



KENTUCKY
Council
on postsecondary education

***Distance Learning
Advisory Committee
Meeting***

Date: May 7, 2003

AGENDA BOOK

DISTANCE LEARNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE KENTUCKY VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY (AN OPERATING UNIT OF THE COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION)

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 2003
10:30 A.M. –NOON (EDT)**

**TO BE HELD AT THE COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION
MEETING ROOM A
1024 CAPITAL CENTER DRIVE, #320
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601-8204
(502-573-1555; marcy.parker@kyvu.org)**

**Directions Can be Found at the Council Website, www.cpe.state.ky.us
Parking Not Reserved**

Roll Call

Approval of Minutes

Chair's Introductory Comments

Discussion Item: Executive Briefing on the Status of and Strategy for the KYVU

Announcements and Updates:

- a. Revolving loan fund, shift to rolling application process
- b. ADA/Sec. 508 compliance
- c. U CAN launch
- d. Go Higher initiative
- e. Patriot Act
- f. E-Commerce
- g. KYVU4K12, a new P-16 initiative
- h. "American Legacies" grant

Other Business

Adjourn

Minutes
Distance Learning Advisory Committee
November 13, 2002

The Distance Learning Advisory Committee (DLAC) met November 13, 2002, at 9 a.m. (ET) on the campus of Western Kentucky University.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Doug Robinson (representing Aldona Valicenti), Jane Martel (representing Allen Rose), Dan Connell (representing Ron Eaglin), Bill Wilson (representing Virginia Fox), Barton Darrell, Byron Bond (representing Joanne Glasser), James Nelson, Gale Rhodes (representing James Ramsey), John Yates (representing King Alexander), Sandy Cook (representing Michael McCall), Terry Magel (representing Paul Bibbins), Sue Moore, Daniel Rabuzzi, Gary Ransdell, William Pfeifle (representing Lee Todd), Mark Bengel (representing Viola Miller), Gary Pratt (representing James Votruba)

Also present: Myk Garn, Miko Pattie, Norma Northern, Randolph Hollingsworth (Kentucky Virtual University staff); Phil Rogers and Chela Kaplan (EPSB); Liz Storey (Green River Regional Educational Cooperative); Rob Wyatt and Barbara Burch (WKU); Charlene Davis (KDLA).

*WELCOMING
REMARKS*

President Ransdell welcomed everyone to the WKU campus. He spoke about Western Kentucky University's activities and some of its future plans. As part of its strategic plan, the institution has focused on asynchronous learning during the last five years. Enrollment is up about 20 percent, and of that growth, 40 percent is in distance learning enrollments.

*CHAIR'S
REMARKS*

Sue Moore thanked President Ransdell, Barbara Burch and Rob Wyatt for planning the meeting. The KYVU and KYVL staffs are working closely with Western on a number of projects including development of online academic programs, the Kentucky Virtual Adult Education initiative and a statewide conference on ADA compliance for online programs. At the Council on

Postsecondary Education faculty development conference in May, individual WKU faculty received the online teaching excellence award.

*APPROVAL OF
MINUTES*

The minutes of the August 26, 2002, meeting were approved as distributed.

**Georgia's
Decision to
Eliminate
Out-of-State
Tuition for
Online Programs**

Georgia Governor Roy E. Barnes, chairman of the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), urged other states in June to follow Georgia's lead and adopt electronic tuition rates that are not based on where a student lives. Georgia has eliminated in-state and out-of-state tuition charges for distance learning by setting electronic tuition rates. The SREB is asking its members to consider this model.

The KYVU staff has spoken with SREB and with several SREB states on this topic, and continues to gather information. Tuition and fees for online learning vary greatly, even within individual states. Georgia's elimination of an in-state/out-of-state differential must be viewed together with Georgia's approval for its institutions to charge a higher tuition rate for electronic learning than the in-state resident tuition rate, regardless of where the learner resides. Thus a learner resident in Georgia may have to pay a higher tuition rate to take an online course from a Georgia university than he or she would to take the equivalent course on campus. What the higher rate might be varies from institution to institution. There is no statewide electronic tuition rate in Georgia.

Discussions are going on at different levels in Arkansas, West Virginia, Mississippi, and Virginia. In Louisiana, they just passed a resolution allowing institutions to set rates irrespective of residency so long as the rates are above the instate tuition level.

