

MINUTES
Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Committee on Equal Opportunities
Date: January 24, 2022
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting - Committee members by ZOOM teleconference; Public viewing hosted on CPE YouTube Page.

WELCOMING & CALL TO ORDER

The Committee on Equal Opportunities met Monday, January 24, 2022, at 1:00 p.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM teleconference. Members of the public were invited to view the livestream on the CPE YouTube page.

Chair Elaine Walker presided.

ATTENDANCE

Members attended: Elaine Walker, David Carpenter, Robert Croft, Dr. Kellie Ellis, Dr. Luv'Tesha Robertson, Dr. Rochelle Brown, and Colby Birkes.

Members not in attendance: Terrance Sullivan and Whitney Allen

Mr. Gains Brown, CPE Associate, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the June 28, 2021 meetings were approved as distributed.

REPORT FROM CPE PRESIDENT AARON THOMPSON

CPE President, Dr. Aaron Thompson, provided an update on Kentucky rankings for credentials awarded. Kentucky is closing gaps on student success metrics, and all are showing positive results. Dr. Thompson additionally acknowledged the Kentucky House of Representatives budget that will potentially provide additional funding towards higher education. Further acknowledgement by Dr. Thompson was given on the efforts to improve markers on low-income students, adult-learners and especially

adult-learners of color. Kentucky also requires more faculty members of color and healthcare professionals of color. Dr. Thompson postulated that in Louisville, which is the most ethnically diverse jurisdiction in the Commonwealth, currently has approximately EMT demographics that are majority white. Dr. Thompson posed the question on how we can develop a diverse workforce that has demographics commensurate with their constituents.

Dr. Thompson also touted CPE's new Cultural Competence Certification program that has drawn interest from different colleges, universities and includes those in healthcare along with the criminal justice system. Different states are inquiring about our programmatic theory and how we design training for governing boards in higher education and systems.

REPORT FROM CPE VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL

CPE Vice President & General Counsel, Travis Powell, provided detailed update on the Kentucky House of Representatives budget that includes information regarding higher education. The budget includes 50 million dollars of new funding each year for the performance funding model. This includes premiums for graduation and retention of URM and low-income students, asset preservation, and directly results in more resources provided to students on college campuses, and 813 million for new construction and renovation projects on our college campuses. Travis Powell stated that we are in unprecedented times in a positive manner, and we are appreciative of Kentucky legislators for providing additional funding.

He also stated that additional legislation has passed in the Kentucky House of Representatives that would require every high school student to fill out the FAFSA. The legislation would be a huge benefit to URM and low-income students to continue their studies in whatever functional area of their choosing.

CPE Vice President & General Counsel, Travis Powell, also provided information regarding other House Bills under review including those regarding CRT in K-12 and in higher education, student due process, and free speech.

CULTURAL COMPETENCE CREDENTIAL CERTIFICATION

Dr. Dawn Offutt, CPE Executive Director for Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion, updated the Committee on the approval of the Cultural Competence Credential Certification at the June 2021 CPE Board Meeting. The process is designed to support the KY Statewide Diversity Policy.

Dr. Molly Kerby, Michael Crowe, and Dr. Marko Dumancic, representatives from Western Kentucky University presented on the details of their program. WKU is the first institution to have a program certified by the Council. Dr. Dumancic provided an overview of their Inclusive Teaching Academy and the Community of Practice associated with it. Additionally, Dr. Dumancic discussed the modality, functionality, and benefits of their Inclusive Teaching Academy.

DIVERSITY PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

Mr. Brown reviewed the diversity plan process, timeline, and responsibilities.

OVERVIEW OF THE POLICY REVIEW PROCESS

Ms. Jessica Romious, CPE Senior Associate, reviewed the current statewide diversity policy and provided information on the upcoming review process.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee on Equal Opportunities adjourned at 2:15 p.m. ET.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be April 26, 2022, at 1:00pm ET. The meeting's focus will be a review of the evaluation results of the Institutional Diversity Plan Reports.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL: April 25, 2022