

## **MEETING MINUTES**

*Approved by the Committee on September 9, 2024*

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Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education  
Meeting Type: Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee  
Date: June 10, 2024  
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET  
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Monday, June 10, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM webinar. Committee Chair Karyn Hoover presided.

### **ROLL CALL**

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Attended: Dr. Meredith Figg, Karyn Hoover, Chloe Marstiller, LaDonna Rogers (joined at 10:15)

Did not attend: Dr. Kellie Ellis and Kevin Weaver

Heather Faesy, CPE's Senior Associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

### **NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS APPROVED AT KCTCS**

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Dr. Melissa Bell, Ph.D., CPE's Vice President of Academic Excellence, presented the newest Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree approved at Owensboro Community and Technical College – Professional Studio Artist - Bluegrass and Traditional Music (CIP 50.0201). The program is designed to prepare students to work in the field of Bluegrass music as musicians, small business owners, and technicians. In addition to music instruction in a variety of Bluegrass instruments, students will take coursework in songwriting, recording and business.

KRS 164.020 (15) mandates that the Council expedite the approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature. No action was required from the Committee.

## **GEAR UP KENTUCKY UPDATE – JUNE 2024**

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Kim Welch, Executive Director of GEAR UP Kentucky, presented an annual update on Kentucky's premier initiative aimed at increasing the number of Kentucky students in low-income communities who are ready to successfully transition to and through postsecondary education. The project currently serves 5,130 high school students in 12 school districts and 504 college freshmen at nine public colleges and universities (EKU, MoSU, NKU, KSU, UofL, GCTC, BCTC, ECTC and Maysville CTC). Participating students receive postsecondary transition readiness curricula, college and career advising, college readiness assessments, tours and summer programs on college campuses, career-focused field trips, leadership development programs, and postsecondary transition coaching and support.

GEAR UP Kentucky will enter its final year of implementation in the 2024-25 school year. Ms. Welch overviewed the services provided over the last year, shared upcoming initiatives, and highlighted quantitative and qualitative data on project outputs and outcomes, including increases in college applications, FAFSA completions, high school graduation and college enrollment of participating students.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

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The minutes of the March 25, 2024, meeting were approved as distributed.

## **PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

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Dr. Bell introduced six new academic programs for review and approval. KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council on Postsecondary Education to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree, certificate, or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions.

Council staff reviewed the proposed programs and recommended approval.

### B.A., Law and Justice (CIP 22.0000) – University of Kentucky

Presented by: Dr. Michael Zilis, Associate Professor, Political Science

- The 120-credit hour program will provide students with expertise in the topic of law and courts, as well as skills in analytics and logic, writing, composition, and communication. Courses will include foci on law and courts; judicial and lawmaking institutions; key issues surrounding justice, equality, and fairness; the law and letters, which emphasizes composition, historical, and philosophical perspectives on the law; and analysis and logic. Students will also be required to take coursework in comparative politics or international relations.

MOTION: Ms. Rogers moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed program from the University of Kentucky. Ms. Figg seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

M.S., Economic Analytics (CIP 45.0603) – Murray State University

Presented by: Dr. Narine Badasyan, chair of the Department of Economics and Finance

- This 30-credit hour program focuses on the analytical and applied aspects of economics and is targeted toward students interested in a variety of data-driven careers, such as data scientists, business intelligence engineers, market research analysts, and operations research analysts who, in addition to econometric and statistical skills, require strong data science skills.

M.S., Accountancy and Analytics (CIP 52.1301) – Murray State University

Presented by: Dr. Leigh Johnson, chair of the Department of Accounting

- This 30-credit hour program provides graduates with a deep understanding of accountancy and expertise in data analytics. It prepares graduates to offer enhanced value through comprehensive data analytics and data science services. It is designed to attract students in Murray State University's region who are seeking a credential to enhance their career options, or as a method to obtain 150-credit hours for CPA licensure.

Ed.S., School Psychology (CIP 42.2805) – Murray State University

Presented by: Dr. Sean Simons, assistant professor

- This 60-credit hour program emphasizes the application of psychological principles and practices to enhance the educational and developmental opportunities for children and adolescents. Through a combination of coursework, field experiences, and research opportunities, graduates of the program will gain the skills and knowledge necessary to collaborate with educators, families, and other professionals to ensure that all students receive the support they need to succeed.

MOTION: Ms. Rogers moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed programs from Murray State University. Ms. Figg seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

B.A., Special Education (CIP 13.1001) – Northern Kentucky University

Presented by: Dr. Melissa Jones, Professor of Special Education

- The 122-credit hour program is designed for para-professionals currently working in a school district who wish to earn a bachelor's degree in Special Education. The program will allow students to complete requirements for special education teacher certification more quickly than through most existing programs and is offered in a hybrid format that includes extensive hands-on experiences to build a sense of community among the students in the cohort.