Several years ago the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) delegated the authority to set tuition to the institutions. The tuition rates and fees for online learning charged by Kentucky's public universities and college were included in the agenda book.

A discussion followed about the rates that Kentucky institutions charge full-time students for online courses. In most cases, students are charged an additional 20 or 25 percent. The institutions use the additional revenue to reinvest in the creation of new programs and to finance the cost of faculty development.

Students are willing to pay the extra fee for the convenience of online courses.

KyEducators.org

Phil Rogers, the Director of the Division of Testing, Research, and Internship at the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB), presented KyEducators.org. The EPSB, in collaboration with the Kentucky Virtual University, created KyEducators.org, a website designed specifically for Kentucky teachers and administrators. Topics for the website were selected through focus group discussions with teachers and administrators. Subject matter experts from Kentucky and surrounding states (teachers and higher education faculty) wrote the courses offered by the EPSB to reflect strengths and issues of our communities. Advisory groups reviewed the content and tone to ensure accuracy, “readability,” and alignment with academic expectations and core content for assessment. EPSB gives final approval to all course content and partners with other providers (such as the Kentucky Virtual High School) to include other offerings. Participants can apply to their school-based decision making councils for professional development credit.

Liz Storey of the Green River Regional Educational Cooperative, working with the EPSB, conducted a pilot online course for continuing education with 14 teachers participating. Because of the success of the pilot, four other cooperatives aim to develop online modules.

The Kentucky Internship Program (KTIP) Committee Training Program was piloted at the University of Kentucky under the direction of Dr. Sharon Brennan. This online training program allows committee members across the state to meet online and practice together before they evaluate teacher interns. KTIP Committees comprise three members: principal, resource teacher, and university educator.

To address teacher shortages in special education, the EPSB and educators from the Institutions of Higher Education Consortium are developing other curricular modules for KyEducators.org including:

- New-to-Kentucky Teacher
- Introduction to Special Education
- Introduction to Learning Behavior Disorders
- Behavior Management of Students with Disabilities

The Institutions of Higher Education Consortium consists of special education faculty representing all colleges and universities in Kentucky with special education preparatory programs as well as representatives from the Kentucky Department of Education. Faculty from Western Kentucky University, Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead University, the University of Louisville, the University of Kentucky, Murray State University and Brescia College are working on the special education modules for KyEducators.org. The modules will orient new teachers to the special education classroom and prepare them to begin teaching while they pursue their special education teaching certificate through a college or university program.

connectkentucky

Doug Robinson from the Governor's Office of Technology presented connectKentucky - (<http://www.connectkentucky.org/>). This three-year public-private partnership led by the Center for Information Technology Enterprise (which is headed by a WKU professor) seeks to measure Kentucky's readiness to live in the networked world. connectKentucky specifically seeks to measure infrastructure, access, and usage, the three fundamental elements of success. The statewide agenda is to increase public awareness, implement market-driven strategies, and initiate public policy.

UPDATES

Daniel Rabuzzi provided updates on several KYVU activities. Additional information was included in the agenda book.

- The Council on Postsecondary Education approved September 22, 2002, the definition of "KYVU student" and "KYVU course" approved by DLAC at the August 26, 2002, DLAC meeting.
- The first statewide conference on compliance for Websites and online courses with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act was held October 9, 2002 at Eastern Kentucky University.
- The KYVU demonstrated the first live module on its new student information system on October 8, 2002.
- The KYVU plans to introduce e-commerce capability early in 2003, including the ability for learners to pay for course access directly online with their credit cards. KyEducators.org is the first project where e-commerce will be introduced. This initiative will be discussed at a DLAC meeting in 2003.

- The KYVU was awarded a three-year \$400,000 grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education to co-fund the creation of the KYVU Coordinated Advising Network (“U CAN”). Key U CAN partners are the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, the Kentucky Virtual High School, GEAR UP, the Kentucky Counseling Association, and the Kentucky Department for Adult Education and Literacy. The KYVU welcomes participation from all postsecondary institutions and state agencies.
- The KYVU anticipates issuing a national request for proposals around December 1, 2002, through the state procurement office, for instructional analysis and design services, online tutoring and advising services, online testing modules, and interactive e-mail capabilities.
- The KYVU issued in September a request for proposals from Kentucky colleges, universities, and state agencies for online programs to be funded from the KYVU’s revolving loan fund. The deadline was November 15, 2002.
- The KYVU issued in October a request for proposals from Kentucky colleges and universities for small online instructional design projects to be funded by the KYVU. The deadline was November 1, 2002.

