MEETING MINUTES

Approval by the Council on June 12, 2026

Who:	Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type:	Business Meeting
Date:	April 2, 2026
Time:	1:00 p.m. ET
Location:	CPE Offices, 100 Airport Road, Frankfort, KY – Conf Rm AB

WELCOME REMARKS

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a business meeting on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. ET. The meeting occurred at the CPE offices in Frankfort and was livestreamed by ZOOM webinar. Chair Madison Silvert presided over the first half of the meeting and Vice Chair Elaine Walker presided after the break mid-meeting.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum of 13 voting Council members in attendance.

- Rev. CB Akins – in person
- Jai Bokey – in person
- Jacob Brown – in person
- Lindsey Case – in person
- Jennifer Collins – in person
- Dr. Kellie Ellis – in person (until 1:40)
- Dr. Meredith Figg – in person
- Sean Garber – did not attend
- Karyn Hoover – in person
- Dennis Repenning – in person
- LaDonna Rogers – did not attend
- Madison Silvert – in person (until 2:50)
- Elaine Walker – in person
- Kevin Weaver – virtual
- Michael Wheeler – in person
- Comm. Robbie Fletcher – in person (until 2:50)

CPE President Aaron Thompson served as secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Heather Faesy, CPE program manager, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

REORDERING OF THE AGENDA

The Chair requested the agenda be reordered to allow the action items to take place earlier in the meeting.

MOTION: Rev. Akins moved that item 6 on the agenda for the annual strategic update from Kentucky State University be moved to follow the Executive Committee report. Additionally, he moved that item 11 be moved before item 10. Ms. Collins seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the January 30, 2026, and March 16, 2026, meetings were approved as presented.

REPORT FROM CPE PRESIDENT

In addition to his comprehensive written report provided in the board materials, President Aaron Thompson offered key updates regarding the 2026 legislative session. He highlighted the Council's ongoing efforts to monitor the state's 60x30 educational attainment goal and spotlighted recent media coverage showcasing staff expertise on critical policy issues.

Ms. Leslie Brown, Assistant Vice President of Administrative Services, and Mr. Greg Rush, Assistant Vice President of Finance Policy and Programs, provided an update on the development of the 2026-28 biennial budget for CPE agency funds. House Bill 500 of the 2026 Legislative Session was passed through the Free Conference Committee and was delivered to the Governor on April 1, 2026.

REPORT FROM KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)

KDE Commissioner Robbie Fletcher provided a briefing on bills the department is tracking during the 2026 legislative session. Key highlights included projected SEEK funding levels for the upcoming school year and the administration timeline for the annual school testing windows in April and May.

REPORT FROM STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER

Mr. Wheeler's report to the Council focused on the outcomes of the joint meeting held the previous day. He noted that this would likely be his final in-person meeting, as he will be graduating in May and relocating out of state to begin a new professional role this summer.

ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Hoover presented the Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee report and recommendations of action to the Council, which met on March 30. At the meeting, members received the following updates:

- Received a comprehensive report of the academic programs approved, closed and reviewed during the 2024-25 academic year.
- Received a report of one new KCTCS program approved by staff - an Associate of Applied Science in Water Resource Technology at Bluegrass Community and Technical College. No additional action was needed by the Council.

Among action items, the Committee also reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the following proposed new programs:

- Eastern Kentucky University - A.I.S. Interdisciplinary Studies (CIP 24.0102)
- Murray State University - B.S. Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102)
- University of Kentucky - B.S. Agricultural Ecosystem Sciences (CIP 1.1102)
- University of Kentucky - B.S. Mapping and GIScience (CIP 45.0702)
- University of Louisville - B.S.B.A. Global Supply Chain Management (CIP 52.0203)
- Western Kentucky University - M.S. Applied Behavior Analysis (CIP 42.2814)
- Western Kentucky University - B.S. Disaster Science (CIP 43.0302)
- Western Kentucky University - M.S. Disaster Science (CIP 43.0302)
- Western Kentucky University - B.S. Environmental, Earth, and Sustainability Sciences (CIP 03.0104)
- Western Kentucky University - B.A. Integrated Advertising and Public Relations (CIP 09.0900)

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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Brown presented the Finance Committee report and recommendations of action to the Council, which met on March 30.

