

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Council on January 30, 2026

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Business Meeting
Date: November 7, 2025
Time: 10:00 a.m. CT
Location: Brescia University, Owensboro – C.E. Field House for Professional Studies, Room 312

WELCOME REMARKS

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a work session on Thursday, November 7, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. CT. The meeting occurred at Brescia University in Owensboro and Chair Madison Silvert presided.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum of 14 voting Council members in attendance.

- Rev. CB Akins – in person
- Jai Bokey – in person
- Jacob Brown – virtual
- Lindsey Case – in person
- Jennifer Collins – in person
- Dr. Kellie Ellis – in person
- Dr. Meredith Figg – in person
- Sean Garber – did not attend
- Karyn Hoover – virtual
- Dennis Repenning – in person
- LaDonna Rogers – in person
- Madison Silvert – in person
- Elaine Walker – in person
- Kevin Weaver – in person
- Michael Wheeler – in person
- Comm. Robbie Fletcher – virtual (part)

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.

OATH OF OFFICE

Notary Public, Heather Faesy, administered the oath of office for new Council members Jai Bokey of Prospect, Dennis Repenning of Boone County, and Michael Wheeler, student member from the University of Kentucky.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the September 12 and September 29, 2025, meetings were approved as presented.

REPORT FROM CPE PRESIDENT

President Aaron Thompson's written report was included in the board materials. He provided additional comments that focused the increase in degree completion in recent years, the agency's work to future the Graduate Profile to all programs offered at Kentucky institutions, and the renewal of a fifth grant for GEAR UP Kentucky, which is a \$35 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education to serve more than 10,000 students in eight Kentucky districts with a high percentage of students from low-income households.

REPORT FROM KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)

KDE Commissioner Robbie Fletcher discussed the state's continued review of the state accountability model and the Department of Education's priorities for the 2026 Legislative Session.

REPORT FROM STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER

Mr. Wheeler's first report to the Council focused on the development of bylaws for the Board of Student Body Presidents and their work to identify common issues of focus for the 2025-26 academic year.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION WITH UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

President Eli Capilouto provided the Council with an institutional update on the University of Kentucky (UK). The update focused on UK'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. His annual update also provided insight to UK's four key elements and principles of student success and how the university as a whole is "advancing their why" to meet state workforce needs.

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION WITH ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT KENTUCKY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

President Mason Dyer provided the Council with the annual update of progress by the eighteen private, nonprofit institutions represented by the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU). The update focused on how the institutions are contributing to the state's strategic priorities of the statewide agenda as well as the baseline data and progress on key performance indicators. He provided additional context

on how student financial aid is the key to the private college's affordability and that expanding partnerships with K-12 and KCTCS are enhancing pathways to success.

Following this presentation, the Council took a 45-minute lunch break.

ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Figg presented the report and recommendations made by the Academic and Strategic Initiatives (ASI) Committee, which met on November 3, 2025. She announced that Committee members received reports and updates on:

- Report on the work related to adult learners, including the Credit for Prior Learning initiative, focusing supports on parenting students, and the recently formed Kentucky Adult Attainment Network, which is a statewide collaborative that brings together professionals from education, workforce and the community focused on practical scalable solutions.
- Outcomes of the 2025 Healthcare Career Summer Bridge Program, in which 12 institutions were awarded grants to provide opportunities that expose high school students to healthcare careers and related postsecondary opportunities.
- The approval of one new program that does not require Council review - Associate's degree of Applied Science at Gateway Community and Technical College.

The Committee also reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the following proposed new programs:

- Kentucky State University – Master of Science in Sports Analytics (CIP 31.0504)
- University of Kentucky – Bachelor of Science in Applied Economics (CIP 45.0602)
- University of Kentucky – Bachelor of Science in Artificial Intelligence (CIP 11.0102)

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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS

Chair Silvert presented the report and recommendations made by the Executive Committee, which met the morning of Nov. 7, 2025.

