

Executive Committee Meeting
Minutes
May 18, 2003

The executive committee of the Council on Postsecondary Education met on May 18, 2003 at the Embassy Suites in Lexington, Kentucky.

The following executive committee members were present: Norma Adams, Steve Barger, Peggy Bertelsman, Walter Baker, and Charles Whitehead. Other Council members present were Richard Freed and Ron Greenberg.

Staff members present were: Tom Layzell, Sue Moore, Ron Carson, Sandra Woodley, Jim Applegate, and Dennis Taulbee.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. by Chair Norma Adams.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the upcoming FY 2002-03 external audit and the agency's response to findings of the external auditors in their FY 2001-02 audit. The discussion centered on findings 02-06 and 02-7 that deal with the Endowment Match program. Finding 02-6 is that the regional university excellence trust fund talks about one nationally recognized program of distinction but the guidelines for the Endowment Match program do not restrict the regional universities from requesting funding in other areas. The auditors believe the guidelines are inconsistent with the enabling statute. It was reported to the executive committee by Dennis Taulbee that language in HB 269, the Appropriations Bill, addresses the concerns raised in finding 02-7. This will be reported to the auditors.

Finding 02-7 says that regional universities may make limited requests for funds in the arts and humanities but that the guidelines do not define what limited means. The agency's response to finding 02-7 is that the council will look at refinement of the guidelines. Dennis Taulbee reported that subsequent to the issuance of the auditors' report and the management response, the council's Endowment Match workgroup discussed the issue and declined to make changes in the guidelines.

The staff recommendation is that staff report to the council quarterly on all requests made by regional institutions in the arts and humanities and in other disciplines and that the council determine whether an individual institution's request for a specific arts and humanities program is within the "limited" statement contained in the guidelines.

Ron Greenberg indicated that another way to deal with this concern is to limit regional universities to programs of distinction requests.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:58 p.m.