

MINUTES

Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Executive Committee
Date: October 8, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting - Committee members by ZOOM, Public viewing hosted on CPE YouTube Page.

CALL TO ORDER

The Executive Committee met Thursday, October 8, 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 Committee met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting virtually on the CPE YouTube page. Chair Ben Brandstetter presided.

ATTENDANCE

Members in attendance: Ben Brandstetter, Ron Beal, Kim Halbauer, Kristi Nelson, and Robert Staat.

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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The committee approved the minutes of the August 6, 2020 Executive Committee meeting.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Aaron Thompson provided the committee with updates of work on the following topics: Student and Faculty Advisory Groups, P-20 initiative development status, discussions from the October 6 meeting of the Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding and the latest updates and work on the campuses, especially in the areas of pandemic planning.

FOLLOW-UP FROM MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE PRESENTATION

At the September 15, 2020 Council meeting, 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.

The members of the Executive Committee stated they the content was relevant and timely and asked that Moody's be invited to provide an update every 2 years to the Council and Kentucky's campuses. They also asked that additional discussion and Q&A time be reserved in future sessions.

NOVEMBER COUNCIL MEETINGS

The Committee discussed the various options available for meetings while the pandemic continues. It was decided that until in-person meetings can resume, the Council suspend already planned retreats and work sessions, but asked that staff still provide strategic progress and updates at the business meetings, which will continue to occur via teleconferencing.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF CPE PRESIDENT

The Council has conducted annual evaluations of its president since 2010 that has included a comprehensive self-assessment and surveys of internal and external constituents. At the request of Committee members, CPE staff surveyed several Kentucky campuses on their processes for president evaluations, and Ms. Lee Nimocks, CPE's Chief of Staff and Vice President, discussed those. The Committee discussed the various options available to them, and concluded the best option may be to complete an in-house evaluation in 2020. The process is expected to be finalized at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Committee adjourned at 10:00 a.m., ET.