

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Committee on Equal Opportunities, April 22, 2024

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Committee on Equal Opportunities
Date: January 22, 2024
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

WELCOMING & CALL TO ORDER

The Committee on Equal Opportunities (CEO) met Monday, January 22, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM webinar, and it was livestreamed to the CPE YouTube page. Chair Elaine Walker presided.

ATTENDANCE

Committee Member attendance:

- Attended: Rochelle Brown, David Carpenter, Robert Croft, Kellie Ellis, Luv'Tesha Robertson, Faith Kemper, Elaine Walker,
- Did not attend: Maira Gomez, CB Akins, Whitney Allen

Gaines Brown, CPE's Associate for Access, Engagement, & Belonging, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Committee voted to adopt the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the October 23, 2023, meeting were approved as distributed.

UPDATE FROM CPE PRESIDENT

Committee members received an update from Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE President, regarding the most recent CPE Board Meeting. He also highlighted that the National Student Clearinghouse indicated that Kentucky is the leading state in enrollment gains.

UPDATE FROM CPE VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL COUNSEL

Committee members received an update from Mr. Travis Powell, CPE Vice President and General Counsel, regarding recent developments within the Kentucky Legislative Session that includes bills targeting CPE as an agency and DEI within higher education within the Commonwealth.

CULTURAL COMPETENCE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Dr. Bernadette Barton, Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies at Morehead State University, presented information on the new cultural competence certification program at Morehead State University. This entails taking 18 hours of credits for undergraduates including courses on gender studies, criminology, and political science. The certificate program was recently approved at the ASI Committee meeting. This program can be taken in various modalities to meet the students where they are.

ANNUAL DIVERSITY STRATEGIES REPORTING PROCESS OVERVIEW AND TIMELINE

Gaines Brown, CPE Associate for Access, Engagement, & Belonging presented an overview of the Institutional Diversity Plan Report Evaluation Process noting that institutions will be submitting their reports on March 8, 2024. Review teams consisting of both CEO and CPE members are being formed and will have a calibration meeting in February for training on reviewing and scoring the reports. The institutional diversity plan report scores will be presented to the CEO at its next meeting in April.

UNIT UPDATE

Dr. Dawn Offutt, CPE Executive Director of Initiatives for Access, Engagement, & Belonging, presented information on the rationale behind the unit name change. There have been national attacks and politicization on the acronym DEI and a scope limitation on its definition to merely focus on race and ethnicity. In an effort to get ahead of any potential legislation, and to demonstrate the true nature of the work, the DEI unit was changed to AEB that maintains the focus of creating opportunities for student enrollment for all people, development of initiatives to bolster student success, and enhance belongingness within the campus culture.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 2:15 p.m. ET.