

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Council on April 17, 2025

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Business Meeting
Date: January 30, 2025
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET
Location: CPE offices, 100 Airport Rd, Frankfort – Conf Rm AB

WELCOME REMARKS

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a business meeting on Thursday, January 30, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. ET. The meeting occurred at the Council offices in Frankfort, Kentucky. Chair Madison Silvert presided.

ATTENDANCE

The following Council members attended the meeting in person: CB Akins, Lindsey Case, Jennifer Collins, Kellie Ellis, Meredith Figg, Madison Silvert, Macy Waddle, Elaine Walker and Kevin Weaver. Council members who attended virtually were Sean Garber, Faith Kemper and LaDonna Rogers.

Council members who did not attend were Muhammad Babar, Jacob Brown, Karyn Hoover and Commissioner Robbie Fletcher.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the November 21-22, 2024, meetings were approved as presented.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEM

Committee Chair Kevin Weaver presented the Nominating Committee Report. After soliciting nominations and expressions of interest, the Committee unanimously agreed to re-elect Madison Silvert as Chair and Elaine Walker as Vice Chair.

MOTION: The Nominating Committee's recommendation of approval served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

KY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE) COMMISSIONER REPORT

KDE Deputy Commissioner Thomas Tucker provided the report on behalf of Commissioner Fletcher, who was unable to attend the meeting. He reported that Commissioner Fletcher has been visiting with as many school districts as he is able to strengthen state and local relationships. Tucker also discussed KDE's ability to serve more students through the food service program and outcomes of the recent 2024 computer science report.

UPDATE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER

Ms. Waddle provided a brief report focused on college affordability and mental health resource accessibility for students, topics to be discussed at the joint meeting of the Council and student body presidents.

CPE PRESIDENT REPORT

President Aaron Thompson's written report was included in the board materials. He provided additional comments about the upcoming Futuriti website launch and accompanying press conference at the Capitol, the SkillBridge partnership with the U.S. Department of Defense and recent staff speaking engagements. Mr. Travis Powell, Sr. Vice President and General Counsel, and Ms. Regan Satterwhite, Director of Legislative Relations, provided an update on bills proposed in the first few weeks of the 2025 legislative session.

STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA DISCUSSION – MURRAY STATE UNIVERSITY

President Robert Jackson provided the Council with an update on Murray State University (MuSU). President Jackson discussed MuSU's key strategies for each of the statewide strategic agenda priorities, as well as the baseline data and 2023-24 targets for key performance indicators. Attending the presentation with him was Dr. Renee Fister, Associate Provost, and Brenden Hawkins, Student Body President.

Following the presentation, Chair Silvert presented President Jackson with a resolution thanking him for his service to Murray State and postsecondary education in Kentucky in advance of his retirement on June 30, 2025.

MOTION: Rev. Akins moved the Council approve the resolution for President Bob Jackson. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Karyn Hoover was unable to attend the meeting and requested Meredith Figg present the report and recommendations made by the Academic and Strategic Initiatives (ASI) Committee, which met on January 27, 2025. She announced that Committee members:

- Received the annual report of academic programs, which included a summary of the programs approved, closed and reviewed during the 2023-24 academic year.
- Received a report on the final enrollment numbers for fall 2024.
- Received a briefing on the upcoming Student Success Summit being held Feb 10-11 at the University of Kentucky Gatton Student Center.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval three proposed new academic programs:
 - Master of Science, Applied Behavior Analysis (CIP 42.2814) at Murray State University
 - Doctor of Philosophy, Biomedical Informatics and Data Science (CIP 26.1103) at University of Kentucky
 - Doctor of Philosophy, Translational Bioengineering (CIP 14.0501) at University of Louisville.