The Committee reviewed the final report of the Kentucky State University Management Improvement Plan, and the chair requested that CPE staff provide a brief report on the overall findings. That report was given by Mr. Travis Powell, CPE Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Mr. Greg Rush, CPE Assistant Vice President for Finance Policies and Programs, and Ms. Susan Krause, CPE Senior Fellow. It focused on CPE's role in the

management of the plan, the external auditor's role as it provided an outside perspective on internal processes and procedures, and how things have evolved over the three years of the plan. They reviewed the recommendations in the report and talked about next steps. Council members asked questions of clarification about loan forgiveness alternatives and how CPE can use its coordinating powers to continue the positive trajectory of progress.

MOTION: The Executive Committee's recommendation to approve the final report of the Kentucky State University Management Improvement Plan served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

The Executive Committee also discussed the bylaws during the meeting and the Chair stated that discussion will be held during other business at the end of the meeting.

The Chair made the following committee appointments:

- To the 2026 Nominating Committee – Kevin Weaver, who will serve as chair, Jacob Brown, and LaDonna Rogers.
- To the Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee – Jai Bokey, Michael Wheeler and Dennis Repenning.
- To the Finance Committee – Michael Wheeler and Dennis Repenning
- To the Kentucky Authority for Educational Television to representing state universities, Kevin Weaver, and to represent the University of Kentucky, Karyn Hoover (term through November 2027)
- To the AERO Act Advisory Committee - Dr. Aaron Thompson, who will serve as Chair, Lindsey Case, Tristan Durbin, Martin Fryer, Laura Jones, Luke McCowan, Brad Schwandt, Bradley Simms, James Smith, Todd Smith, David Springer, and Curtis Wilson.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES – REPORT

Vice Chair Walker presented the report of the Committee, which met on Oct. 27, 2025. The meeting focused primarily on postsecondary access and included reports from the:

- Central Kentucky Educational Cooperative, who discussed their work with students with disabilities as well as their accessibility to and through postsecondary education.
- GEAR UP Kentucky staff, who provided an in-depth look at the 5th state grant and their plans for the next 7 years.

The Committee also recognized Dr. Luv'Tesha Robertson, who passed away earlier in the year, for her 6 years of service to the Committee.

DATA SPOTLIGHT: 2024-25 DEGREES AND CREDITIALS

Presenters included: Mr. Travis Muncie, Chief Information Officer; Dr. Chris Ledford, Director of Data and Advanced Analytics; and Ms. Madalyn White, Senior Associate. They presented the 2024-25 Degree and Credentials reported which included the following highlights:

- Statewide credential production has grown steadily since 2019-2020, as well as compared to last year.
 - Four-year public total degrees and credentials, bachelor's degrees, and graduate degrees and credentials awarded all increased last year.
 - AIKCU total degrees and credentials, bachelor's degrees, and graduate degrees and credentials awarded all increased last year.
 - KCTCS total degrees and credentials, associate degrees, and certificates awarded all increased last year.
- Continued growth in dual credit and adult enrollment, along with growing retention and completion rates, create optimism around sustained credential growth.

KENTUCKY GRADUATE PROFILE

Dr. Melissa Bell, Vice President of Academic Excellence, reviewed the state's progress implementing the Kentucky Graduate Profile, which is the state's framework for postsecondary learning, designed to ensure that every student earns a high-quality, relevant degree. She described how the state is measuring quality and how the learning framework is already providing many benefits. Finally, she reviewed the ten essential skills of the Kentucky Graduate Profile, how it's being implemented on the campuses, and its alignment with other efforts in the state.

CAMPUS GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials.

OTHER BUSINESS

Vice Chair Walker stated that following a discussion of potential changes to the bylaws, the Executive Committee moved to reopen them for discussion at the board meeting. Chair Silvert recused himself from discussion as any potential decisions may affect his position. Instead, he requested Mr. Powell to present the outcomes of that discussion, who stated that under the current bylaws, the chair and vice chair are limited to three consecutive one-year terms. This is slightly inconsistent with the state's university boards, in which several have four-year consecutive term limits and some do not specify any term limit.

MOTION: Rev. Akins moved the Council amend the By-laws and revised section 4B, Item 5 to state, the Chair and Vice Chair are limited to 4 consecutive one-year terms, and no more than 6 one-year terms in total. Dr. Ellis seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned the business meeting at 2:05 p.m. ET.