

**Minutes**  
Council on Postsecondary Education  
Special Meeting  
October 25, 2018

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The Council on Postsecondary Education met in a special meeting on Thursday, October 25, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., ET, at the Council offices in Frankfort, Kentucky. Chair Sherrill Zimmerman presided.

**WELCOME AND  
ROLL CALL**

Chair Zimmerman called the special meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

The following members attended in person: Ron Beal, Ben Brandstetter, Lori Harper, Lucas Mentzer, Donna Moore, Kristi Nelson, Vidya Ravichandran, Robert H. Staat, Sebastian Torres, Sherrill Zimmerman, and KDE Commissioner Wayne Lewis.

The following member attended by teleconference: Shawn Reynolds.

The following members did not attend the meeting: Joe Ellis, Kim Halbauer, and Carol Wright.

The purpose of the special-called meeting was to conduct interviews for the finalists of the CPE President Search, and if appropriate, recommend and approve the 4<sup>th</sup> president of the Council on Postsecondary Education.

**OVERVIEW OF  
THE SEARCH  
PROCESS**

Ron Beal, chair of the President Search Committee, provided the following overview of the search process:

- In April of 2018, Chair Zimmerman appointed the 9-member search committee, which consisted of select Council members, including the faculty and student representatives, and Mike Benson, president of Eastern Kentucky University and Convener of the Conference of Presidents.
- Seven meetings of the committee were held between May and October.
- A Request For Proposal was issued to choose a firm to conduct the national search. The contract was subsequently awarded to AGB Search, and work began immediately

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following the finalization of the contract.

- AGB Search consultants identified and sought input from CPE leadership and campus presidents to identify the attributes of the next CPE president and used those results to develop the job announcement.
- The job announcement was released to national media and constituent groups in July and the firm confirmed receipt of 20 applicants before the deadline of September 4.
- In mid-September, the search committee reviewed the applications and identified semifinalists.
- Interviews with the semifinalists were held on October 3 and 4. Additionally, AGB Search researched, interviewed and conducted background checks on the applicants.
- On October 16, the committee met and approved the formal recommendation of three finalists: Dr. Robert Donley, Dr. Emily House, and Dr. Aaron Thompson.

EXECUTIVE  
SESSION

MOTION: Dr. Staat moved that the Council go into closed session as provided in KRS 61.810(1)(f) for specific discussions related to candidates for the position of CPE President. Ms. Ravichandran seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

The Council remained in executive session for eight hours and thirty minutes.

MOTION: Dr. Staat moved that the Council go back into open session. Mr. Torres seconded the motion.

Chair Zimmerman confirmed that no action took place during executive session and that only the matters identified in the motion were discussed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

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APPROVAL OF THE  
FOURTH  
PRESIDENT OF  
THE COUNCIL ON  
POSTSECONDARY  
EDUCATION

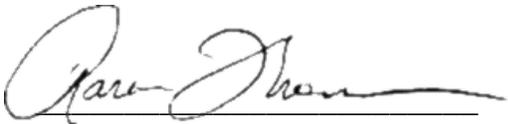
MOTION: Ms. Donna Moore moved that the Council approve Dr. Aaron Thompson as the fourth president of the Council on Postsecondary Education. Dr. Staat seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed unanimously.

Following applause and congratulations, Dr. Thompson thanked the Council, staff and leadership for the show of confidence.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m., ET.



Aaron Thompson, Ph.D.  
President



Heather M. Faesy  
Associate, Board Relations & Special Projects

**APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL ON NOVEMBER 16, 2018**