OTHER BUSINESS Gale Rhodes of the University of Louisville asked the KYVU about possible implications of the Patriot Act for distance learning providers and students. Daniel Rabuzzi said that the KYVU would review and respond to the University of Louisville and all the participating institutions in the KYVU.

ADJOURN The meeting adjourned at 11 a.m.

The next meeting will be held on May 7, 2003 at 10:30 a.m. (ET) at the CPE offices in Frankfort.

DISCUSSION ITEM: Executive Briefing on Status of and Strategy for the Kentucky Virtual University.

To mark the fifth anniversary of its inception, the KYVU will review its activities with DLAC and seeks DLAC's guidance on strategic direction. The KYVU seeks recommendations from DLAC on agenda items for the two remaining DLAC meetings in 2003 (July and October). As a platform for discussion, here is a brief overview of the KYVU's operations.

Origin: Created in KRS 164.800 as a result of passage of the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997. First funded in the 1998-2000 state budget. Began operations fall 1999, serving 228 learners.

Governance:

- Section 16, paragraph 1 of the Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997 reads in part: "The Commonwealth Virtual University shall be the academic programs made available to the citizens of the Commonwealth through the use of modern methods of communication and information dissemination as determined by the Council on Postsecondary Education after consideration of the recommendations of the Distance Learning Advisory Committee..."
- Section 16, paragraph 2 reads in part: "The council shall establish a Distance Learning Advisory Committee to advise the council on matters relating to the Commonwealth Virtual University. The members of the advisory committee shall include the presidents of each of the nine (9) state postsecondary education institutions, the executive director of the Kentucky Educational Television Network, a representative of the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities, and other representatives as the council deems appropriate...."
- Section 16, paragraph 3 reads: "The council, after receiving the recommendations of the Distance Learning Advisory Committee, shall establish policies to control and promote the use of distance learning systems to be used by the Commonwealth Virtual University to increase the availability of all postsecondary education programs throughout the state in the most efficient manner. The regional universities shall be the primary developers and deliverers of baccalaureate and master's degree programs to be delivered by the Commonwealth Virtual University; however, this does not preclude the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, or independent colleges from offering baccalaureate and master's degree programs or other course offerings, and community colleges and technical institutions from offering associate and technical degree programs or other courses through the Commonwealth Virtual University."
- Section 16, paragraph 4 reads: "The council shall determine the allocation of tuition, course offerings, source of courses, technology to be used, and other matters relating to the use of distance learning to promote education through the Commonwealth Virtual University."

Learners Served:

Spring 2003
Learner Headcount

Provider	Headcount
Eastern Kentucky University	27
KCTCS	8,449
Kentucky State University	89
Lexington Community College	520
Morehead State University	47
Murray State University	34
University of Louisville	527
Western Kentucky University	155
Northern Kentucky University	0 **
University of Kentucky	0 **
• *Subtotal, including multiple enrollees	9,848
Subtotal, unduplicated	9,746
Education Professional Standards Board	777
Department for Adult Education and Literacy	3,109
Grand Total (unduplicated headcount)	13,632

* Institutional subtotal includes duplicates (some learners take classes from multiple providers). Sources-KYVU PeopleSoft and PLATO CMS data as of March 15, 2003.

** Projects under development with both NKU and UK.

Spring 2002: Served 6,281 learners (unduplicated headcount). Fall 2002: Served 9,810 learners (unduplicated headcount).

Learners from all 120 Kentucky counties, plus 37 states and 6 foreign countries. Top ten counties, fall 2002: Jefferson, Pike, McCracken, Fayette, Hardin, Daviess, Mason, Floyd, Harlan, Graves. Approximately 65% are age 23 or older.

