

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Council on January 30, 2025

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Work Session and Campus Spotlight
Date: November 21, 2024
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET
Location: Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY – Centro Building, Hilary’s

WELCOME REMARKS

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a work session on Thursday, November 21, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. ET. The meeting occurred in the Centro Building at Bellarmine University. Vice Chair Elaine Walker and Reverend CB Akins presided.

ATTENDANCE

The following Council members attended the meeting in person: CB Akins, Jacob Brown, Lindsey Case, Jennifer Collins, Meredith Figg, Sean Garber, and Macy Waddle. Council members who attended virtually were Kellie Ellis, Karyn Hoover, and Elaine Walker

Council members who did not attend were Muhammad Babar, Faith Kemper, LaDonna Rogers, Madison Silvert, Kevin Weaver, and Commissioner Robbie Fletcher.

CPE President Aaron Thompson attended virtually and served as secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Ms. Heather Faesy, CPE’s board liaison, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

WELCOME REMARKS

Vice Chair Walker called the meeting to order and then due to her attending the meeting virtually, turned facilitation of the meeting to Rev. Akins. Rev. Akins then recognized President Thompson (who also attended the meeting virtually) and introduced new board members in attendance – Sean Garber and Macy Waddle.

BRIEFING ON SJR 132 FEASIBILITY STUDY

SJR 132 called on CPE to study the feasibility and impact of transitioning Hazard Community and Technical College into a regional, residential, four-year public university in southeastern Kentucky. It called out specific objectives for this study:

- 1) A potential annual budget for the transition and initial establishment of the university's operation.
- 2) A governance plan for the institution based on the statutes and administrative regulations that currently govern other comprehensive universities as defined in KRS 164.0013.
- 3) How the college's current satellite campuses can be utilized, including but not limited to incorporating them into the new institution or maintaining them within the Kentucky Community and Technical College system.
- 4) Demand for the institution's academic programs and services within the projected service area by analyzing workforce supply/demand data and soliciting input from potential students and area employers.
- 5) The curricular offerings of the institution including any new or discontinued programming and joint programming with other University Center of the Mountains postsecondary institutions to supplement the institution's curriculum offerings.
- 6) How student financial aid would be offered, and the tuition and fee rates that may be charged to provide accessibility for the residents of the region.
- 7) How the state postsecondary education budget and performance-funding structure would need to be adjusted to account for the transformation.
- 8) What extracurricular and interscholastic programs should initially be offered to students, including athletics programs, and the potential costs and revenues the institution may incur from those offerings.
- 9) A proposed implementation timeline for the transition and establishment of the institution that incorporates the study items in sections 1–8.

Shortly after passage, CPE contracted with Ernest and Young to conduct the study. At the work session, the consultants presented their findings, which concentrated on the methodology of the study; current state context; future recommendations, scenarios and financial impacts; and an alternative model.

The results of the study and recommendations will be submitted to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, 2024, for referral to the Interim Joint Committee on Education and the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue.

BREAK

The Council took a 15-minute break and resumed the work session at 2:30 p.m. ET.

BRIEFING ON SJR 170 FEASIBILITY STUDY

SJR 170 called on CPE to conduct a feasibility study on expanding postbaccalaureate program offerings at comprehensive universities, specifically the feasibility of launching these four new postbaccalaureate programs:

- 1) A doctoral program for professional practice and licensure in veterinary medicine at Murray State University.
- 2) A doctoral program for professional practice and licensure in osteopathic medicine at Eastern Kentucky University.
- 3) Doctoral programs to obtain an R2 "High Research Activity" designation from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education at Western Kentucky University.
- 4) A Doctor of Philosophy in Integrated Agroecology and Sustainable Agriculture at Kentucky State University.

CPE contracted with Deloitte Consulting to conduct the study, which was completed between August and November. The consultants presented on their feasibility assessment methodology and summarized their findings for each of the four proposed programs. In their study, they also reviewed the current academic program approval processes and provided recommendations to address stakeholder concerns and improve the process going forward.

The results of the study and recommendations will be submitted to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, 2024, for referral to the Senate and House Committees on Education and the Senate and House Committees on Appropriations and Revenue.

CAMPUS SPOTLIGHT, TOUR AND DINNER

Bellarmino President Susan Donovan led the Council in a campus tour that highlighted the institution's nursing programs and their simulation lab, as well as their efforts to expand student success services. A dinner in the Alumni Legacy room of Centro Hall followed. No business was conducted.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned for the evening at 7:00 p.m. ET.