MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Committee on November 9, 2026

Who:	Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type:	Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee
Date:	September 9, 2026
Time:	10:00 a.m. ET (9:00 a.m. CT)
Location:	Virtual Meeting via Zoom Webinar

CALL TO ORDER

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee met Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via Zoom webinar. Committee Chair Karyn Hoover presided.

ROLL CALL

There was a quorum of 8 voting Council members in attendance.

- Jai Bokey - attended
- Dr. Kellie Ellis - attended
- Dr. Meredith Figg - attended
- Sean Garber - attended
- Karyn Hoover - attended
- Dennis Repenning - attended
- LaDonna Rogers - attended
- Kevin Weaver - attended
- Michael Wheeler - absent

CPE President Aaron Thompson served as secretary of the board, per the CPE bylaws. Heather Faesy, CPE program manager, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

CPE PRESIDENT UPDATE

Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE President, provided a brief update to the Committee that focused on CPE's latest webinar regarding student basic needs, as well as staff progress on developing three-year degree programs.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the June 8, 2026, committee meeting were approved as presented.

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Ms. Sheila Brothers, Senior Director for Academic Excellence, introduced three 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 degrees, certificates, or diploma programs in the Kentucky public postsecondary education institutions.

Council staff reviewed the proposed programs and recommended approval.

University of Kentucky – B.A./B.F.A. Creative Writing (CIP 23.1302)
Questions answered by: Dr. Shauna M. Morgan, Associate Professor and Director of Division of Creative Writing, Department of English

- The 120-credit-hour program will provide graduates with a multidisciplinary focus on writing (storytelling, creativity, and poetics), editing, critical thinking, and other professional skills that will prepare graduates for jobs requiring skilled writers, as well as for those seeking graduate-level study in creative writing.

University of Kentucky – M.S. Organizational Leadership in Coaching and Sport (CIP 31.0504)
Presented by: Justin K. Nichols, Ed.D., Associate Professor in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Promotion

- The 30-credit-hour program is designed for individuals seeking to advance their careers in sport, and for individuals transitioning into the sport industry who already possess a baccalaureate degree and want to develop specialized expertise. Students will select one of two tracks. The Coaching track will prepare future coaches to lead and inspire athletes across all levels, from youth and secondary education to collegiate and professional sports. The Sport Leadership track focuses on enhancing leadership and administrative skills across diverse sports settings, including athletic administration, sport operations, event management, sport management, and community sports.

MOTION: Mr. Weaver moved that the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed programs from the University of Kentucky. Mr. Bokey seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed. Dr. Figg abstained.

KCTCS PROGRAMS APPROVED BETWEEN JUNE–AUGUST 2026

KRS 164.020 (15) mandates that the Council expedite the approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational/technical and occupational nature. Ms. Brothers presented the one new program reviewed and approved by Council staff between June and August 2026. No action was required by the Committee.

- Somerset Community College – A.A.S., Cybersecurity (CIP 43.0404)

ADJOURNMENT

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 10:20 a.m., ET.