Programs:

- 32 for-credit programs offered by Kentucky public colleges and universities, fall 2002: 11 skill certificates, 4 associate degrees, 8 baccalaureate degrees, 9 master's degrees.
- 12 professional development offerings for Kentucky teachers and other K-12 personnel on KyEducators.org (developed and maintained by the KYVU for and on behalf of the Education Professional Standards Board).
- 12 training modules for instructors and 25 instructional offerings for adult learners on KYVAE.org (developed and maintained by the KYVU for and on behalf of the Kentucky Department for Adult Education & Literacy).
- Launching May 2003 KYVU4K12.org, a P-16 partnership with the Kentucky Virtual High School (an operating unit of the Kentucky Department of Education)

to provide online instruction to school districts, partly under No Child Left Behind and GEAR UP auspices.

- Launched April 2003 the KYVU Coordinated Advising Network (U CAN), partly funded by a grant from the federal Department of Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, a partnership with the Kentucky Community & Technical College System, the Kentucky Department of Education, the Kentucky Department for Adult Education & Literacy, the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority, Northern Kentucky University, Morehead University, the Kentucky Counseling Association, and GEAR UP. U CAN will be linked to the statewide Go Higher initiative led by KHEAA, the KDE, and the CPE.

Databases: The Kentucky Virtual Library, started in 1995 and incorporated into the KYVU, is a statewide consortium representing all K-12, public, and postsecondary libraries plus some military and hospital collections. The VL licenses and manages 42 electronic databases available to all Kentucky citizens. Average number of monthly database searches since fall, 1999 is c. 434,000, with monthly average up to c. 505,000 since July 2002.

Services: The KYVU offers nine kinds of services:

1. Program Delivery
2. Learner Advising and Support
3. Library Assistance
4. Recruiting and Outreach
5. Technology Access, Integration, and Support
6. Project Management
7. Policy Guidance
8. Faculty and Librarian Training & Development
9. Funding

1.-3. touch the learner directly and are the purpose of KYVU and KYVL. 4.-5. touch the learner as enabling functions (they are means to the ends represented by 1.-3.). 6.-9. enable the KYVU's partners to serve learners better.

1. Program Delivery is the service of making a program, course, or module available on a KYVU website (including KyEducators, KYVAE, and KYVU4K12). Includes listing in the KYVU online catalog and availability of the KYVU online common admissions form for ease of learner access.
2. Learner Advising and Support is primarily the work of the KYVU call center, responding to learner queries, comments, and complaints, and mentoring KYVU learners both in terms of specific learning objectives and in terms of more general postsecondary planning. The KYVU contracts with an external party to provide 'round-the-clock, year-'round technical help for KYVU learners.

3. Library Assistance is service to online library patrons and is not restricted to KYVU learners. The KYVL operates the virtual library site and databases, and provides online and telephone reference services.
4. Recruiting and Outreach covers both building awareness about the value of online learning in Kentucky and tailored marketing to bring a targeted audience to specific programs. An example of the latter would be the current project with the KCTCS, the University of Louisville, Northern Kentucky University, and Murray State University to increase the numbers of transfer students from community and technical colleges to designated online baccalaureate completor degrees.
5. Technology Access, Integration, and Support covers a wide array of technical services, ranging from access to KYVU-licensed course management systems and other software to creation and maintenance of inter-institutional data-exchange interfaces and synchronization of learner data from different sources. The goal is to keep complex and innovative technologies working at full capacity so that learners have no difficulties using the KYVU. Above this minimum requirement, the KYVU is introducing features such as single sign-on and e-commerce to increase user convenience.
6. Project Management includes responsibility as lead contractor on behalf of a partner for all aspects of program procurement, deployment, and maintenance. Specific duties include designing and conducting bid processes, contract negotiation, submission, and review, outside vendor management, and acting as fiscal agent. Examples include the KYVU's work for the Education Professional Standards Board, the Department for Adult Education and Literacy, and the KYVL statewide library consortium.
7. Policy Guidance includes the KYVU's assistance to institutions when proposal of an online program triggers an accreditation review, and the KYVU's overarching work with all state universities and colleges on regulatory and legal issues affecting everyone, for example, assurance of quality in online education, Title IV financing for online students, digital copyright rules, Americans with Disabilities Act and Rehabilitation Act compliance in the electronic arena, and the Patriot Act.
8. Faculty and Librarian Training and Development includes technical training on the software used by the KYVU and the KYVL, and more general support of the discussion about how best to use electronic means for quality education. One example of the latter: the KYVU is a core participant in the council's annual statewide faculty development conference.
9. Funding refers to the KYVU's revolving interest-free loan fund to support, on a competitive basis, the development of online materials for Kentucky's learners.

