

MINUTES

Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee
Date: October 20, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting - Committee members by ZOOM, Public viewing hosted on CPE YouTube Page

CALL TO ORDER

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Tuesday, August 18, 2020, at 10:00 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: <https://youtu.be/hUojQP-9Wgk>. Committee Chair Lori Harper presided.

ATTENDENCE

Members were in attendance: Colby Birkes, Benjamin Brandstetter, Lori Harper, Lucas Mentzer, Vidya Ravichandran, and Robert Staat. Council member Kevin Weaver also attended the meeting in an unofficial capacity.

Heather Faesy, CPE's senior associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the August 18, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed.

P-20 INITIATIVES AND EDUCATION CONTINUUM RESOLUTION

Dr. Amanda Ellis, CPE's Associate Vice President of P-20 Policies and Programs, briefed the Council on the joint collaboration and work of the CPE, the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), and the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet (EWDC) surrounding the work to create a cohesive pipeline between K-12, postsecondary education, and the workforce.

Dr. Ellis noted that for students to earn degrees and credentials that lead to sustainable, competitive-wage careers, it is imperative that their educational experience, from preschool through postsecondary education, provides an equitable opportunity to successfully transition to the next level. This can be done by increasing equitable access to a high- quality, diverse teacher workforce, strengthening student and family support for successful transitions, and improving awareness of opportunities to enter higher education to achieve career success.

Dr. Ellis briefed the committee about the new Commonwealth Education Continuum Advisory Committee that was formed with leaders from CPE, KDE, and EWDC as well as other P-20 state and national leaders. The committee will strive to increase equitable access of postsecondary opportunities for all Kentucky students by:

- Increasing and improving the quality and competencies of a diverse teaching workforce;
- Ensuring successful transitions throughout the educational pathway to increase postsecondary enrollment and degree attainment; and
- Increasing student and family access to and awareness of opportunities for students to achieve the necessary degree(s) and credentials to enter the workforce successfully.

Dr. Ellis also presented the resolution surrounding the Education Continuum for adoption by the Committee, and recommended it for final approval by the Council at its November 13, 2020 meeting.

President Aaron Thompson provided additional information regarding the statewide press conference planned for November, the plans for communication the committee's message, and how the Governor will play a role in its work.

Committee members discussed the difficulty of recruiting a diverse teacher workforce and how increasing tuition expenses may impact the ability to recruit teachers especially in rural communities and among low-income students.

MOTION: Ms. Ravichandran moved the Committee approve the proposed Education Continuum resolution, and recommend approval by the Council at its November 13, 2020 meeting. Mr. Brandstetter seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

ACADEMIC READINESS INDICATORS

Dr. Ellis discussed the readiness indicators to be implemented for the 2021-22 academic year and the status of the development of the 2022-23 academic readiness indicators.

- Academic Year 2021-22: Circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic have made the administration of the standardized tests listed on the College Readiness Indicators more difficult, and even impossible, in some instances. Because of this unusual situation, institutions were permitted to implement their own methodologies to determination readiness and placement during the 2020-21 academic year. Due to the continuing pandemic circumstances, the same procedure was put in place for the 2021-22 academic year.
- Academic Year 2022-23: CPE staff have begun working with campus representatives on academic readiness indicators for the academic year 2022-23. Because students may continue to have difficulty taking standardized tests, CPE staff and institutions are looking at other measures of academic readiness, such as high school GPA. CPE staff will continue to analyze data, research various potential indicators, and plan to bring the proposed indicators for AY 2022-23 to the Committee at its March 23, 2021 meeting.

DATA PORTAL AND TRANSFER DASHBOARD OVERVIEW

Mr. Travis Muncie, CPE's Director of Data, Research and Advanced Analytics, provided an overview and walk through of the new look and navigation of the updated data portal. Specifically, he showcased the newly-released Transfer dashboard and demonstrated how members of the public and easily access transfer counts, retention rates, transfers by major, and attaining GPA after graduation.

BUILDING A STUDENT SUCCESS NETWORK: CPE'S COLLABORATION AND COMMUNICATION EFFORTS

Ms. Stephanie Mayberry, CPE's Director of Student Success, provided an overview of the communication and collaboration efforts undertaken in 2020 in the area of student success.

- Touchbase Tuesdays – These provide a weekly forum space for discussions among the faculty and student leaders on a variety of topics, such as student engagement, diversity and inclusion during COVID-19, mental health and

COVID-19, the importance of career services during the pandemic, and balancing remote work with virtual learning.

- Faculty Advisory Network – Announced in October 2019, this is a group of 13 members from both public universities and community and technical colleges, with the purpose to convey their perspectives on state-level policies and initiatives and advise President Thompson on matters of interest to the faculty. Members will also serve as a conduit of information between CPE and their institutions.
- Student Advisory Group – Formed in July 2020, this group is make up of 22 students with representation from each of Kentucky’s 4-year public universities, and several of the 2-year KCTCS institutions to offer diverse perspectives on student concerns and policies in higher education.

ADJOURNMENT

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 11:00 a.m., ET.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE: January 12, 2021