

MINUTES
Council on Postsecondary Education
Special Meeting
December 14, 2007

The Council on Postsecondary Education met in a special meeting Friday, December 14, 2007, at 9 a.m. (ET) in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex in Frankfort, Kentucky. Chair Turner presided.

REMARKS BY
LIEUTENANT
GOVERNOR
MONGIARDO

Mr. Turner welcomed Lieutenant Governor Dan Mongiardo. The Lieutenant Governor thanked the Council for inviting him and said that this is one of the first acts of the administration. He shared that he is a first-generation college graduate. His grandfather came to the United States from Italy with no education. After his grandfather was no longer able to work, his father dropped out of high school at the age of 15 to earn money for the family. He said that in those days one could work hard and earn a living without an education but this is almost impossible today. He discussed the importance of education at all levels – from early childhood through postsecondary – and noted that increased efforts are needed to create jobs to keep college graduates in the state. He indicated that the Beshear administration looks forward to working closely with the Council in pursuing Kentucky's goal to double the number of college graduates by the year 2020.

NEW
COMMISSIONER
OF EDUCATION

Mr. Turner welcomed Jon Draud, the new commissioner of education, as a member of the Council.

NEW CPE MEMBER

Mr. Turner also welcomed Lisa Osborne as a new Council member. She was appointed December 10 to fill the term left vacant by Bryan Blavatt. Ms. Osborne is an attorney in Carrollton and is a graduate of Cumberland College, the University of Kentucky, and the University of Louisville.

KCTCS PRESIDENTS

Mr. Turner recognized 15 of the 16 KCTCS campus presidents in the audience. He thanked them for the good work they do in their respective areas.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Walter Baker, Peggy Bertelsman, Kevin Canafax, Jon Draud, Dan Flanagan, Virginia Fox, Lisa Osborne, Ryan Quarles, John Turner, Mark Wattier, and Joe Weis. Suvas Desai, John Hall, Phyllis Maclin, Alois Moore, and Jim Skaggs did not attend.

REMARKS BY
PRESIDENT
COWGILL

CPE Interim President Brad Cowgill reported that since the November meeting the staff has spent a considerable amount of time communicating information to the various policymakers and the public as a whole to better acquaint them with the 2008-10 budget request and the Double the Numbers Plan. Several Council members attended the November 19 presentation to the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue. He expressed gratitude to Senator Charlie Borders and other members of that committee for making it possible for the Council to use that early opportunity to provide an outline of areas of financial interest in postsecondary and adult education. He also extended thanks to the new

administration, noting that shortly after the election Governor Beshear afforded the Council staff the opportunity for an extensive meeting for a general update with Gary Ransdell in his capacity as convener of presidents. In addition, the transition committee on postsecondary education had a productive meeting with the Council staff.

Mr. Cowgill said that there are several forces currently at work which give reasonable hope that over the next biennium postsecondary education can make significant progress notwithstanding the limitations and constraints on funding. The release of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce report has had a positive effect and has drawn favorable attention in Kentucky among policymakers to the current status of postsecondary education at the tenth anniversary of House Bill 1 adopted in 1997. Another development at work is the election of a new administration, an administration that seems to have a very strong interest in postsecondary education. It endorsed the Double the Numbers Plan over the course of the campaign and made a campaign issue of the effectiveness of Kentucky's financial aid program. In November the Council adopted a new funding model, abandoned benchmark funding, completed work this year in the areas of STEM initiatives and developmental education, and is poised at this tenth anniversary to make significant progress with the assistance of the business community. Mr. Cowgill said that the staff and the Council members as a whole are pledged to make every effort to fulfill the mandate of House Bill 1 to be the most effective and the best advocate for postsecondary and adult education between now and the end of the 2008 legislative session.

COMMISSIONER
OF EDUCATION
REPORT

Commissioner Draud said that he is a strong supporter of the concept of P-16. He sponsored a bill to establish the P-16 Council and is strongly committed to postsecondary education being successful as well as elementary and secondary education because all have the same objective – to improve the quality of life for all Kentucky citizens. He said that the way to improve lives is through education, and it is important for all sectors of education to work together, from elementary education all the way through postsecondary education. The issue of the blame game is unproductive because all sectors are trying to do the best possible job for all the students in the state. He wants to create a sense of urgency throughout the state not only for elementary and secondary education but for postsecondary education where the stakeholders can again become excited about education and where the business community can be used as a base for creating this sense of urgency. He also wants to work on cooperation and collaboration where stakeholders work together for the benefit of all in education. The Department of Education plans to hold regional meetings to help create this sense of urgency. He plans to form a blue ribbon committee to look at intervention strategies across the country as well as within Kentucky to identify best practices. He also will be spending a great deal of time working with the General Assembly during the upcoming legislative session.

