

MINUTES

Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Business Meeting
Date: September 15, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting – Council members by ZOOM teleconference. Public viewing at: <https://youtu.be/J2uf0aPlgAA>

WELCOMING & CALL TO ORDER

The Council on Postsecondary Education met Friday, September 15, 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/J2uf0aPlgAA>.

Chair Ben Brandstetter presided.

ATTENDANCE

Members attended: Ron Beal, Colby Birkes, Ben Brandstetter, Eric Farris, Kim Halbauer, Lori Harper, Lucas Mentzer, Kristi Nelson, Richard Nelson, Vidya Ravichandran, Robert Staat, Kevin Weaver, and Commissioner Jason Glass.

Member attended by telephone (listen only, joined at 9:45 a.m.): Muhammad Babar

Members not in attendance: Donna Moore 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.

OATH OF OFFICE

Franklin County Judge Executive, Huston Wells, administered the oath of office for new Council members Colby Birkes, Eric Farris and Kevin Weaver.

INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONER JASON GLASS

Dr. Jason Glass, a native of Brandenburg and a third-generation Kentucky educator, took the helm as the Kentucky Commissioner of Education on September 14, 2020. He provided comments on his vision for K-12 education in Kentucky and how he plans to engage the Council in those discussions.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the June 19, 2020 meeting was approved as distributed.

PROPOSED COUNCIL RESOLUTION

The Council approved a resolution for Jay Box, President of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, in thanks of his support and service to postsecondary education in Kentucky.

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 August 18, 2020 and discussions centered on the fall 2020 campus reopening plans, updates on CPE's research agenda, work of the newly-formed Student Advisory Group and the P-20 initiatives in progress. The Committee was also given an inside look at the Academic Program Review project being completed by Gray's Associates.

Ms. Harper also presented the Committee's following recommendations:

- Approval of two new programs at Northern Kentucky University - a Bachelor of Science in Applied Software Engineering, and a Doctor of Occupational Therapy.
- Approval of one new program at the University of Kentucky – a Ph.D. program in Health Services Research.
- Approval of one new academic program at Murray State University – an Education Specialist degree in Agriculture Education.
- Approval of proposed revisions to the New Academic Approval Policy to align it more closely with the requirements of the SACSCOC substantive change process.

MOTION: Dr. Staat moved that the Council accept the recommendations of approval by the Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

DISCUSSION WITH MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICES – FINANCIAL OUTLOOK FOR KENTUCKY'S POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION MARKET

Presenters: Mary Kay Cooney, Moody's Investors Service, Vice President & Senior Analyst, Public Finance Group, Higher Education & Not for Profit Team
Susan Fitzgerald, Moody's Investors Service, Assoc. Managing Director

Representatives from Moody's Investors Services presented on the current credit status of the higher education sector as it confronts unprecedented business disruption driven by the coronavirus pandemic. They reviewed initiatives universities are taking to adapt, how the pandemic could change the higher education landscape beyond the current year, and Kentucky's current status in comparison to other states.

Following the presentation, discussions centered around Kentucky's pension system, the effects on credit ratings of taking on additional debt at this time, and how Kentucky ranks in state support as compared to surrounding states.

COMMENTS FROM KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Kentucky Department of Education's Associate Commissioner, Rob Akers, provided an update on the arrival of Commissioner Jason Glass and the department's work in the K-12 sector. He highlighted the reorganization of the Education Professional Standards Board and the work they are doing to ensure teacher quality. He also talked about students' experiences as they returned to in-person classes and the guidance the schools are following to ensure safety. Finally, he discussed how social-emotional help for students has become a focus of the agency.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Aaron Thompson provided a number of updates on the following topics:

- The renewing commitment to advancing a common P-20 agenda to improve transitions from high school to college, and from college to the workplace.
- The work occurring on campuses in response to the pandemic to accelerate innovation in teaching and learning.
- The development of a student-centered web portal which will house resources to help high school students apply for college admission and financial aid.
- Updates on the discussions held at the first two meetings of the Postsecondary Education Working Group, a committee charged by statute with reviewing the performance-based distribution models for the public universities and KCTCS.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT

Committee Chair Ben Brandstetter presented the Finance Committee Report. The Committee met August 18, 2020 and the committee reviewed the information being presented to the Interim Budget Review Subcommittee on Education at its August 19 meeting; received an update on the funding provided to campuses through the four pools of CARES Act funding that higher education has been able to access; and received an overview of the discussions from the first meeting of the Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding, which met on July 30, 2020.

There were no action items recommended for approval.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Chair Brandstetter presented the Executive Committee report. The Committee met on August 6, 2020 and it focused on the work of the performance funding meeting on July 30 and the campus's reopening plans.

Committee Appointments: Chair Brandstetter appointed Colby Birkes to the Finance Committee, Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee, and the Committee on Equal Opportunities, effective on his appointment date.

RECENT RESEARCH AND DATA REPORTS

Dr. David Mahan, CPE's Associate Vice President of Data, Research and Advanced Analytics, briefed the Council on the Dual Credit and Student Success report that released in early September. The report measured the impact of dual credit on student success at the state's public, four-year universities, and it was the first comprehensive study on the topic since Kentucky launched a statewide dual credit policy and scholarship program in 2016 to improve participation. Dr. Amanda Ellis, CPE's Associate Vice President of P-20 Policy and Programs provided supporting information regarding dual credit opportunities at Kentucky's high schools and also discussed how dual credit fits within the developing P-20 strategic plan.

Dr. Mahan also provided preliminary enrollment numbers for the Fall 2020, which were higher than expected during the pandemic.

CAMPUS "GOOD NEWS" REPORTS

Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 11:45 a.m. ET.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL: November 13, 2020