MOTION: Ms. Figg moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed program from Northern Kentucky University. Ms. Rogers seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS, PENDING WAIVER APPROVAL**

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Dr. Bell introduced three new academic programs for review and approval from Kentucky State University.

The Committee on Equal Opportunities (CEO) conducted its annual implementation review of the campus's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plans from January through April 2024. At its April 22, 2024, meeting, the CEO reported that Kentucky State University did not meet the minimum score required. They stated that implementation of their initiatives is recent, and they expect to see outcomes and results in the next reporting cycle.

As a result, Kentucky State University is not currently eligible to apply for new academic programs during academic year 2024-25, unless they request a waiver and submit an improvement plan to be reviewed by Council staff and approved by the Council at its June 21, 2024, meeting.

Council staff reviewed the proposed programs and to allow for expediency, staff proposed the ASI Committee consider approval of the three proposed programs, pending the review and approval of their DEI improvement plan at the June 21 Council meeting.

### **B.S., Biological and Agricultural Engineering (CIP 14.0301) – Kentucky State University**

Presented by: Scott Wicker, Interim Associate Provost Academic Affairs School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

- This 120-credit hour program will provide students with the ability to apply fundamental knowledge of the physical sciences, mathematics, and engineering principles to formulate and solve problems. Graduates will use mathematical and scientific principles in designing, developing, and evaluating system operations used in production, processing, storage, handling, and distribution of food, feed, and fiber. Engineering design will be integrated throughout the curriculum, along with skills such as communication and teamwork, and students will be involved in summer internship experiences from their sophomore year through graduation.

### **B.S., Manufacturing Engineering Technology (CIP 15.0613) – Kentucky State University**

Presented by: Scott Wicker, Interim Associate Provost Academic Affairs School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

- This 120-credit hour program will prepare students to apply basic engineering principles and technical skills to the identification and resolution of production problems in product manufacturing. The program includes instruction in machine and production line operations, engineering and systems analysis, instrumentation, physical controls, automation, computer-aided manufacturing, and manufacturing

planning and quality control. The program will seek accreditation by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET).

B.S., Cybersecurity (CIP 43.0404) – Kentucky State University

Presented by: Michael Daily, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs  
Academic Affairs

- This 120-credit hour program will prepare through theoretical knowledge, practical applications, real-world scenarios, and an ethical mindset, all of which are required to navigate the complex and ever-evolving landscape of cybersecurity. The courses within this program use and/or align with the standards set forth by the Accreditation Board of Engineering and Technology (ABET), and the program will be available entirely online and is designed for students to enter the workforce upon graduation.

MOTION: Ms. Rogers moved the Committee endorse for full Council approval the proposed new academic programs from Kentucky State University conditional on the approval of a waiver under consideration by the full Council at its June 21, 2024, meeting. Ms. Figg seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **CLIMB CONVENING 2024 RECAP**

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Dr. Leslie Sizemore, Associate Vice President, Workforce and Economic Development, provided a recap of the first-ever CLIMB Convening held on May 14, 2024, at The Campbell House in Lexington, Kentucky. The in-person event brought together over 150 attendees to learn about and celebrate the work that the CLIMB-Health initiative has accomplished since its launch in 2023. The event featured keynotes from state leaders shaping the work that allows adults to contribute to an economically stable Kentucky, and numerous networking opportunities among and with industry, government, and postsecondary education partners.

## **MID-TERM REVIEW OF THE 2022-30 STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA**

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Ms. Lee Nimocks, Sr. Vice President and Chief of Staff; Mr. Travis Muncie, Executive Director, Data and Advanced Analytics; and Ms. Melissa Young, Executive Director and Chief Writer, Communications, provided an update on the mid-term review process of the statewide strategic agenda. The agenda was approved by the Council at its November 2021 Council meeting, and campus metric goals were established in early 2022. Because the plan extends over nine years, staff built in a review process that would allow for necessary adjustments every three years (in 2024 and 2027). Over the last three years, staff have monitored implementation at the campus level and engaged in a variety of statewide initiatives to advance progress.

Ms. Young discussed the timeline and staff's role in the process. Mr. Muncie discussed the three-year institution goal setting for key performance indicators of the agenda.

## **BET THE TRIFECTA: DUAL CREDIT PROMOTES MATRICULATION, SUCCESS AND COMPLETION**

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Due to time constraints, this item of the agenda was postponed to the Council meeting being held on June 21, 2024.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 11:55 a.m., ET.