

**Council on Postsecondary Education
November 7, 2008**

Program Audit Subcommittee Report

The Program Audit Subcommittee was created in 2006 by then Chair Ron Greenberg to:

- Review the accountability and assessment measures for existing Council pass-through programs.
- Evaluate the efficacy of those measures.
- Make recommendations for improving the accountability and assessment system for all Council programs.

Membership on the committee at the time it was created was Alois Moore, Dan Flanagan, Jim Skaggs, Mark Wattier, and Peggy Bertelsman as chair.

The subcommittee originally set out to review the 16 pass-through programs administered by the Council. A pass-through program is a direct allotment to the Council for a program or activity, where the funding usually is directed to an entity outside of state government or to an institution or other state agency. That entity then delivers the services while the Council often is the financial steward for the program. During the review, seven of the original 16 programs were eliminated due to budget reductions.

Additionally, the subcommittee discussed the cancer research programs, lung cancer research, and the cancer research institutions' matching fund, although the Lung Cancer Research Program and its companion program for ovarian cancer screening are not pass-through programs. The review of the Lung Cancer Research Program has been hampered by a lack of appointments to the Governance Board of the Lung Cancer Research Project and by turnover among senior staff at the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville.

The work of the Program Audit Subcommittee focused on developing assessment and evaluation activities for each program. The subcommittee currently is reviewing a draft report with a series of recommendations on how the assessment of these activities can be improved. The report will be distributed at the November 7 Council meeting. The Council will be asked to consider the report's recommendations at a future meeting.