MOTION: The ASI Committee's recommendation to approve the endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed. Meredith Figg abstained.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Jacob Brown presented the report and recommendations made by the Finance Committee, which met on January 27, 2025. Committee members:

- Received an update on asset preservation pool spending for fiscal years 2022-24 and 2024-26.
- Discussed the timeline for the 2025-26 tuition-setting cycle.
- Previewed potential revisions to the tuition-setting policy scheduled for approval at the April meeting.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval revisions to the 2022-24 and 2024-26 asset preservation pool guidelines.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval an interim capital project at Kentucky State University to renovate the Betty White Building at a project scope of \$2,853,330.45 (federal funds from U.S. Department of Agriculture).

MOTION: The Finance Committee's recommendation to approve the endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEM

Chair Silvert presented the report and recommendation of the Executive Committee, which met the morning of January 30, 2025. Committee members:

- Received an agency budget update that provided a financial overview of the operating funds, technology trust funds, restricted and trust fund programs, grants and fiduciary funds through the second quarter of fiscal year 2025.
- Discussed the Council's board retreat scheduled for June 12-13, 2025.
- Received the Q2 financial report conducted by auditor Moss Adams for Kentucky State University.
- Accepted and endorsed for Council approval the fiscal year 2024 audit conducted by Blue & Co.

MOTION: The Executive Committee's recommendation to approve the endorsed action item served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Chair Silvert appointed Dr. Michael Yoder to the Healthcare Workforce Investment Committee to serve the unexpired term vacated by Beth Brinley, who retired in December 2024.

RETURN ON INVESTMENTS IN HIGHER EDUCATION (CBER)

Mr. Michael Childress from the University of Kentucky Martin School of Public Policy and Administration presented the findings of a study commissioned by the Council that examined Kentucky's return on investment for funding allocated to public postsecondary institutions and state financial aid programs. A key finding was that the tax revenue generated by Kentucky college graduates is four-and-a-half times greater than the state's initial investment in their degrees. Additionally, consumer spending generated by college graduates is 17 times greater, which supports local businesses across the Commonwealth. The full report can be found at: <https://cpe.ky.gov/data/reports/2024-cber-roi-report.pdf>.

2023-24 KENTUCKY DEGREES AND CREDENTIALS

Dr. Chris Ledford, Director, Data and Advanced Analytics, and Madalyn White, Senior Associate, presented the degree and credential data for the 2023-24 academic year. Data showed that total credential production has grown steadily over the last five years, with the most pronounced increases at KCTCS and AIKCU institutions, as well as in graduate degrees across both four-year sectors. The report also highlighted trends around degrees/credentials awarded to students in targeted subgroups, such as adult and low-income students.

HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE INVESTMENT FUND (HWIF) UPDATE

Dr. Leslie Sizemore, Associate Vice President, Workforce and Economic Development, presented an update on the work of the HWIF. During the first year of the HWIF, 46 healthcare training program partnership proposals were awarded funding, totaling a public/private investment of \$13,290,000 for healthcare training scholarships. A total of 27 healthcare partners invested in a HWIF partnership, and 35 healthcare training programs across 21 institutions/training sites were awarded funds. The awarded funds will provide full-tuition scholarships for one or two years to an estimated 794 Kentucky students. Through HWIF, CPE was also able to make a \$150,000 incentive fund award to ECU's School of Nursing. The private portion of this award (\$75,000) was donated by Humana.

CAMPUS GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials. Chair Silvert provided highlights from Eastern Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, University of Louisville and the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

CLOSED SESSION PER KRS 61.810(1)(f)

Chair Akins requested a motion to go into closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

MOTION: Ms. Figg moved the Council go into closed session per KRS 61.810(1)(f) to discuss individual personnel matters relating to the reappointment of an employee. Ms. Walker seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

The Council remained in closed session for 30 minutes and returned at 3:45 p.m. ET.

MOTION: Ms. Figg moved that the Council go back into open session. Ms. Walker seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

MOTION: Chair Silvert stated that the Executive Committee moved the Council extend President Thompson's employment contract to January 1, 2030, and beginning fiscal year 2024, provide a \$50,000 contribution to a deferred compensation account conditioned upon continued employment on June 30 of each fiscal year. This would be in addition to any other compensation provided in the contract. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned the business meeting at 3:50 p.m. ET.