

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Council on January 30, 2025

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Business Meeting
Date: November 22, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET
Location: Bellarmine University, Louisville, KY – Centro Building, Hilary’s

WELCOME REMARKS

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a business meeting on Friday, November 22, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. ET. The meeting occurred in the Centro Building at Bellarmine University. Temporary Chair CB Akins presided.

ATTENDANCE

The following Council members attended the meeting in person: CB Akins, Jacob Brown (left at noon), Lindsey Case, Jennifer Collins, Meredith Figg, Sean Garber, and Macy Waddle. Council members who attended virtually were Kellie Ellis, Karyn Hoover, Faith Kemper and Commissioner Robbie Fletcher.

Council members who did not attend were Muhammad Babar, LaDonna Rogers, Madison Silvert, Elaine Walker and Kevin Weaver.

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.

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY CHAIR, PER COUNCIL BYLAWS

Both CPE Chair Madison Silvert and Vice Chair Elaine Walker were unable to attend the meeting. Per the Council bylaws, in the absence of both the chair and vice chair or in the event the vice chair is unable to perform the duties of the chair, the Council shall appoint a temporary chair.

Mr. Travis Powell, CPE’s General Counsel and Senior Vice President, coordinated the election of the temporary chair.

MOTION: Mr. Brown moved that the Council elect Rev. CB Akins to serve as chair of the November 22, 2024, meeting. Ms. Case seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Rev. CB Akins took over the meeting's proceedings. He welcomed attendees and provided his thoughts on the previous day's meetings and campus tour. He also thanked Bellarmine President Susan Donovan for her hospitality in hosting our meetings and invited her to address the Council. Finally, he recognized President Thompson as attending the meeting virtually due to his inability to travel.

OATH OF OFFICE

Notary Public, Heather Faesy, administered the oath of office for new Council members Sean Garber of Prospect and Macy Waddle, student member from the University of Louisville.

COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

The Council approved a resolution for outgoing Council member Chloe Marstiller, who served as the student member during the 2023-24 academic year.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the September 16, 2024, meeting were approved as presented.

CPE PRESIDENT REPORT

President Aaron Thompson's written report was included in the board materials. He provided additional comments on several items including his recent workforce-focused community visits on aviation and CLIMB-Health, the work CPE is doing to apply for another six-year GEAR UP grant, and the final meeting of the sixth cohort of the Academic Leadership Development Institute.

KY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE) COMMISSIONER REPORT

KDE Commissioner Robbie Fletcher provided his report, which focused on the development of a new accountability system, his support of the work of the Commonwealth Education Continuum, and how he's been focusing much of his early efforts on relationship building by visiting with as many school districts as he is able.

UPDATE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER

Ms. Waddle introduced herself to the Council and reported that the Board of Student Body Presidents has been focusing a lot of their efforts and attention on student mental health. It will remain a top issue for the year.

ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Karyn Hoover (who attended virtually) requested Meredith Figg present the report and recommendations made by the Academic and Strategic Initiatives (ASI) Committee, which met on November 15, 2024. She announced that Committee members:

- Received a comprehensive report on the preliminary enrollment numbers for fall 2024.
- Received a report on a new initiative in the healthcare workforce area that focuses on the growing demand for nuclear medicine technology programs.
- Received a sneak preview of the new website, Futuriti, which is designed to be a one-stop digital shop for students, parents, teachers, and counselors to find information about career paths, educational roadmaps, financial assistance and employment opportunities.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval two proposed new academic programs:
 - University of Kentucky – Bachelor of Science in Pharmaceutical Science (CIP Code 51.0201)
 - University of Louisville – Bachelor of Science in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CIP Code 51.2010)
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the proposed changes to the Statewide Strategic Agenda.

