

## **MEETING MINUTES**

Approved by the Committee on January 27, 2025

---

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education  
Meeting Type: Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee  
Date: November 15, 2024  
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET  
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

### **CALL TO ORDER**

---

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Friday, November 15, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM webinar. Committee Chair Karyn Hoover presided.

### **ROLL CALL**

---

All Committee members attended the meeting: Dr. Kellie Ellis, Dr. Meredith Figg, Karyn Hoover, LaDonna Rogers, and Kevin Weaver. Additionally, Council member Sean Garber attended the meeting as a non-voting member.

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

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

---

The minutes of the September 9, 2024, meeting were approved as distributed.

### **CPE PRESIDENT UPDATE**

---

Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE President, provided an update to the Committee on the outcomes of the 2024 Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding and how those recommendations impact the long-term goals of the statewide strategic agenda.

### **PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

---

Dr. Melissa Bell, Ph.D., CPE's Vice President of Academic Excellence, introduced two 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.

Bachelor of Science, Pharmaceutical Science (CIP 51.2010) – University of Kentucky

Presented by: Dr. Eric Welch, Director of Undergraduate Studies

- The 120-credit hour program is designed to prepare students to enter the workforce as clinical trial managers and certified pharmacy technicians, as well as pursue professional degrees within the medical sciences, such as the PharmD, MD, or DVM, or enter graduate training programs. The proposed program will also serve as a pipeline to the College's professional (PharmD) and graduate (MS and PhD) programs.

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

VOTE: The motion passed. Meredith Figg abstained from the vote.

Bachelor of Science, Communication Sciences and Disorders (CIP 51.2010) – University of Louisville

Presented by: Dr. Alan Smith, Professor, Division Chief of Communicative Disorders and Director of Graduate Studies for Speech-Language Pathology

- The 120-credit hour program focuses on the biological, physical, sociocultural, and linguistic aspects of human communication, as well as human communication disorders and differences. A unique aspect of this program is offering an accelerated track to students who also plan to earn the Doctor of Audiology. Undergraduate students will be permitted to apply to the doctoral program during their junior year.

MOTION: Mr. Weaver moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed program from the University of Louisville. Dr. Ellis seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE 2022-30 STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA**

---

Mr. Travis Muncie, Chief Information Officer, and Ms. Melissa Young, Senior Fellow in Communications, presented the proposed revisions to the 2022-30 Statewide Strategic Agenda that were developed after the first of two planned mid-term reviews.

The Council's statewide strategic agenda for 2022-30, "Higher Education Matters," 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 several months, CPE staff engaged in a comprehensive review of the statewide strategies and key performance indicators with internal and campus work groups.

Proposed revisions were focused on updating data and narrative references and aligning strategies and verbiage to current statutory language and CPE initiatives. CPE staff walked through each of the changes to the objectives and strategies as well as proposed changes to the key performance indicators. The final revised document will be ready for Council review and approval at its November 22, 2024, meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Rogers moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed revisions to the 2022-30 Statewide Strategic Agenda. Dr. Figg seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **2024 FALL PRELIMINARY ENROLLMENT**

---

Dr. Chris Ledford, Director of Data and Advanced Analytics, and Ms. Annalise Hale, CPE Intern, provided an update on preliminary fall enrollment for 2024. Overall, enrollment data show impressive growth in undergraduate enrollment across sectors, including record numbers of first-time, underrepresented, and dual credit students over the past decade. Fall 2024 also marks a consecutive year of growth for credential-seeking and adult enrollment, both of which were declining until last fall. President Thompson discussed Kentucky's enrollment trends compared to other states.

## **NUCLEAR MEDICINE TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM GRANTS AWARDED**

---

Dr. Leslie Sizemore, Associate Vice President of Workforce and Economic Development, discussed the funding provided by the Kentucky Board of Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy to award \$100,000 in grant dollars to new or existing nuclear medicine technology academic programs.

Kentucky needs nuclear medicine technologists' education programs to address the growing demand for specialized healthcare services in diagnosing and treating various medical conditions. Due to the lack of educational programs for nuclear medicine technology in Kentucky, students interested in the profession previously had to seek education at out-of-state institutions. Prior to these grant awards, the only active program in the state was Morehead State University's nuclear medicine technology track within the Bachelor of Science in Imaging Sciences (BSIS) program.

After soliciting proposals, CPE was able to award two \$50,000 grants:

- Morehead State University - BSIS Nuclear Medicine Technology track
- Hazard Community & Technical College – Nuclear Medicine Technology, AAS

No action was necessary from the Committee.

## **FUTURITI: A KENTUCKY COLLEGE AND CAREER PLATFORM**

---

Dr. Amanda Ellis, Vice President of Student Access and Success, and Dr. Jessica Fletcher from the Kentucky Center of Statistics, previewed the newly developed Futuriti website, an online platform for potential postsecondary students seeking career and education opportunities offered in Kentucky. The site is the result of a recommendation from the Commonwealth Education Continuum to increase opportunities for more Kentuckians to earn credentials aligned with their career goals. The website is a one-stop shop for students, parents, teachers, and counselors to find information about career paths, degree programs, educational roadmaps, financial assistance and employment opportunities.

In addition to Kentucky-specific content on college-going and job searches, the platform also includes a “Future Finder” that accesses KYSTATS occupation and college data to allow users to research occupations; find job descriptions, wage and occupational outlooks; see which jobs are in high demand; and find out where they can get the credentials and degrees required for their desired job. The data used in the Future Finder meets the requirements of the Kentucky Students’ Right to Know, a website required in statute in 2021 to inform students about high-demand occupations, the cost of college, and employment outcomes. The launch of this website is set for February 4, 2025.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

---

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 11:35 a.m., ET.