KENTUCKY
CHAMBER TASK
FORCE ON
POSTSECONDARY
EDUCATION
REPORT

Bill Lear, managing member, Stoll, Keenon, Ogden, PLLC, and member of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Task Force on Postsecondary Education, gave introductory remarks about the task force report. Last spring the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce convened a blue ribbon task force of business leaders to assess Kentucky's progress toward achieving the goals established in the Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997. Those goals included moving Kentucky to the national average of educational attainment and per capita income by 2020, and improving the capacity, quality, and efficiency of Kentucky's postsecondary system.

The task force was chaired by Vic Staffieri, E.ON U.S. chairman, CEO, and president, and membership included 25 noted business leaders from across the state. The task force concluded its work December 4, 2007, with a higher education summit highlighted by the release of the report.

Aims McGuinness, senior associate of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems and chief consultant to the task force, provided an overview of the report and discussed findings and recommendations.

The report contained twelve recommendations.

To the Governor and General Assembly

1. Reaffirm Kentucky's commitment to achieve House Bill 1 goals by 2020.
 - Give priority to both interrelated goals of HB 1.
 - Institutional "capacity" goals for the postsecondary education system.
 - The ultimate goal to be achieved by 2020: to develop "...a society with a standard of living and quality of life that meets or exceeds the national average."
 - Affirm the goal to develop a major comprehensive research university – the University of Kentucky – ranked nationally in the top 20 public universities; a premier, nationally recognized metropolitan research university – the University of Louisville; comprehensive universities with nationally recognized programs of excellence and nationally recognized applied research programs; a comprehensive community and technical college system; and a coordinating system to deliver educational services comparable to or exceeding the national average to all adult Kentuckians.
 - Support the campaign to Double the Numbers by 2020 to increase Kentucky's educational attainment to a level that meets or exceeds the national average. Adopt additional goals that establish the goal of reaching the educational attainment levels of the most competitive nations by 2025 and set benchmarks referenced to the United States and OECD (Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development) countries.
 - Emphasize that Kentucky must also increase degree attainment at both the associate and bachelor's degree levels to reflect the needs of Kentucky's current economy, set realistic goals for the existing adult population (GED recipients), as well promote the role of KCTCS in increasing transfers.
 - Clarify the institutional capacity goal for the comprehensive universities to emphasize regional stewardship to underscore the role of these universities in uplifting the educational attainment, quality of life, and innovation-based economies of their regions.
2. Redefine the overall goal for Kentucky to shape a comprehensive, integrated strategy to develop a seamless (P-20) education system, beginning with early childhood through elementary and secondary education, postsecondary education, adult education, and lifelong learning.
3. Make the partnership between postsecondary education and community and economic development a central priority at the state and regional levels.
4. Recommit to complying with the budgetary framework for postsecondary

education originally established in the Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997, to provide discipline and accountability to the budget decisions necessary to achieve the 2020 goals. Principles to guide budget development for the 2008-10 biennium and future biennia are included in the detailed recommendations.

5. Guarantee affordable access to postsecondary education for all qualified Kentuckians on a “last dollar” basis and simplify and consolidate state student aid programs.
 - Adopt a simplified, integrated, need-based student financial aid program based on the principle of shared responsibility among students, families, the state and federal governments, and institutions.
 - Establish a new Commonwealth 21st Century Scholars Program as a way of raising the educational aspirations of low- and moderate-income families.
6. Re-establish a mechanism to ensure full participation of the Governor and General Assembly in shaping the strategic agenda for achieving the goals of the 1997 reforms and the related Double the Numbers goals and for developing a strategic budget necessary to achieve these goals.
7. Re-establish the CPE as an independent, nonpartisan policy leadership entity outside the Education Cabinet with direct access to the Governor and to leadership across state government.