KYVU CLIENTS AND SERVICES

	Delivery	Support	Library	Outreach	Tech	Project	Policy	Training	Funding
KCTCS	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X
DAEL	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
EPSB	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
U of L	X	X	X	X			X		
LCC	X	X	X				X		
WKU	X	X	X				X		
KSU	X	X	X				X		
Morehead	X	X	X				X		X
Murray	X	X	X	X			X		X
EKU	X	X	X				X		X
WVA		X	X		X				
KyVHS	X	X	X	X		X			
NKU		X	X	X			X		X
UK			X				X		X
GSC	X	X	X		X	X		X	
CHS	X	X	X		X				
KHEAA	X	X	X	X		X	X		X
GOT	X		X		X			X	
Midway	X	X	X		X			X	
Libraries	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Abbreviation Key: KCTCS= Kentucky Community & Technical College System. DAEL= (Kentucky) Department for Adult Education & Literacy. EPSB= Education Professional Standards Board. U of L= University of Louisville. LCC= Lexington Community College. WKU= Western Kentucky University. KSU= Kentucky State University. Morehead= Morehead State University. Murray= Murray State University. EKU= Eastern Kentucky University. WVA= West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission. KyVHS= Kentucky Virtual High School, a unit of the Kentucky Department of Education. NKU= Northern Kentucky University. UK= University of Kentucky. GSC= Governmental Services Center. HC= (Kentucky) Cabinet for Health Services, including the Department for Mental Health & Mental Retardation Services and the Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities. KHEAA= Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority. GOT= Governor's Office of Technology. Midway= Midway College. Libraries= The statewide library consortium led by the Kentucky Virtual Library, including all public, K-12, college and university (public and private) in the state plus some military, hospital, and special libraries.

Italics indicate projects under development or pending grant approval for funding, slated for launch within the next 6-9 months (some as early as spring 2003).

Funding and Staff: \$4.7 million state appropriation in 2002-'03, of which \$1.7 million for the virtual library, \$1.0 million for shared technology and support, \$1.6 million for salaries and benefits, and \$0.4 million for other operating expenses. Staff complement of 27, of which 22 filled (6 information technology, 5 registrar & learner support, 5 project leaders, 4 clerical and financial support, 2 library).

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

A. Revolving Loan Fund.

The KYVU has funded, against institutional match, nine projects at six Kentucky institutions: Kentucky Community and Technical College System, University of Kentucky, Eastern Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, and Murray State University (leading a seven-institution collaborative). The KYVU will shift the application process effective immediately from a single annual submission date based on an annual request for proposals to a rolling application and submission process. Institutions may now apply on a first-come/first-served basis to the KYVU revolving loan fund at any time. The intent is to make submission more convenient for applicants, to encourage more applications, and to speed program development. The evaluation of applications will continue to be competitive and rigorous, based on the criteria used in the most recent request for proposals. The KYVU will re-post the criteria to www.kyvu.org. Potential applicants may speak about the process with Myk Garn and Norma Northern, respectively the KYVU's Chief Academic Officer and Chief Financial Officer.

B. ADA/Section 508 Compliance.

Electronic learning technologies have increased the potential for access to postsecondary education. But technology can also bring new barriers to learning. In fall 2002, advised by an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) policy team representing Kentucky colleges, universities and state agencies, the KYVU began an initiative to ensure that each of Kentucky's postsecondary institutions and agencies addresses and increases accessibility to electronic learning.

The goal of the initiative is to help Kentucky postsecondary institutions and state agencies establish policies and processes so that their electronic instruction complies with the ADA, Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, and other relevant state and federal regulations. Participants will define appropriate design, development, and delivery standards for compliant instruction, and will recommend processes for meeting and reviewing compliancy standards for electronic instruction.

Participants— over 100 individuals from over 30 Kentucky institutions and agencies-- include public college and university ADA coordinators, electronic learning coordinators, campus instructional technology administrators, members of the Council on Postsecondary Education Faculty Development Workgroup, the State ADA Coordinator (Norb Ryan in the Cabinet for Workforce Development), and the Governor's Office of Technology. The Kentucky Council on Developmental Disabilities has funded some of the group's activities.

