

MINUTES

Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Work Session
Date: April 14, 2022
Time: 2:00 p.m. ET
Location: Morehead State University, Adron Doran University Center

WELCOME REMARKS

The Council on Postsecondary Education met in a work session on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at 2:00 p.m., ET. The meeting occurred at the Adron Doran University Center at Morehead State University. Chair Lucas Mentzer presided.

ATTENDENCE

Members attending in person: Colby Birkes, Kellie Ellis, Eric Farris, Lucas Mentzer, Elaine Walker, Kevin Weaver, and Commissioner Jason Glass.

Members attending by ZOOM teleconference: Lori Harper, Richard Nelson, and Madison Silvert.

Members not in attendance: Muhammad Babar, Ronald Beal, Karyn Hoover, Vidya Ravichandran, and Carol Wright.

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

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION WITH MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

President Jay Morgan provided the Council with an institutional update on Morehead State University. The update focused on the campus's current demographic, the impact that COVID-19 has had on the institution, and his vision for the campus through 2030. He discussed Morehead's key strategies for each of the strategic priorities of the new statewide agenda to ensure the state makes meaningful progress towards statewide goals. He also reviewed the baseline data and 2023-24 targets for the key performance indicators attached to the strategic agenda.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION – FOCUS ON AFFORDABILITY

The 2022-30 Statewide Strategic Agenda, “Higher Education Matters,” is a blueprint for accelerating change and improvement in Kentucky’s public postsecondary system. Equity is a cross-cutting focus of the agenda, and it identifies five specific strategic priorities: Affordability, Transitions, Success, Talent, Value.

The Council engaged in a conversation with CPE staff members on the Affordability priority, in which the goal is to ensure postsecondary education is affordable for all Kentuckians. The objectives of this priority are:

- Objective 1: Reduce Financial Barriers to College Enrollment and Completion
- Objective 2: Improve the Public’s Understanding of How to Pay for College

Presenting staff included:

- Ms. Lee Nimocks, Vice President of Strategy and Chief of Staff
- Dr. Bill Payne, Vice President of Finance and Administration
- Dr. Amanda Ellis, Vice President of K-12 Policies and Programs
- Mr. Travis Muncie, Executive Director of Data, Research and Advanced Analytics.

Data reviewed included the key performance indicators (KPI) of FAFSA completion, time to degree, and unmet financial need. Additional data points reviewed included undergraduate debt at completion, state support for higher education per capita by US region, resident undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees (historical trend data and disaggregated by sector, etc.), and student financial aid by source.

Staff discussed state-level strategies and actions taking place in order to achieve the KPI data targets discussed. These included the work of the Commonwealth Education Continuum and Kentucky Advising Academy.

CLOSING OF THE WORK SESSION

The Council adjourned the work session at 4:10 p.m. and were scheduled to reconvene at 4:30 p.m. to attend the Morehead State University Concert on the Lawn. The annual event was held at the Matthews Outdoor Performance Area by the Adron Doran University Center. It showcased the talents of the MSU Percussion Ensemble and MSU Steel under the direction of Dr. Ben Cantrell, visiting associate professor of music.

Following the concert, the Council networked with university leadership at a reception. The Council dispersed at 6:00 p.m. ET.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL: June 17, 2022