

MINUTES

Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Business Meeting
Date: June 19, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting – Council members by ZOOM teleconference. Public viewing at: <https://youtu.be/Lh5BmKn1WSw>

WELCOMING & CALL TO ORDER

The Council on Postsecondary Education met Friday, June 19, 2020, at 9:00 a.m., ET. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243 and a memorandum issued by the Finance and Administration Cabinet dated March 16, 2020, and in an effort to prevent the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the CPE met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting virtually on the CPE YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/Lh5BmKn1WSw>.

Chair Ben Brandstetter presided.

ATTENDANCE

Members attended: Ron Beal, Ben Brandstetter, Kim Halbauer, Lori Harper, Grant Minix, Kristi Nelson, Vidya Ravichandran, Robert Staat, Sherrill Zimmerman and KDE Commissioner Kevin Brown.

Members not in attendance: Lucas Mentzer, Donna Moore, Richard Nelson, 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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the April 23-24, 2020 meetings were approved as distributed.

PROPOSED COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

The Council approved resolutions for the following individuals in thanks of their support and service to postsecondary education in Kentucky:

- John Roush, President of Centre College
- Sherron Jackson, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
- Grant Minix, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

All recipients were present and provided comments following the presentation of the resolutions.

COMMENTS FROM KDE INTERIM COMMISSIONER, KEVIN BROWN

Kentucky Department of Education's Interim Commissioner, Kevin Brown, provided an update on how the P-12 community responded to the school closures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. He discussed how school districts are approaching the changes needed when school resumes in the fall and the varying guiding documents that are driving those decisions. Finally, he discussed the status of the Kentucky Board of Education Commissioner search. He anticipated a new Commissioner would be announced in August.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Before beginning his report, President Aaron Thompson discussed the significance of June 19th, or Juneteenth, and what it means to him. He provided a number of updates on the status of the CARES Act and GEER funding, reports in progress in the Data and Advanced Analytics unit, the work the Kentucky Virtual Library to make materials more accessible to the public, and staff's preparation for a request to testify at the July 8 Interim Budget Review Subcommittee on Education meeting. Finally, he thanked the following four staff members for their voluntary work with the Department of Unemployment Insurance in helping the backlog of claims get processed: Amber Doss, Bethanie Butler, Ivy Robinson and Mary Allison.

CAMPUS REOPENING PLANNING UPDATE

Greg Rush, CPE's senior fellow, provide an update on the work of the Council in developing guiding principles and a planning template for the fall 2020 restart. As of the date of the meeting, four institutions had already announced campus reopening plans: Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State University, University of Kentucky and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

Robert Jackson, president of Murray State University discussed his campus's plans, a collective effort developed among a team of 200 faculty, staff and administrators. As convener of the Conference of Presidents, he thanked the Council for their work on the guidelines and stated that all Kentucky campuses are working hard to ensure the safety and health of its students and families.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Ben Brandstetter presented the Finance Committee Report. The Committee met June 9th and received an update on the funding related to the CARES ACT and the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund. Staff also presented the methodology and results of the 2020-21 performance funding distribution.

At the April 24th meeting, the Council agreed to allow the postsecondary institutions the discretion to determine their own tuition and fee increases for resident undergraduate students for the upcoming academic year. Each institution was allowed to submit proposals that balance the needs of students and families and the resource needs of the institution. Additionally, the Council approved institutions to submit for approval market competitive rates for graduate and online courses.

Between then and June 9th, six institutions submitted tuition and mandatory fee proposals, each of which were reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee at its meeting. Chair Brandstetter presented the Committee's approval recommendation:

- Kentucky State University: No increase in resident undergraduate base rate for the 2020-21 academic year, and a decrease to their non-resident rate by 37.6 percent.
- Morehead State University: No increase to either the resident or nonresident base rates.
- Murray State University: No increase in resident and non-resident undergraduate base rates and approval of their effort to simply the nonresident base rate by combining the out-of-state and regional rates for students admitted during the summer of 2020 and thereafter.
- Northern Kentucky University: No increase to either the resident or nonresident base rates.

- Western Kentucky University: No increase to either the resident or nonresident base rates.
- Kentucky Community and Technical College System: A 2.9% increase in the base rates for both resident and nonresident base rates, which equates to an increase of \$5.00 per credit hour for residents and \$10.00 per credit hour for nonresidents.

MOTION: Ms. Zimmerman moved the Council accept the recommendations of approval by the Finance Committee. Dr. Staat seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Three institutions were unable to submit tuition and mandatory fee proposals because their boards had not yet met to review and approve them. Those universities are: the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, and Eastern Kentucky University. On behalf of the Finance Committee, Chair Brandstetter requested the Council delegate authority to the Committee to review and finalize those rates on its behalf at a special meeting in July.

MOTION: Ms. Harper moved that the Council delegate the review and approval authority of the 2020-21 tuition and mandatory fee proposals of the University of Kentucky, the University of Louisville, and Eastern Kentucky University to the Finance Committee. Ms. Nelson seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Lori Harper presented the Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee Report and Recommendations. The Committee met on May 20, 2020 and discussions centered on COVID-19 student success efforts and campus reopening plans and they received a number of updates regarding ongoing academic and student success initiatives and the planned research for the next academic year. Ms. Harper also presented the Committee's recommendation to approve the following six new academic programs:

- Two programs at Western Kentucky University - Bachelor of Science in Environmental, Sustainability, and Geographic Studies; Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film Production.
- Two programs at the University of Louisville - Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration; Masters of Science in Materials and Energy Science and Engineering.
- Two programs at Murray State University - Bachelor of Science in Respiratory Therapy; Bachelor of Science in General Studies.

MOTION: Ms. Halbauer moved that the Council accept the recommendations of approval by the Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee. Mr. Minix seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Chair Brandstetter discussed recent Executive Committee meetings where conversations have focused on COVID-19 responses and planning and how those actions intersect with the statewide strategic agenda.

Chair Brandstetter also presented the following action items, which were reviewed by the Executive Committee and recommended for approval by the Council:

- Approval of the 2020-21 Agency Operating Budget, which was based upon the enacted state budget per HB 352 (2020).
- Approval of the amended Council bylaws. Revisions were made to formalize the addition of the two standing committees – Finance Committee and Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee

MOTION: Ms. Zimmerman moved that the Council accept the Executive Committee's report and recommendations of approval. Dr. Staat seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

COMMITTEE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES – REPORT

Committee Chair Robert Staat updated the Council on the annual review of campus progress toward meeting their equal educational opportunity goals set in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy and thanked the staff and committee members for their hard work.

The following CPE staff presented an overview of the process that was used during the evaluation stage:

- Travis Powell, CPE’s general counsel and vice president, discussed the policy, campus plans, and evaluation process.
- Dawn Offutt, CPE’s director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, discussed the timeline and scoring results of the evaluations. Only one campus did not meet the minimum requirements: Eastern Kentucky University.
- Deverin Muff, CPE’s associate of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, discussed the high impact practices that stood out among the reports provided.

Following the presentation, there were no additional questions, however Ms. Halbauer commended the Committee and the staff for their hard work this year.

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH

Sue Patrick, CPE’s executive director of Communications, provided an update on agency communication activities including a new blog series on the Council’s Policy Insight, social media strategies, and the launch of a statewide FASFA Friday campaign. To close out the presentation, she shared a short video that featured President Thompson in his role as a Champion for the Higher Learning Advocates, a bipartisan non-profit working for greater student success. That video can be found at: <https://youtu.be/DSWVMAaHAOA>.

CAMPUS “GOOD NEWS” REPORTS

Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 11:10 a.m. ET.