

## **MINUTES**

### **Council on Postsecondary Education**

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Type: Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee  
Date: November 10, 2022  
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET  
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM webinar

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM webinar.

Committee Chair Lori Harper presided.

### **ATTENDANCE**

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Members in attendance: Kellie Ellis, Lori Harper, Karyn Hoover, and Garrison Reed.

Members not in attendance: Lucas Mentzer, Richard Nelson, and Kevin Weaver

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

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

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The minutes of the September 13, 2022, meeting were approved as distributed.

### **PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAM**

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Dr. Melissa Bell, CPE's Vice President of Academic Affairs and Student Success, introduced a new academic program for review and approval. KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council on Postsecondary Education to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree, certificate, or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions.

Council staff reviewed the proposed program and recommended approval.

Wildlife and Conservation Biology (M.S.) - CIP 03.0601 – Murray State University

Presented by: Dr. Andrea Darracq, Program Coordinator & Associate Professor of Wildlife Biology

- The 30-credit hour program builds upon the university’s existing bachelor’s program and equips students with the fundamental concepts related to wildlife and conservation biology; helps them develop skills in communication, ethical decision-making, and leadership in the field; and provides the opportunity for students to use their skills in real world applications of conservation related issues.

MOTION: Dr. Ellis moved the Committee approve the proposed program from Murray State University and recommend approval by the full Council at its November 18, 2022, meeting. Ms. Hoover seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **CULTURAL COMPETENCE CREDENTIAL CERTIFICATION REQUEST**

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Dr. Dawn Offutt, CPE’s Executive Director for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, presented Western Kentucky University’s request for approval of their Cultural Competency Credential Certification for its staff members.

The WKU Staff Cultural Competence Certificate, an initiative of the “One WKU” campaign, is a four-month professional development opportunity for all staff. A maximum of 20 staff will be selected for each cohort via an application process each semester. The certificate course will launch its inaugural cohort in January 2023.

Per the Kentucky Cultural Competency Credential Certification Process adopted at the Council’s June 25, 2021 meeting, the ASI Committee’s approval serves as final; it is not required to go before the full Council for approval at its next meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Reed moved the Committee approve the proposed Cultural Competency Credential Certification for staff at Western Kentucky University. Dr. Ellis seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## REMARKS FROM CPE PRESIDENT, DR. AARON THOMPSON

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Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE's President, announced the continuing increase in Kentucky educational attainment despite declining enrollments and the pandemic. He stated Kentucky is still on track to meet its 2030 attainment goals. He also provided an update on the Higher Education Matters Community Conversations.

## UPDATES ON COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION CONTINUUM

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Dr. Amanda Ellis, CPE's Vice President of K-12 Policies and Programs, and Robin Hebert, Senior Fellow, provided an update on the latest work of the Commonwealth Education Continuum (CEC). The work of the CEC addresses the moral imperative that all students must have access and opportunity to earn degrees and credentials that lead to sustainable, competitive-wage careers.

Established in 2021, the Continuum is co-chaired by Kentucky Lt. Governor Jacqueline Coleman, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) President Dr. Aaron Thompson, and Kentucky Commissioner of Education Dr. Jason Glass. It consists of members whose expertise ranges from early childhood to the workforce. Over the last year, the CEC has continued to seek stakeholder input and use data to address barriers and identify ways to increase transition to postsecondary.

Updates provided to the committee included a highlight of the highly successful legislative reception held on September 20, 2022, a review of the 2022 workgroups and how those evolved from the 2021 workgroups, and the actions and activities taken and/or in progress during the last year. These included:

- Establishment of the Kentucky Advising Academy
- Summer Bridge programs
- Kentucky College and Career Web Portal
- Early Postsecondary Opportunities toolkit
- Teacher workforce collaboration and recruitment strategies.

## ADJOURNMENT

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The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 10:50 a.m., ET.

**MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE: January 24, 2023**