

MEETING RECORD
CPE President Search Committee
October 16, 2018

The CPE President Search Committee held a meeting on October 11, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. at the Council Offices in Frankfort. This was the final meeting of the committee; therefore the following is a record of the meeting and has not been officially approved by the committee.

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL Committee Chair Ron Beal called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

The following committee member was present in person: Robert H. Staat. The following committee members were present via teleconference: Ron Beal, Michael Benson, Kim Halbauer, Donna Moore, Shawn Reynolds, Sebastian Torres, and Sherrill Zimmerman. The following committee member did not attend: Ben Brandstetter.

The following CPE staff were present: Heather Faesy and Travis Powell.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES The minutes of the October 11, 2018 meeting was approved as distributed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION **MOTION:** Dr. Staat moved that the committee and representatives from AGB Search go into closed session as provided in KRS 61.810(1)(f) for specific discussions related to candidates for the position of CPE President. Mr. Torres seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

At that time, all guest attendees left the meeting. CPE staff members, Travis Powell and Heather Faesy remained in attendance. The committee remained in executive session for five minutes.

MOTION: Dr. Staat moved that the committee go back into open session. Mr. Torres seconded the motion.

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

VOTE: The motion passed.

OVERVIEW OF THE SEARCH PROCESS

Chair Beal reminded the committee of the steps taken throughout the search process:

- The committee was charged with recommending no more than three candidates for President to the full Council.
- The process began in May with the selection of AGB Search through the RFP process. Upon the finalization of their contract, AGB Search met with constituent groups to better understand their expectations for the new CPE president.
- That input was provided to assist in the development of the advertisement, which was posted on July 17 and closed on September 4.
- On September 20 the committee reviewed initial applications, and selected several applicants to interview with the committee.
- On October 3 and 4, the committee spent two days interviewing candidates, reviewed additional applicant materials, and received information on reference calls and background checks.

Chair Beal thanked AGB Search and CPE staff for their help throughout the process.

RECOMMENDATION OF FINALISTS FOR CPE PRESIDENT

MOTION: Ms. Sherrill Zimmerman moved the CPE Presidential Search Committee recommend Dr. Robert Donley, Dr. Emily House, and Dr. Aaron Thompson to the full Council as candidates for the position of President. Dr. Staat seconded the motion.

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Chair Beal stated the review process began with an impressive pool of 20 candidates, and that narrowing them down to three finalists took a significant amount of time and consideration. He then provided the following bio information on each:

- Dr. Robert Donley served as the executive director and chief executive officer for the Board of Regents, State University System of Iowa, from 2008-2017. Previously, he served as chief of staff and operations for the State University System of Florida, and as director of public affairs and chief of staff at Florida International University. Earlier in his career, he held the position of deputy secretary of state/chief of staff in Rhode Island and policy adviser for the Rhode Island State Senate. He holds two bachelor's degrees, one in political science and one in history, from the University of Rhode Island. He also earned a Master of Science in education (K-12) from Saint Joseph's College of Maine and a doctorate of education in higher education administration from Northeastern University in Massachusetts.
- Dr. Emily House currently serves as chief policy and strategy officer for the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC) and the Tennessee Student Assistance Corporation. She has held a variety of research positions at THEC since 2013, including serving as the chief research officer. She also is teaching a graduate-level research design course for Vanderbilt University this fall and has other teaching experience at East Tennessee State University and the University of Michigan. Dr. House earned a Bachelor of Science in policy analysis and management from Cornell University, a master's of public policy, higher education policy from Vanderbilt University, and a Master of Arts in statistics and a doctorate in quantitative research methods in education, both from the University of Michigan.

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- Dr. Aaron Thompson currently serves as executive vice president and chief academic officer for the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education. He came to the Council in 2009 from Eastern Kentucky University, where he held a variety of positions, including associate vice president for academic affairs. In May 2016, he was appointed interim president at Kentucky State University and served through July 2017. Dr. Thompson is also a book author and serves on a variety of state boards, and is currently serving as board chair of the National Council on Community and Education Partnerships. Dr. Thompson earned a Bachelor of Arts in political science and sociology from ECU, and a master's degree and a doctorate in sociology from the University of Kentucky.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Beal thanked the members of the committee for their service and dedication. The full Council will meet on October 25 to interview the finalists and make a final decision on the next CPE President.

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m., ET.

Meeting Record by:

Heather Faesy, Associate, Board Relations & Special Projects

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