MOTION: The ASI Committee's recommendation to approve the endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed. Meredith Figg abstained.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Jacob Brown presented the report and recommendations made by the Finance Committee, which met on November 15, 2024. Committee members:

- Received an update on the contingently approved interim capital project request from Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College to raze and replace the campus pedestrian bridge at the Whitesburg campus.
- Received an update on the Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding, who completed their work at the end of October and will be submitting its recommendations by December 1, 2024.
- Received a comprehensive summary of the trends over time in room and board costs, books and supplies, and other costs that comprise component elements of the total cost of attendance at Kentucky public universities.
- Learned about the timeline and plan of action for the 2025-26 tuition setting cycle.

- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval revisions to the 2022-24 and 2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool Guidelines.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval two interim capital projects:
 - Morehead State University – Raze existing Normal Hall and replace it with a new dormitory; 2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool dollars - \$10,200,000.
 - Maysville Community and Technical College Montgomery Campus – renovate space for new welding lap; Federal and agency restricted funds - \$1,220,000. Approved contingent upon its approval by the KCTCS board of regents at their December 6 meeting.

MOTION: The Finance Committee’s recommendation of approval of the endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

COMMITTEE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES – REPORT

Dr. Dawn Offutt, Executive Director of Access, Engagement and Belonging, provided a summary of the CEO’s meeting held on October 28, 2024. The committee discussed the status of the current Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan and potential changes being considered.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEM

Chair Akins presented the report and recommendations of the Executive Committee, which met the morning of November 22, 2024. Committee members:

- Received a report from staff on the study required by section 76 of Senate Bill 91 that charged the Council to provide detail for all programs administered by CPE in Fiscal Years 2023 and 2024, the statutes authorizing these programs, and the associated expenditures and fund sources.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the 2025 meeting dates of the Executive Committee.

Chair Akins made the following committee appointments, on behalf of Chair Silvert:

- 2025 Nominating Committee – Kevin Weaver, who will serve as chair, LaDonna Rogers, and Jennifer Collins.
- Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee – Sean Garber and Macy Waddle
- Finance Committee – Macy Waddle

STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA DISCUSSION – AIKCU

Mr. Travis Muncie, Executive Director of Data and Advanced Analytics, reminded the Council about the key performance indicators and status of the target-setting process for 2027.

President Mason Dyer provided the Council its annual update on the institutions of the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU). The update focused on AIKCU's enrollment data, collaborative programs designed to help its members control costs, and the key strategies of the AIKCU schools for each of the strategic priorities of the statewide agenda. He also provided updates on the key performance indicators for enrollment, degree attainment, graduation rate, and retention rate.

LUNCH BREAK

The Council took a 40-minute lunch break and reconvened at 12:35 p.m. ET.

SJR 179 REPORT FROM KCTCS

President Ryan Quarles presented the findings of Senate Joint Resolution 179, which was passed during the 2024 Legislative Session and directed the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), in collaboration with CPE, to analyze the findings of the two reports completed last year (SJR 98 and Huron Group studies) and present specific action steps on several topics including academic programing, a statewide workforce plan and governance reform. Joining him at the table were Dr. Philip Neal, KCTCS's acting executive vice president and provost, and Dr. Jay McCaslin, provost at Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College.

KCTCS conducted the study and presented to the Council their methodology, how the work teams were composed, and decision criteria. They also presented the 11 recommendations that will be submitted to the legislature, pending their board's approval at its December 6, 2024, meeting. The report is to be submitted to the Legislative Research Commission by December 10, 2024.

No action was required by the Council; however, President Thompson did state he was not in agreement with several of their recommendations, including the one regarding dual credit.

CAMPUS GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials. Chair Akins provided highlights from Eastern Kentucky University, University of Louisville, and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

CLOSED SESSION PER KRS 61.810(1)(f)

Chair Akins requested a motion to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

MOTION: Ms. Figg moved the Council go into closed session per KRS 61.810(1)(f) to discuss individual personnel matters relating to the reemployment of an employee. Ms. Case seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

The Council remained in closed session for 30 minutes and returned at 2:40 p.m. ET.

MOTION: Ms. Figg moved that the Council go back into open session. Ms. Collins seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Chair Akins confirmed that no action took place during the closed session and that only matters identified in the motion were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned the business meeting at 2:42 p.m. ET.