Events include:

- An initial survey to determine the current accessibility of Internet-based instruction at the institutions.
- Awareness building presentations to the Distance Learning Advisory Committee, the Council of Chief Academic Officers, and the KYVU Coordinators, and the Governors ADA Task Force on Postsecondary Education.
- A preliminary framework of deadlines was established by the KYVU Coordinators for reporting of the accessibility of online instruction submitted to the KYVU.
- An Accessibility Symposium held October 10, 2002 at Eastern Kentucky University to build an understanding of the issues and resources available to the institutions to (a) establish institutional policies, (b) implement the processes, and (c) validate the accessibility of their Internet-based instruction. The symposium built connections and dialogue between the different campus functions represented by the invited groups allowing them to return to their campuses and convene the necessary constituencies to discuss and set ADA/508 compliance for online instruction at each institution.
- A Policy Workshop, held March 6, 2003 at the University of Louisville, provided an inter-institutional/agency sharing of policy development efforts and implementation issues. KCTCS sponsored a live interactive web-cast of the workshop.

Additional Activities:

- The University of Louisville hosted an “Accessibility of Online Instruction” course for those who could not attend the March 6th workshop and will host a statewide listserv.
- A second survey of accessibility policies will be conducted in summer 2003.
- Pilot testing of the compliance reviews will begin in fall 2003 term.
- Beginning spring 2004 KYVU Instructional Providers will certify that all instruction offered via KYVU has been developed, reviewed, and is in compliance with the provider’s accessibility policies for online instruction.

C. U CAN Launch

The Kentucky Virtual University Coordinated Advising Network (U CAN) launched its first pilot April 17 at Maysville Community College. U CAN, partly funded by a grant from the federal Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education, is an inter-agency, multi-institutional collaboration to increase the number of first-time participants in postsecondary education, and to increase the number of transfers within the postsecondary system. The primary goal is to help individual learners move without bureaucratic barriers from one system to another, for example from the K-12 system to the postsecondary system or from an adult learning center to a community college or university. Increased and coordinated outreach and advising is at the heart of U CAN. U CAN aims to make more effective use of call center and Web technologies (for example, the Kentucky Department of Education's Individualized Graduation Plan, which goes online this summer, and the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority's Go Higher site, scheduled for launch in early 2004) to help learners understand their postsecondary options and move within and between systems.

26 individuals participated in the Maysville launch, representing the KYVU and the Council on Postsecondary Education, the Kentucky Community & Technical College System (system office, Maysville CC, Gateway CC), the Kentucky Department of Education, the Campbell County School District, the Pendleton County School District, Northern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, the Department for Adult Education (including regional adult learning center personnel), and the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.

The KYVU plans two other regional pilots.

D. Go Higher Initiative

The Council on Postsecondary Education, both as a policy agency and through the KYVU, is a lead participant in the statewide Go Higher postsecondary advising, outreach, and recruitment initiative led by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority. Go Higher will include a statewide Web portal containing extensive information and interactive features for all Kentuckians wanting to learn more about postsecondary options. The site, scheduled for launch in early 2004, will enable a learner to apply for admission directly to an institution, and to apply directly to funders for education financing. Other partners include the Kentucky Department of Education, the Kentucky Department for Adult Education & Literacy, and the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges & Universities. The Kentucky Community and Technical College System and Kentucky's public four-year institutions have been involved in the discussions leading to Go Higher and are welcome to join the initiative.

E. Patriot Act

The University of Louisville asked the KYVU at the November 21, 2002 DLAC meeting about restrictions placed on the number of distance education courses a foreign student could take under new Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) rules resulting from the Patriot Act legislation.

The Federal Register states, “A student currently pursuing a full course of study may add as many distance education or on-line courses as he or she wishes in addition to the courses counting towards the full course of study.” The required hours for an undergraduate are 12 hours per semester, allowing only 3 hours of distance learning to count towards the 12-hour “full-time” rule, and a graduate student is required to do 9 hours of course work, allowing, again, only 3 hours to count for the 9 hour “full-time” rule. There is no upward limit on the total hours taken during any one semester.

Working with representatives from the University of Louisville, Morehead State University, and the University of Kentucky, KYVU and council staff have convened several discussions and meetings about this issue to determine whether any concerns exist about the implementation of this regulation. The following is a report of the status of implementation of this policy at these Kentucky institutions.

