

**Council on Postsecondary Education  
Quality and Accountability Policy Group  
May 23, 2008**

**Regional Stewardship Program Regional Grants:  
Eastern Kentucky University**

**ACTION:** The staff recommends that \$300,000 in FY 2008 regional grant funds be granted to Eastern Kentucky University on the condition that EKU not expend any of these funds until successful completion of the regional grant process and that FY 2008-09 and FY 2009-10 regional grant money be conditional upon successful implementation of regional stewardship infrastructure plans, submission of a regional strategic plan approved by the area advising committee, and submission of a progress report on regional grant proposals approved by the advisory committee and the Council no later than the January 2009 Council meeting date.

Because Eastern Kentucky University has not yet hired a full-time regional stewardship director as required by the infrastructure plan approved by the Council in April 2007, their regional stewardship work has progressed more slowly than anticipated. EKU has not yet submitted a regional strategic plan. In addition, there was no letter of endorsement from the regional advisory committee stating agreement with the regional grant proposal.

Regional grant money should be used to address needs identified in the strategic plan, which is developed by the regional advisory committee. Since no strategic plan was submitted, the regional grant proposal submitted by EKU cannot be evaluated.

In the interest of promoting regional stewardship in eastern Kentucky and because the funds will lapse June 30, 2008, the Council staff recommends that the Council grant EKU \$300,000 in 2008 regional grant money on the condition these funds not be expended until the following conditions are met:

- EKU must submit a regional strategic plan that clearly demonstrates regional input and consensus.
- EKU must submit a new regional grant proposal that is developed with input from the regional advisory committee and endorsed by the committee.
- EKU must provide specific metrics of success in terms of both outputs and proposed outcomes in the region.

## **Accountability**

As part of House Bill 380 of the 2006 session of the General Assembly, the legislature requires an annual accountability report on the Regional Stewardship Program. The Council staff, working with university representatives, has developed guidelines for progress reports. In addition, all regional stewardship funds are made available through a memorandum of agreement that clearly outlines the goals that must be met to ensure continued funding.

In order to ensure accountability, future 2009-2010 regional grant funds will depend on successful implementation of the infrastructure plan submitted by the university as well as adequate progress on activities outlined in the revised regional grant proposal.