

# MINUTES

## Council on Postsecondary Education

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Meeting: 2018 Annual Strategic Agenda Performance Updates - Comprehensive Universities  
Date: November 15, 2018  
Time: 1:00-7:45 p.m. CT  
Location: Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College, Bowling Green

### CALL TO ORDER

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The Council on Postsecondary Education met Thursday, November 15, 2018, at 1:00 p.m., CT, at Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Chair Sherrill Zimmerman presided.

The purpose of the meeting was to receive the 2018 Strategic Agenda performance presentations from the four-year comprehensive universities.

### ATTENDANCE

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Members in attendance: Ben Brandstetter, Joe Ellis, Kim Halbauer, Lori Harper, Donna Moore, Kristi Nelson, Robert Staat, Sherrill Zimmerman, and Wayne Lewis

Members not in attendance: Ron Beal, Lucas Mentzer, Vidya Ravichandran, Shawn Reynolds, Sebastian Torres, and Carol Wright

CPE President Aaron Thompson attended the meeting, and served as Secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Heather Faesy, CPE's senior associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

### STATEWIDE DATA BRIEFING ON KY'S COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSITIES

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Presenters:

Dr. David Mahan, CPE's Associate Vice President for Data and Research

Ms. Lee Nimocks, CPE's Vice President for Policy, Planning & External Relations

Ms. Nimocks and Dr. Mahan reminded the Council of how the accountability system was developed and provided them with a brief statewide look at the performance of the four-year comprehensive universities. Dr. Mahan reviewed the types of metrics provided in each university's handout, including those that may be new to the Council (average net price by campus, in-state completion rates, and fall 2018 enrollment data).

Each comprehensive university's president (or designee) was asked to provide 10-15 minutes of prepared comments to the Council, and allow for 15-20 minutes for questions and additional conversation.

## **MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY – 2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

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Presenter: Dr. Jay Morgan, President, Morehead State University (MoSU)

Dr. Morgan presented MoSU's annual strategic agenda performance during the 2017-2018 academic year. Dr. Morgan's priorities for students are service and affordability, and he provided additional context on what that means. He discussed key strategies over the year, which included increasing the number of students living on campus, freshman admission levels, and retention levels. He was also proud of the increase in underrepresented minorities enrolled in the past year.

Dr. Morgan answered several questions from the Council pertaining to MoSU's programs of distinction, the buildings demolished in the last year and half, and MoSU's struggle to increase the success of students underprepared in math. When asked how the Council can help MoSU with its success, Dr. Morgan asked the Council to advocate for a study on the long-term effects of increased pension costs and a continuous review of the performance funding model and whether it's meeting its intended purpose.

## **MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY – 2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

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Presenter: Dr. Bob Jackson, Interim President, Murray State University (MuSU)

Dr. Jackson presented MuSU's annual strategic agenda performance during the 2017-2018 academic year. Due to weather conditions, Dr. Jackson presented by teleconference. He discussed several methods taken to improve retention rates, as well as the focus on STEM+H degrees and graduation rates. A current area of focus for MuSU is increasing enrollment.

Dr. Jackson answered several questions from the Council pertaining to the percentage of students obtaining employment after graduation, the number of programs that MuSU is considering discontinuing due to low enrollment/demand or unnecessary duplication in the region, and the declining enrollment of international students. When asked how the Council can help MuSU with its success, Dr. Jackson asked that the Council continue to advocate for the reinvestment in higher education and include a measure that looks at mandated costs at the institutions as a percentage of state appropriations. He also asked the Council to advocate for a state investment in deferred maintenance of its buildings.

## **EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY – 2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

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Presenter: Mr. David McFaddin, Vice President of Engagement, Regional Stewardship, and Government Relations, Eastern Kentucky University (EKU)

Mr. McFaddin presented EKU's annual strategic agenda performance during the 2017-2018 academic year. Due to travel issues, Mr. McFaddin presented for EKU's President, Dr.

Michael Benson. Mr. McFaddin highlighted several areas of success for EKU, including the four-year and six-year graduation rates, time-to-degree completion, total degrees awarded, and the number of transfer students enrolled. Areas of focus in the coming year include targeted enrollment growth and affordability.

Mr. McFaddin answered several questions from the Council pertaining to additional measurements that should be monitored, EKU's partnerships with KCTCS, its other campuses and businesses, and the strategic changes and efficiencies made to the university since 2012.

## **KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY – 2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

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Presenter: Dr. M. Christopher Brown, President, Kentucky State University (KSU)

Dr. Brown presented KSU's annual strategic agenda performance during the 2017-2018 academic year. Dr. Brown highlighted several areas of improvement for KSU, including undergraduate enrollment and degrees awarded. He also addressed "the great purge" in 2014-16, which caused almost 1,300 students to be removed from their enrollment numbers. This enrollment decline caused a long-term effect that will not stabilize until the fall of 2020. He was especially proud of KSU's four-year graduation rate, which doubled from 9 percent to almost 18 percent from 2017 to 2018. Areas of focus for KSU include educational quality and increasing graduation and retention rates.

Dr. Brown answered several questions from the Council pertaining to the resources required to keep KSU on the path of continuous improvement, programs implemented to improve student success, additional faculty needs and faculty morale improvements in the last two years, and KSU's relationships with businesses and surrounding communities and school systems. When asked how the Council can help KSU, Dr. Brown stated that an extension of the hold-harmless provision on the performance funding model is needed to help the campus stabilize public funding.

## **NORTHERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY – 2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

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Presenter: Dr. Ashish Vaidya, President, Northern Kentucky University (NKU)

Dr. Vaidya presented NKU's annual strategic agenda performance during the 2017-2018 academic year. Dr. Vaidya provided additional context on several metrics and areas of change at NKU, including first-year to second-year retention rates, budgetary changes, and reallocating money from merit-based to need-based aid. He also discussed NKU's partnership with Kroger to fund the pantry that addresses food insecurity issues among students, and announced that NKU has received the military-friendly gold status award for its dedication to veterans.

Dr. Vaidya answered several questions from the Council pertaining to NKU's programs of distinction, his impression of Kentucky's performance-based funding and whether it sets

NKU up for success, and low faculty morale due to continual budget reductions and increasing pension obligations. When asked how the Council can help NKU in its success, Dr. Vaidya stated that advocacy is key; otherwise, each partner and participant working in higher education is fighting a losing battle.

## **WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY – 2018 ANNUAL REPORT**

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Presenter: Dr. Tim Caboni, President, Western Kentucky University (WKU)

Dr. Caboni presented WKU's annual strategic agenda performance during the 2017-2018 academic year. Dr. Caboni addressed the budgetary-influenced changes on campus since his arrival in 2017, including aligning resources with a focus on enrollment, persistence and other measures most aligned with WKU's mission. He highlighted several focus areas for WKU, including retention and persistence rates, meeting the special needs of disadvantaged students, a shift from developmental courses to corequisite courses in math and English, and helping students understand the true cost of attendance instead of focusing simply on the sticker price.

Dr. Caboni answered several questions from the Council pertaining to the number of students enrolled with mental health issues, how WKU focuses on serving the students in their service region, and collaborating with other Kentucky universities to expand their markets and meet their region's workforce needs.

## **DINNER MEETING**

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Following the presentations, the Council members were invited to attend a dinner meeting at the National Corvette Museum. Others in attendance included the president, staff and board members of Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College (SKYCTC), and Council staff members. Dr. Phillip Neal, SKYCTC president presented on his institution's program offerings, enrollment, and student demographics.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The day's meetings adjourned at 7:45 p.m. CT.

***MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL: February 22, 2019***