At the meeting, members received an update on the continued development of the 2026-2028 biennial budget during the 2026 legislative session. The Committee also reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the following proposed action items:

- Proposed tuition and fees for Murray State University for academic year 2026-27, which included an increase to its annual base-rate charge for both resident and non-resident undergraduate and graduate students of 2.0 percent.
- Interim capital project at Kentucky State University for the Phase 2 portion of its renovation of Shauntee Hall, with a scope of $3 million funded by HBCU Title 3, Part B funds.
- Interim capital project at Jefferson Community and Technical College for their Utility Infrastructure Project, with a scope of $2.2 million and funded by agency restricted funds.
- Interim capital project at the University of Kentucky for renovation of the 4th floor of the Patterson Office Tower, with a scope of $4 million and funded by 2022-24 Asset Preservation Pool funds and matched with the required institutional funds.

- A revision to the 2022-24 Endowment Match Program Guidelines to add language allowing requests under $50,000 threshold if the total remaining funds are less than that amount.

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

VOTE: The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEM

Chair Silvert presented the Executive Committee report and recommendation of approval to the Council, which met the morning of April 2.

At its meeting, the Committee reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the proposed regulation 13 KAR 2:140, Research consortiums. This new administrative regulation establishes the process by which requests for joint funding proposals will be advertised, what proposals shall include, how proposals will be evaluated, and how funds will be awarded from the endowed research fund created by KRS 164.038.

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

VOTE: The motion passed.

Following this action, the Council took a 10-minute break.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION WITH KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY

President Koffi Akakpo provided an institutional update on Kentucky State University (KSU), highlighting key strategies aligned with the statewide strategic agenda. He reviewed baseline performance metrics and institutional progress on statewide key performance indicators (KPIs). Additionally, President Akakpo discussed the passage of Senate Bill 185 during the 2026 legislative session, which mandates a comprehensive academic and operational transition for KSU into a polytechnic-focused university over the next five years.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION WITH UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

President Gerry Bradley provided an institutional update on the University of Louisville (UofL), outlining core strategies designed to meet the priorities of the statewide strategic agenda. He shared baseline data and institutional progress on statewide key performance indicators (KPIs). Additionally, President Bradley highlighted several campus successes, noting record enrollment figures and substantial increases in institutional financial aid for students.

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA

Mr. Travis Muncie, Chief Information Officer, and Dr. Chris Ledford, Director of Data and Advanced Analytics, presented the data compiled for the 2026 Annual Progress Report, which is a statutorily required publication on statewide and institutional progress on key performance indicators.

The trends demonstrated represent meaningful advances in access, success, and credential attainment, while also identifying areas for continued focus. The report provides actionable insights to guide the Council and institutions in sustaining progress, closing opportunity gaps, and ensuring Kentucky's higher education system remains equitable, affordable, and aligned with workforce and economic needs. Some highlighted metrics included:

- Enrollment Fall 24 to Fall 25:
    - Overall enrollment +3.3%
    - Undergraduate enrollment +4.6%
    - Adult Undergraduate Enrollment: +6.8%
    - Dual Credit Enrollment: +6.2% overall
    - First-Time Undergraduate Enrollment: +3.7%
- Dual Credit Attainment: Class of 2024 at 47.5%, up from 46.2% for Class of 2023
- Retention Rates: KCTCS up to 62.2%; Four-year publics up to 80.8%
- Graduation Rates: KCTCS up to 51.1%; Four-year publics steady at 61.2%
- Credential Production AY 2023-2024 to AY 2024-2025: Total degrees and credentials +5.0%

CAMPUS GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice Chair Walker reminded Council members to complete the annual Statement of Financial Disclosure, a requirement of the Ethics Commission. It is due April 15, 2026.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned the business meeting at 3:45 p.m. ET.