

MINUTES

Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee
Date: January 12, 2021
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, January 12, 2021, 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/LNQQEBg5V-Y>. Committee Chair Lori Harper presided.

ATTENDENCE

Members were in attendance: Benjamin Brandstetter, Lori Harper, Lucas Mentzer, Vidya Ravichandran, Robert Staat and Kevin Weaver.

Members not in attendance: Muhammad Babar and Colby Birkes

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the October 20, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed.

DEVELOPMENT OF NEXT STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA

Ms. Lee Nimocks, CPE's Vice President and Chief of Staff, discussed the next statewide strategic agenda planning process that has begun and is directed by KRS 164.020. CPE has engaged the ECU Facilitation Center to help support the process with CPE's ASI Committee overseeing the overall development of the agenda.

Initial plans include information gathering from key constituencies in the winter and spring, gathering input from all higher education partners and stakeholders, and reviewing key state performance data as well as trends and best practices from other states. Specific policy and metrics committees with campus and board membership may also be formed to address technical needs.

Staff anticipate the development process to take 6-9 months with the Council reviewing the final version for approval at its fall 2021 meeting.

STATUS UPDATE ON ACADEMIC PROGRAM REVIEW

Dr. Melissa Bell, CPE's Vice President for Academic Affairs, provided an update on the work of the Academic Program Review project. In 2018, the Commonwealth of Kentucky contracted with Gray Associates, Inc. a strategy consulting firm focused on higher education, to oversee a comprehensive review of academic programs at our public institutions. Their work included the creation of a methodology that provides campuses with consistent, detailed information to help guide internal decisions about program needs and improvement and guide statewide discussions.

Dr. Bell discussed the criteria under review and phase 1 and 2 of the process. She stated that the final report should be ready to present to the Committee and Council later in the spring.

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION CONTINUUM

Dr. Amanda Ellis, CPE's Associate Vice President of P-20 Policies and Programs, provided an update on the work of the Commonwealth Education Continuum (CEC). The CEC was announced during a press conference on November 17, 2020 by Governor Beshear, Lt. Governor Coleman, President Thompson, and Commissioner Glass, and the first meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2021 at 1:00 PM ET.

Dr. Ellis also discussed initial development plans regarding a student information portal website, which was designed in response to board member requests for state-level tools to facilitate pathways between K-12 and postsecondary education. Once the funding is finalized either through a general fund appropriation or other internal funding source, the work will be coordinated with the work of the Commonwealth Education Continuum and it will support high school counselors, college admissions officers, and academic advisors as they assist students in navigating from one level of education to another.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Dr. Dawn Offutt, CPE's Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, presented the framework of the staff-developed Cultural Competency Certification Program. The program is based on the A4 Model of Cultural Competence which is Awareness, Acknowledgement, Acceptance and Action, and staff are finishing up the details on how those who complete the course can earn micro-credentials and potential course credits. Once completed, the program will be offered on a pilot basis to campuses and other organizations.

DATA AND RESEARCH AGENDA & 2021 DATA CAMPUS BRIEFINGS

Dr. David Mahan, Associate Vice President, Data, Research and Advanced Analytics, provided an update on the research projects in progress and/or expected to release in the spring of 2021 and discussed the plan for the annual campus data briefings on January 28-29, 2021. Expected reports to release in the coming months included the 2021 Progress Report, the Teacher Preparation Sector Analysis conducted in partnership with EMSI, and a second iteration of the Higher Education Return on Investment Report.

ADJOURNMENT

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 10:45 a.m., ET.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE: February 1, 2021