

MINUTES

Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Work Session
Date: June 17, 2022
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET
Location: Council on Postsecondary Education, 100 Airport Road, Frankfort, KY
40601

WELCOME REMARKS

The Council on Postsecondary Education met in a work session on Friday, June 17, 2022, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred in the Conference Room of the Council offices in Frankfort, KY. Chair Lucas Mentzer presided.

ATTENDANCE

Members attending in person: Colby Birkes, Jacob Brown, Lori Harper, Karyn Hoover, Lucas Mentzer, Richard Nelson, and Elaine Walker.

Members attending by ZOOM teleconference: Faith Kemper and Connie Smith.

Members not in attendance: Clyde B. Akins, Muhammad Babar, Kellie Ellis, Eric Farris, Madison Silvert, Kevin Weaver, and Commissioner Jason Glass.

CPE President Aaron Thompson served as Secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Ms. Heather Faesy, CPE's senior associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION WITH WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

President Tim Caboni provided the Council with an institutional update on Western Kentucky University (WKU). The update focused on the campus's current demographic, the campus vision for 2030, and the impact that COVID-19 has had on the institution. He discussed WKU's key strategies for each of the strategic priorities of the new statewide agenda to ensure the state makes meaningful progress towards statewide goals. He also reviewed the baseline data and 2023-24 targets for the key performance indicators attached to the strategic agenda.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION – FOCUS ON TALENT

The 2022-30 Statewide Strategic Agenda, “Higher Education Matters,” is a blueprint for accelerating change and improvement in Kentucky’s public postsecondary system. Equity is a cross-cutting focus of the agenda, and it identifies five specific strategic priorities: Affordability, Transitions, Success, Talent, Value.

The Council engaged in a conversation with CPE staff members on the Talent priority, in which the goal is to increase talent and innovation to support our communities, employers, and economy. The objectives of this priority are:

- Objective 8: Improve the career outcomes of postsecondary graduates.
- Objective 9: Increase research and service to support strong communities and economies.

Presenting staff included:

- Ms. Lee Nimocks, Sr. Vice President and Chief of Staff.
- Mr. Rick Smith, Associate Vice President of Workforce and Development.
- Mr. Travis Muncie, Executive Director of Data, Research and Advanced Analytics.

Data reviewed included the key performance indicators (KPI) of graduates working or pursuing more education, the number of graduate and professional degrees obtained, and the overall educational attainment rate.

Staff discussed state-level strategies and actions taking place in order to achieve the KPI data targets discussed. These included the Healthcare Workforce Collaborative and the development of partnerships between businesses and campuses regarding the graduate pipeline.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION – FOCUS ON TRANSITIONS

The Council also engaged in a brief conversation with CPE staff members on the Transitions priority, in which the goal is to ensure more students transition to college prepared to succeed. The objectives of this priority are:

- Objective 3: Increase students’ readiness to enter postsecondary education.
- Objective 4: Increase enrollment in postsecondary education.

This area of the agenda will be explored in more detail at a future work session.

CLOSING OF THE WORK SESSION

The Council adjourned the work session at 11:55 a.m. and were scheduled to reconvene for a business meeting at 1:00 p.m.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL: September 19, 2022