

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Council on November 7, 2025

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Business Meeting
Date: September 12, 2025
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET
Location: Somerset Community College, 808 Monticello St, Somerset – Meece Hall Auditorium

WELCOME REMARKS

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a business meeting on Friday, September 12, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. ET. The meeting occurred at Somerset Community College and Vice Chair Elaine Walker presided.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum of 10 voting Council members in attendance.

- Rev. CB Akins – in person
- Dr. Muhammad Babar – did not attend
- Jacob Brown – in person
- Lindsey Case – in person
- Jennifer Collins - virtual
- Dr. Kellie Ellis – in person
- Dr. Meredith Figg – in person
- Sean Garber – did not attend
- Karyn Hoover – in person
- LaDonna Rogers – in person
- Madison Silvert – virtual (left 2:10)
- Elaine Walker – in person
- Kevin Weaver – did not attend
- Comm. Robbie Fletcher – in person

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the June 12, June 13 and June 30, 2025, meetings were approved as presented.

CPE PRESIDENT REPORT

President Aaron Thompson's written report was included in the board materials. He provided additional comments that focused on his outreach efforts on the local, state, national and international level. His message has focused on the power of postsecondary

education achievement in Kentucky and its impact on the state economically and socially. He also provided an update on the report being prepared in relation to the Kentucky State University Management Improvement Plan and recent staff organizational changes.

KY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE) COMMISSIONER REPORT

KDE Commissioner Robbie Fletcher discussed the state's recent improvements and changes to the state accountability model and provided examples of implementation from several counties. He also addressed the Council's questions on how to better elevate the department's communications efforts of these improvements to the general public.

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 WKU's key strategies for each of the strategic priorities of the statewide agenda as well as the baseline data and progress on the key performance indicators. Ms. Rogers complemented WKU's progress on addressing the area's nursing shortage through its collaboration and partnerships with healthcare facilities. He also answered questions related to their future growth plans due to their proximity to Nashville and lower cost of living in comparison.

ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Karyn Hoover presented the report and recommendations made by the Academic and Strategic Initiatives (ASI) Committee, which met on September 8, 2025. She announced that Committee members received reports and updates on:

- How the eligibility calculations directed by KRS 164.295(3) for Comprehensive University Doctoral Programs are being conducted.
- The KCTCS programs approved between June-August 2025.
- The collaboration with the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission in which five campuses received grants to launch or enhance Collegiate Recovery Resource Centers, which are a critical part of the state's strategy to create "recovery-ready campuses."
- The CLIMB-Health 2.0 initiative, which is focusing its work on high school student training and their transitions to postsecondary education.

The Committee also reviewed and endorsed for Council approval:

- The repeal of 13 KAR 2:110: Advanced practice doctoral degree programs at comprehensive universities
- Proposed Policy Revisions - New Academic Program Approval

Mr. Travis Powell, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, provided a quick review of the reason for the repealer regulation, and Dr. Melissa Bell, Vice President of Academic Excellence, provided a summary of the changes to the policy

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.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS

Chair Silvert presented the report and recommendations made by the Finance Committee, which met on Sept 8, 2025. Committee members received a funding update on three previously approved interim capital projects at KCTCS institutions:

- Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College—Replace Glasgow Campus
- Somerset Community College—Replace Laurel South Campus Ph. II
- Jefferson Community and Technical College—Replace Hartford Hall Ph. II

Committee members also received an update on the approved 2025-26 Tuition & Mandatory Fees for 5 institutions and KCTCS, which were approved by the President on behalf of the Council since the proposals complied with established Council parameters. In particular, the resident and nonresident rates approved were as follows:

- University of Kentucky:
 - Resident undergraduate students - \$405 increase (3.0%)
 - Nonresident undergraduate students - \$1,024 increase (3.0%)
 - Resident graduate student - \$439 increase (3.0%)
 - Nonresident graduate student - \$1,087 increase (3.0%)
- University of Louisville:
 - Resident undergraduate students - \$450 increase (3.5%)
 - Nonresident undergraduate students - \$450 increase (1.5%)
 - Resident graduate student - \$372 increase (2.5%)
 - Nonresident graduate student - \$758 increase (2.5%)
- Kentucky State University:
 - Resident undergraduate students - \$420 increase (4.6%)
 - Nonresident undergraduate students - \$490 increase (3.7%)
 - Resident graduate student – no change
 - Nonresident graduate student – no change
- Morehead State University:
 - Resident undergraduate students - \$420 increase (4.3%)
 - Nonresident undergraduate students – \$634 increase (4.3%)
 - Resident graduate student - \$1 per credit hour decrease (-0.2%)
 - Nonresident graduate student - \$1 per credit hour decrease (-0.2%)
- Northern Kentucky University:
 - Resident undergraduate students - \$408 increase (3.8%)
 - Nonresident undergraduate students - \$840 increase (3.9%)
 - Resident graduate student – \$15 per credit hour increase (2.6%)

- Nonresident graduate student – \$23 per credit hour increase (2.6%)
- Kentucky Community and Technical College System:
 - Resident, per credit hour - \$6 increase (3.2%)
 - Nonresident, per credit hour - \$10 increase (3.8%)

Finally, the Committee reviewed and endorsed for Council approval:

- The four components of the 2026-2028 Biennial Budget Recommendation – Postsecondary Institution Operating Funds, Trust Funds, and Capital Investment requests, and the CPE Agency Budget Request.
- The Memorandum of Understanding for Nonresident Student Tuition and Fees at Morehead State University.

Dr. Bill Payne, Vice President of Finance Policy and Programs, provided a summary of the postsecondary budget recommendation components and Mr. Powell reviewed the agency budget components. They also answered questions of clarification from the Council.

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.

DATA SPOTLIGHT: STATEWIDE PROGRESS REPORT AND UPDATE ON KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Mr. Travis Muncie, Chief Information Officer, provided introductory remarks on how the Council will now focus on national and regional benchmarks for its statewide and institutional-level data rather than individual targets. Dr. Chris Ledford, Director of Data and Advanced Analytics, and Ms. Madalyn White, Senior Associate, presented on a number of key performance indicators and context metrics as aligned with the statewide priorities of Affordability, Transitions, Success, Talent, and Value. They answered questions of clarification and provided additional information as needed on how the Council's initiatives are supporting positive change on all data points, as well as the unit's work to refine the measured data points.

CAMPUS GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned the business meeting at 3:10 p.m. ET.