Status of Implementation

The institution issuing an I-20 is responsible for tracking that student’s enrollment and matching hours required to course venue. While each institution has different student information systems (SIS), the same basic approach is being used:

- The SIS flags international students taking distance education courses and notifies the institutional international student services officer if a student is taking any distance education courses.
- International students must notify the institutional foreign student services officer of any distance learning courses they are taking that they wish to apply towards their “full course of study”.
- No international students are being allowed to take more than one distance education course as part of fulfilling the “full course of study” requirement.
- Lists of international students who appear to be under-enrolled are checked to ensure they are actually in compliance as they may be doing practical training but taking additional courses, may be in the last semester of coursework, or may actually be attending another institution.

Notes

- Students may take more than one distance education course during a term – but only one may be included in the number of courses/credits needed to be considered full-time or enrolled in a “full course of study”.
- These regulations do not apply to international enrollments where the students are out of the country.

Outstanding Issues

To date it appears that only one issue remains unresolved: whether students, previously enrolled in the Online MBA program at Morehead State University, can continue to take more than one online course per term. To date MoSU has:

- Stopped issuing I-20s for international students (international students are still accepted if they remain in their home countries).
- Filed an appeal with the Department of Homeland Security asking that previously enrolled students be allowed to complete their program by taking more than one distance education course as part of their full course of study each term.

Resources:

Federal Register text: (<http://www.immigration.gov/graphics/lawsregs/fr121102.pdf>) page 9, left hand column, Section IX, entitled On-Line and Distance Education. See also (http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=2002_register&docid=02-12022-filed.pdf) on page 5, middle column, which states that only 3 hours can be counted towards the credit hours.

Implications of the regulation are described in a March 13, 2003 NACUBO-ACE advisory report, pp. 8b-9a:
(http://www.nacubo.org/public_policy/advisory_reports/2003/2003-02.pdf)

NAFSA's January 22, 2003 compiled version of the INS December 11, 2002 final SEVIS implementation rule:
<http://www.nafsa.org/content/ProfessionalandEducationalResources/ImmigrationAdvisingResources/sr2002g.pdf>

F. E-Commerce

In response to a requirement from the Education Professional Standards Board for their site KyEducators.org, the KYVU will start e-commerce capabilities by early summer 2003. “E-commerce” in this case means the ability of a learner to purchase immediate access to a course or program by using his or her credit card online.

Currently the learners at KyEducators.org pay their course fees by remitting a check, which is then processed manually—a process that can take up to several weeks before the learner has access to the course.

The KYVU is working closely with the Governor’s Office of Technology and the Cabinet for Finance & Administration in launching its e-commerce capability. At least ten other Kentucky state agencies already have this capability, and the KYVU is following the state government template and regulations for e-commerce. The KYVU is pleased to offer e-commerce services to other KYVU partners.

G. KYVU4K12

This month the KYVU, partnering with the Kentucky Virtual High School (an operating unit of the Kentucky Department of Education) and with the council's statewide GEAR UP project, launches an online P-16 initiative called KYVU4K12. The Kentucky Department of Education has pre-qualified the KYVU to provide online instruction to Kentucky schools and school districts under Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act. Likewise, we will provide instruction to GEAR UP schools, as well as to other Kentucky schools that may wish to augment or enrich their students' curriculum.

The partnership with the Kentucky Virtual High School is an important step in meeting the state's P-16 goal of seamless transition for learners from the middle and high schools to postsecondary education. KYVU4K12 is particularly important because each partner has technology and curricular materials that the other does not, making for an efficient and non-duplicative use of state resources.

H. “American Legacies” Grant

The KYVU is pleased to be assisting the Harlan Independent School District and the Kentucky Historical Society on the three-year “American Legacies” grant from the Teaching American History Program of the U.S. Department of Education. The grant is to improve history education in southeastern Kentucky. Enid Wohlstein and Tanzi Merritt of the KYVL represented the KYVU at the official launch in Harlan on April 11, 2003. Other partners include the University of Kentucky, the Kentucky Department of Education, and the Kentucky Heritage Council.

Reform:

Five Questions We All Must Answer

1. Are more Kentuckians ready for postsecondary education?
2. Are more students enrolling?
3. Are more students advancing through the system?
4. Are we preparing Kentuckians for life and work?
5. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?



The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability in employment or the provision of services and provides, upon request, reasonable accommodation including auxiliary aids and services necessary to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs and activities.

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