

MEETING MINUTES

Reviewed and approved by the Committee on June 10, 2024

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee
Date: March 25, 2024
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

CALL TO ORDER

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Monday, March 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM webinar. Committee Chair Karyn Hoover presided.

ROLL CALL

All committee members attended the meeting: Dr. Kellie Ellis, Dr. Meredith Figg, Karyn Hoover, Chloe Marsteller, LaDonna Rogers and Kevin Weaver.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the January 16, 2024, meeting were approved as distributed.

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dr. Melissa Bell, CPE's Vice President of Academic Excellence, introduced six new academic programs 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 programs and recommended approval.

B.S., Applied Engineering - CIP 15.0000 – University of Louisville

Presented by: Dr. Thomas Rockaway, Associate Dean at the Speed School of Engineering

- The 120-credit hour program will fill the gap between two-year technician programs and the traditional four-year engineering degree and appeal to students with a keen

interest in application-based engineering projects and less interest in the theoretical aspects of engineering.

B.S., Biochemistry - CIP 26.0202 – University of Louisville

Presented by: Dr. Craig Grapperhaus, Professor of Chemistry

- The 120-credit hour program builds upon an existing Biochemistry track within the B.S. in Chemistry that is largely populated by students intending to continue in the health care field. This program was targeted to “grow” as a result of a baseline program review between 2019 and 2021.

B.S., Exercise Physiology - CIP 26.0908 – University of Louisville

Presented by: Dr. Megan Shreffler, Chair of Health & Sport Sciences

- The 120-credit hour program will prepare students for careers in allied health, physical and health education, and human performance fields and is currently a track within the Health and Human Performance program that is ready to be elevated to a stand-alone major. The new program will deliver a curriculum providing students with a deep and comprehensive understanding of human physiology and the ways in which human movement and exercise initiate structural and functional adaptations at the biochemical, physiological, and biomechanical levels.

M.S., Artificial Intelligence in Medicine - CIP 11.0102 – University of Louisville

Presented by: Dr. Martin G. O’Toole, Associate Professor of Bioengineering

- The 30-credit hour program will prepare students to analyze medical care and public health care data. With this degree, students will learn to analyze, present, and use data through computation, modeling and simulation, machine learning, and advanced statistical analysis.

MOTION: Ms. Rogers moved the Committee approve the four proposed programs from the University of Louisville and recommend final approval by the Council at its March 28, 2024, meeting. Dr. Figg seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

B.S., Data Science - CIP 30.7001 – Western Kentucky University

Presented by: Dr. Alex Lebedinsky, Interim Associate Dean and Professor of Economics, Gordon Ford College of Business

- The 120-credit hour program will merge computer science, statistics, and data analytics to harness the power of data for informed decision-making and innovative problem-solving. Through a combination of theoretical coursework, hands-on projects, and real-world applications, graduates of this program will have the skills necessary to excel in the rapidly evolving landscape of data-driven industries.

B.S., Neuroscience - CIP 26.1501 – Western Kentucky University

Presented by: Dr. Stuart Burris, Associate Dean of Ogden College of Science & Engineering

- The 120-credit hour program is an expansion of an existing Neuroscience track in the B.S. Psychological Sciences and an existing minor in Neuroscience. Students will have three tracks to choose from - Computational, Behavioral, and Systems.

MOTION: Dr. Ellis moved the Committee approve the two proposed programs from Western Kentucky University and recommend final approval by the Council at its March 28, 2024, meeting. Ms. Rogers seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS - ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23

Dr. Bell provided the Committee with a report of the academic programs approved, closed, and reviewed during the 2022-23 academic year.

- A total of 150 new academic programs were approved during the 2022-2023 academic year. Of these, 97 are undergraduate certificates and 33 are postbaccalaureate certificates, which require only staff review.
- Per Council policy, universities submitted their program review reports in July 2023. These reports included a summary of the institutional program review processes, programmatic decisions, and plans for the upcoming year. A summary for each institution was provided in the materials.
- During the 2022-2023 academic year, Kentucky's public universities reviewed 188 academic programs and provided recommendations:
 - 45 programs were recommended to grow;
 - 86 programs were recommended to sustain;
 - 52 programs were recommended to be improved; and
 - 16 programs were recommended to close.

No further action was needed by the Committee.

DUAL CREDIT POLICY REVISION

Dr. Amanda Ellis, Vice President, and Dr. Robin Hebert, Senior Fellow, both from the K-12 Policies and Programs unit, presented the 2024 revisions to the Dual Credit Policy for Kentucky Public and Participating Postsecondary Institutions and Secondary Schools. After the first year of implementation, annual reporting and feedback from institutions, staff recommended minor revisions to the Annual Reporting section to eliminate duplication of efforts and streamline the data submission process for institutions. Upon consultation with CPE's Data, Research and Advanced Analytics department, it was determined that the required dual credit data can be more efficiently collected by CPE through the November data

upload currently submitted by Kentucky's institutions of higher education. Narrative reporting about teachers' professional development and communication strategies will still be reported annually on the July 1 timeline.

MOTION: Mr. Weaver moved the Committee approve the revisions to the Dual Credit Policy and recommend final approval by the Council at its March 28, 2024, meeting. Dr. Figg seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

REPORT: UNLOCKING ENROLLMENT BARRIERS FOR PARENTING STUDENTS

Dr. Chris Ledford, Associate Director of Data and Advanced Analytics, and Dr. Lilly Massa-McKinley, Executive Director of the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative, presented on the negative impact that parenting status often has on enrollment and student success and how the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative is integrating holistic academic, basic needs, and childcare supports for parenting students.

Over the past decade, sizable majorities of parenting students were either low-income, adult, or female learners, and nearly half met all three criteria. Results from a novel cohort analysis suggest that parenting status has negative impacts on persistence and graduation rates, regardless of when in college students become parents. Unfortunately, parenting student enrollment also declined by more than 50% over the period. Key takeaways are that efforts to grow non-traditional and low-income learner populations must consider the critical intersections with parenting status.

ADJOURNMENT

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 11:15 a.m., ET.