To the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce

8. Establish an entity charged with monitoring progress of reform and gaining support of the Governor and General Assembly for sustaining reform.
9. Support, in collaboration with the Governor, a renewed public campaign focusing on the value of education, not only the economic value but also the intrinsic value in terms of independence, appreciation of arts and culture, civic participation, and the role that parents can play in encouraging their children to enjoy and excel in education.
10. Encourage local groups willing to assume the leadership role in their regions to create strategic plans regarding economic and human capital development (much like the plans developed in northern Kentucky and Louisville).
11. Communicate to employers the key ways that they must send far stronger signals to employees, and therefore to parents and students, that staying in school, taking the right courses, and pursuing postsecondary education are critical steps to earning a living wage in the global economy.
12. Sponsor an annual summit engaging the state’s policy leaders in stock-taking on the status of reform and progress toward the 2020 goals.

Mr. Turner said that he appreciates the work of the Chamber and its colleagues in developing this report. He said that people should not merely focus on the negatives since there are a number of good things in the report. The positives should be built upon to formulate a plan to move the state toward the 2020 goals of House Bill 1.

NKU REGIONAL
STEWARDSHIP
GRANT PROPOSAL

RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the Council approve two stewardship initiative proposals submitted by Northern Kentucky University and endorsed by its Regional Advisory Committee.

According to Council guidelines, stewardship initiatives funding supports specific public engagement activities at the institutions that improve economic prosperity, quality of life, or civic participation in the region or state, while furthering the goals and mandates of House Bill 1 and the Public Agenda. These funds are distributed to the comprehensive universities on a competitive basis based on responses to an annual request for proposals issued by the Council staff. To receive consideration for funding, proposed initiatives must address critical regional needs, as identified in a strategic plan for regional stewardship developed in partnership with, and endorsed by, a region's stewardship advisory committee.

Mr. Cowgill said that there are two rounds of stewardship initiative funding. The deadline for the first round of \$200,000 was October 1, 2007. The deadline for the second round of \$400,000 is June 1, 2008. He said that the NKU proposal was the only proposal made for the first round of funding. NKU submitted two proposals totaling \$200,000.

MOTION: Ms. Bertelsman moved that the recommendation be approved. Mr. Weis seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

ADULTS WITH SOME COLLEGE SURVEY

Sue Patrick, the Council's coordinator of communications, reviewed the results of a statewide survey of Kentucky adults who attended a Kentucky college or university but did not earn a bachelor's degree. The survey was conducted earlier this year to identify barriers, needs, and motivations of this group related to returning to college to complete their degree. Of the 1,600 survey respondents, almost half indicated they were somewhat or very likely to return to college in the next two to three years. The results of the survey will inform discussions toward the development of adult-friendly programs and services as well as an outreach effort called Project Graduate. The first phase of Project Graduate, launched November 26, will target the 11,000 Kentuckians with 90 or more credit hours.

GEAR UP KENTUCKY

An update on GEAR UP Kentucky was provided for information. GEAR UP is a national program to increase the number of low-income students succeeding in college. The current Kentucky state GEAR UP grant follows the first, a \$10 million grant in 2000, which supported 50 middle and high schools. In September 2005, the U.S. Department of Education awarded the Council on Postsecondary Education a second GEAR UP state grant (six years) for \$21 million to support 81 middle and high schools across the state. In the current grant, GEAR UP program partners also provide a total of \$21 million in match from other resources. In the current grant, GEAR UP has partnered with the Kentucky College Access Campaign to focus awareness on the urgency for the Commonwealth to reach the projected national average in educational attainment and double the number of bachelor's degree holders by 2020. GEAR UP is a dollar-for-dollar matching grant and, therefore, partnerships play an important role in the program. The Council has established several partnerships to help meet the matching requirement. Not only do partnerships contribute significant resources to match the federal funds awarded but they enrich the services schools and the students receive. Schools also are expected and encouraged to contribute to the matching requirement. In 2006-07 partners contributed approximately \$2.4 million in cash and in-kind support. Nevertheless, that amount fell short of the required match. Among the partners, core partners (such as the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority) contribute the most

match. Other partners include the seven host organizations who contributed nearly \$750,000.

REVISED CPE
MEETING
CALENDAR

RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the Council approve the revised 2008 meeting calendar.

MOTION: Ms. Bertelsman moved that the revised calendar be approved. Mr. Weis seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

NOLAND
RESOLUTION

Mr. Turner read a resolution acknowledging the service of Kevin N. Noland to the Council.

MOTION: Mr. Flanagan moved that the resolution be adopted. Mr. Baker seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting is February 1, 2008, at the Council offices in Frankfort.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Bradford L. Cowgill
Interim President

Phyllis L. Bailey
Senior Associate, Executive Relations