Council, and the work group provided a review of these proposals. The work group responded to NKU's initial proposal with a series of issues and concerns. President Votruba has responded to those, but the

work group has not had the opportunity to fully review those responses, even though there is general belief that the responses are appropriate. Mr. Hackbart said that his motion would allow NKU to move forward with a proposal which the work group and the Council feel is consistent with the concept of a program of distinction. At the same time, there were issues raised by the review process of the work group. It would be appropriate for the university to incorporate the president's responses into a revised proposal and then give the work group the opportunity to review that final proposal. The work group had planned to meet the previous evening to review President Votruba's responses, but the meeting was cancelled due to the weather. Mr. Hackbart said that the university should proceed with planning for the center. The proposal cannot be delayed due to faculty recruitment time tables.

VOTE: The motion passed.

President Votruba said that he was grateful for the support of the Council. The proposal is consistent with both the spirit and the intent of HB 1. It also is aligned with the direction that NKU is going with its own strategic vision and speaks to one of the great issues of our Commonwealth, the strengthening of math and science education, from preschool through postsecondary education.

*CAPITAL
CONSTRUCTION
PROJECTS*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That the Council approve the University of Kentucky request for authorization of a \$2,500,000 capital project from private funds and athletic funds for the Football Office Complex, adjoining the E. J. Nutter Training Facility.
- That the Council approve the University of Kentucky request for authorization of a \$765,100 capital project from grant funds and agency funds for renovation of 212 E. Maxwell Street (the German House) to be used by the university's German Department.
- That there be no request for maintenance and operations support from state funds for the Football Office Complex or the German House Facility. The University of Kentucky will fund these costs.

Mr. Walker said that since each project has a scope in excess of \$400,000, the Council has the statutory responsibility to approve the projects before they can proceed. He provided a summary of each proposal.

MOTION: Mr. Greenberg made a motion that the recommendations be approved. Mr. Todd seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

*NEW PROGRAM
PROPOSALS*

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- That the certificate program in Building/Property Maintenance and Manager proposed by Central Kentucky Technical College be approved and registered in CIP 46.0401.99.
- That the certificate program in Manufacturing Systems Technology proposed by Central Kentucky Technical College be approved and registered in CIP 15.0603.99.
- That the certificate program in Truck Driver Training proposed by Jefferson Technical College be approved and registered in CIP 49.0205.99.

Ms. Greenberg said that approving stand-alone certificate programs for the technical colleges is a new area for the Council. She provided information on each proposal. Each is a short-term certificate program that will deliver important workforce training to its community. Both institutions have developed partnerships with very strong support from their respective business communities to create these certificate programs. All three programs will be delivered without any new funding for the institutions. All programs involve on-the-job training.

MOTION: Mr. Barger moved that the recommendations be approved. Mr. Greenberg seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

*FUNDING AND
TUITION
GUIDELINES*

A discussion item was presented on the funding and tuition guidelines. Mr. Walker said that at the January 1999 Finance Committee meeting the staff presented a proposed approach for operating funding guidelines to be used in the 2000-02 budget process. These new funding guidelines were developed to help implement the behavior envisioned in HB 1. For Kentucky postsecondary education to achieve national recognition, it should be compared to other higher education institutions at the national level, not just within the state or region. The funding guidelines propose to meet these objectives through three areas of emphasis: (1) benchmark institutions, (2) performance indicators, and (3) incentive trust funds.

Mr. Walker said that since the January meeting, the staff has met with a group of institutional representatives identified by the presidents of each of the universities and the KCTCS, along with representatives of the Governor's budget office and the Legislative Research Commission budget review staff. The purpose of the meetings has been to refine the selection criteria to be used to identify benchmark institutions. Using those selection criteria, the staff has identified up to 50 benchmark institutions for each Kentucky institution and has shared this information with the institutions. The staff is scheduling meetings with each university and the KCTCS to reduce the list to no more than 24 benchmark institutions that best compare

to each Kentucky institution. The proposed lists of benchmark institutions will be brought to the Council at a future meeting for approval. The next phase of the process will be to look at the funding levels for each of those benchmark institutions and to develop the funding recommendation for the universities and for the KCTCS.

At the November 1998 Finance Committee meeting, the staff presented a discussion item on the notion of decentralizing tuition setting to the governing boards of each of the institutions and presented a draft set of guidelines. Since that meeting, and based on the work done on the operating guidelines, the staff has revised the draft set of tuition guidelines. The revised guidelines were included as part of the discussion item.

Mr. Greenberg said that the Council must have a system of measuring academic performance and offered the following motion:

MOTION: That all state institutions prominently report the mean scores and range of all academic, professional, technical, and licensing exams taken by all graduating students. These annual reports should include five years of results and a comparison of these results with their benchmark institutions. Mr. Huddleston seconded the motion.

Mr. Greenberg said that the information exists and is currently reported. He said that the Council must present the results received by the students at our institutions. The institutions could then measure against themselves and against their benchmark institutions.

Several Council members expressed concerns about the use of the reported information, the accuracy of such information, the difficulty of measuring academic performance, and the need for accountability and performance indicators.

MOTION: Mr. Greenberg moved that his motion be tabled until the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Council to allow the staff time to develop recommendations for developing a system of measuring academic performance. The motion was seconded.

VOTE: Seven members voted to table the motion. The motion failed.

VOTE: Five members voted in favor of Mr. Greenberg's original motion. The motion failed.

Mr. Davies said that the staff will present a report on developing ways to measure academic performance at the April meeting.

*KENTUCKY PLAN
STATUS REPORT*

A status report on the implementation of the *1997-2002 Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities in Postsecondary Education* was presented for information. Among the activities are campus visits by the Committee on

Equal Opportunities to the University of Louisville, University of Kentucky, and Kentucky State University during spring 1999.

*OCR VISIT TO
KENTUCKY*

The U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, has notified Governor Patton that the OCR plans to visit Kentucky to review compliance with Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Governor Patton welcomed the OCR's visit and has designated the Council on Postsecondary Education as the lead agency to work with the OCR representatives. An initial meeting has been scheduled for March 11, 1999, to discuss the agenda and timeline for completing the review. The OCR review of Kentucky's compliance has been expected since 1994, when the OCR announced its intention to review the status of public higher education systems, like Kentucky's, that remain on the OCR's open legal docket.

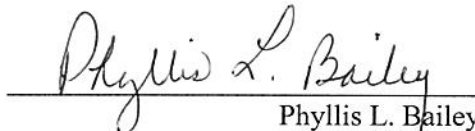
NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be April 11-12 at the Seelbach Hotel in Louisville.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.


Gordon K. Davies
President


Phyllis L. Bailey
Secretary