

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

**Statewide Engineering Education Strategy –
Transfer of Funding for Joint Engineering Programs**

ACTION: The staff recommends that the Council authorize institutional access to the \$750,000 appropriated for the joint engineering programs to the University of Kentucky (\$250,000), the University of Louisville (\$125,000), and Western Kentucky University (\$375,000).

Based on the *Strategy for Statewide Engineering in Kentucky: A Review 2001-2006* reported to the Council in May 2007, a number of recommendations were made to the joint engineering programs. These included enhancing distance learning course delivery, expanding the pre-engineering pipeline, and developing transfer-critical, lower-division course content at Kentucky community and technical colleges. Progress reports detailing work by the joint engineering programs' faculty were provided at the May and November 2007 and April 2008 meetings of the Quality and Accountability Policy Group.

The Joint Steering Committee chaired by Dr. Barbara Burch submitted a progress report to the Council May 2, 2008. The four joint institutional program faculties have assessed each of the joint distance learning course offerings and have devised a rubric for ongoing evaluation of delivery. Full assessment of all courses will be completed after the spring 2008 semester. Faculty members have been assisted by the statewide Technology Advisory Committee in responding to student dissatisfaction with ITV coordination challenges.

Given reported progress made to date, it is recommended that the current funding allocations be released to the institutions in the following amounts:

- University of Kentucky: \$250,000 for civil and mechanical engineering programs with Western Kentucky University.
- University of Louisville: \$125,000 for electrical engineering program with Western Kentucky University.
- Western Kentucky University: \$350,000 for civil and mechanical engineering programs with UK and electrical engineering program with UofL.

Following the Council's May 2007 action, funding transfers for the UofL and MuSU joint program in electrical engineering will await accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. Funds will be available to administer the programs but not released for transfer to the institutional budgets.