

## MINUTES

### Joint Meeting Council on Postsecondary Education and Presidents of the Independent Colleges and Universities October 9, 2001

The Council on Postsecondary Education met in a special meeting October 9, 2001, at 4 p.m. with the presidents of the independent Kentucky colleges and universities. The meeting was held in the Student Center at Midway College, Midway, Kentucky. Chair Whitehead presided.

Mr. Whitehead thanked Allyson Hughes Handley, president of Midway College, for hosting the meeting. He said that this is the first meeting between the council and independent presidents since the inception of the 1997 postsecondary education reform.

#### ROLL CALL

The following council members were present: Norma Adams, Walter Baker, Peggy Bertelsman, Richard Freed, Shirley Menendez, Charlie Owen, Chris Pace, Joan Taylor, Lois Weinberg, and Charles Whitehead. Steve Barger, Ron Greenberg, John Hall, Hilda Legg, and Gene Wilhoit did not attend.

The following represented the independent colleges and universities: Bill Julian, provost and dean of the faculty, Lindsey Wilson College; David Arnold, vice president for academic affairs, Saint Catharine College; Tom Oates, president, Spalding University; Paul Radar, president, Asbury College; Hal Smith, president, Pikeville College; Vivian Bowles, president, Brescia University; Bill Crouch, president, Georgetown College; Allyson Hughes Handley, president, Midway College; Gary Cox, president, Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities; Jay McGowan, president, Bellarmine University; Charles Shearer, president, Transylvania University; Joe Lee, president, Thomas More College; Sue Weedman, associate dean, Cumberland College; David Joyce, president, Union College; Larry Shinn, president, Berea College; John Roush, president, Centre College; Mike Fagan, vice president of academic affairs, Kentucky Wesleyan College; John Chowning, vice president for external relations and assistant to the president, Campbellsville University; Jeff Metcalf, vice president for institutional research, Kentucky Christian College.

#### OPENING COMMENTS

President Handley, Gordon Davies, and Gary Cox gave opening comments.

President Handley said it is a pleasure to welcome the council to Midway College and to host this historic meeting on behalf of the Association of

Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities. She said that one of the reasons she chose to come to Kentucky was because of the support for higher education shown by Governor Patton and members of the council. Early in her presidency she met with Mr. Davies, who visited not only the presidents of the public institutions but also the presidents of many of the independent institutions. He laid a very important groundwork for what has ultimately led to this meeting.

Grace Harms brought greetings on behalf of the students of Midway College and the students of all of the independent institutions.

Mr. Davies said that he is committed to the notion that the public universities, the community and technical colleges, and the independent colleges and universities all provide extraordinary, valuable options to the students of any state. He said that while independent institutions are funded differently than public institutions, they nonetheless serve a public purpose and, in that sense, are part of a system that this fall enrolled more than 200,000 students for the first time in history. He said that Kentucky has a long way to go to become a truly competitive state in the emerging new and technologically based economy, but he is convinced that the public and independent institutions in the state will work together to make that happen.

## PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSION

Mr. Cox gave a presentation on the status of Kentucky independent higher education. Information was provided on enrollment, degree productivity, graduation rates, tuition and fees, and sources of grant and scholarship support. In summary, Kentucky's independent colleges and universities are key providers of higher education; are diverse, meeting a range of student needs; are economic engines in many of the state's poorest areas; reach out to the state's underserved populations; and are low-cost, high-quality providers of baccalaureate education for the state.

Responses to the council's five questions were provided from each independent college and university. Several representatives discussed programs and services offered by the independent institutions.

Mr. Cox discussed "the changing postsecondary landscape" and the findings of the recent report by MGT of America entitled "The Role and Effectiveness of the Independent Colleges and Universities in Achieving Kentucky Postsecondary Education Goals."

A discussion followed about possible next steps and increasing the role of the independent institutions in achieving the public agenda for postsecondary education in Kentucky.

Mr. Davies said that this meeting should serve as the first of many conversations between the council and the independent institutions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

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Gordon K. Davies  
President

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Phyllis L. Bailey  
Secretary