MEETING MINUTES

Approved by Working Group on November 10, 2026

Who:	Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Type:	Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding
Date:	October 28, 2026
Time:	9:00 a.m. ET (8:00 a.m. CT)
Location:	CPE Offices, 100 Airport Road, Frankfort, KY – Conference Room AB (virtual option available)

CALL TO ORDER

The Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding was called to order Wednesday, October 28, 2026, at 9:05 a.m. ET. The meeting took place at the Council offices in Frankfort, with an option to attend virtually. The meeting was livestreamed to the CPE YouTube page. Chair Aaron Thompson presided.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum of 19 members in attendance.

- Dr. Aaron Thompson, Chairman – in person
- Dr. Koffi Akakpo – in person
- Representative Chad Aull – in person
- Senator Amanda Mays Bledsoe – in person
- Dr. Gerry Bradley – in person
- Representative Josh Bray – did not attend
- Dr. Tim Caboni - in person
- Angie Martin, designee for Dr. Eli Capilouto – in person
- Senator David Givens – in person
- John Hicks – in person
- Representative Bobby McCool – did not attend
- Senator Chris McDaniel – in person
- Dr. David McFaddin – in person
- Dr. Jay Morgan – in person
- Senator Gerald Neal – in person
- Dr. Ron Patterson – in person
- Dr. Ryan Quarles – in person
- Representative Steve Rudy – in person
- Dr. Cady Short-Thompson - in person
- Representative James Tipton – in person
- Senator Steve West – in person

Brent Floyd, CPE Senior Associate of Finance Policy & Programs, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

DISCUSSION OF PERFORMANCE FUNDING MODEL ALTERNATIVES

Ms. Cassie Trueblood Fields, Deputy General Counsel, reminded the working group of its charge and timeline restraints.

Chair Thompson resumed the conversation from the prior day by asking Mr. Adam Blevins, Executive Director of Finance and Budget, to readdress and remind attendees of components from Scenario 4 of the CPE recommendation.

Dr. Capilouto suggested using a 20% research metric and splitting the graduate metric into at least 2 metrics: doctorate/professional and masters. He stated doing so would place greater emphasis on the state's research goals that are primarily achieved through the missions of the research institutions and KSU.

Senator Mays-Bledsoe requested to see a scenario where a 60% base allocation is performed rather than the proposed 50%.

Following further discussion, Chair Thompson called for a break so CPE staff could complete the scenario requested by Senator Mays Bledsoe (Scenario 38).

BREAK

The working group took a break from 10:10-10:35 p.m. ET.

DISCUSSION OF PERFORMANCE FUNDING MODEL ALTERNATIVES (CONTINUED)

Following the break, Dr. Morgan discussed his support of CPE Scenario 4, stating that while there were other models that would provide a greater benefit to his specific institution, he felt the scenario best addressed the majority of the concerns the presidents have brought to the discussion so far while pairing those considerations with the principles the group previously agreed to.

Dr. Caboni also expressed his support for Scenario 4, stating that it appeared to address the items that are most important to the state while remaining as simple as possible.

Representative Tipton asked what other funding mechanisms are available for research, stating that it may make more sense to fund research external to the model rather than incorporating it as a metric. President Bradley stated that even accounting for all the external grants and internal endowed funds used to support research, general funds are still being used to support research at the University of Louisville, and that this was the case at all research universities. Chair Thompson reminded the group that Bucks for Brains is an

additional state funded mechanism used to support research. Dr. Bill Payne, Vice President of Finance and Budget, stated that under the proposed Scenario 4, research only accounted for about $4.4 million of the total pool of performance funds, thus the metric was more about recognizing missional differences between institutions than funding research.

Senator Mays Bledsoe stated that her goal in requesting Scenario 38 was to reward the institutions that had performed well over the past 10 years but recognized that the scenario did not produce figures she expected.

Senator McDaniel stated that he thinks it is unfair to have R1 institutions competing in the same model as comprehensive institutions. Chair Thompson, Representative Tipton and Dr. Payne discussed the complications of separating the pool by sector so late into the working group's schedule.

To make a decision on what the model should look like going forward, Senator Givens discussed some of the potential compromises institutions may need to consider.

NEXT STEPS

Following further discussion on potential metric percentages and model mechanics, Representative Rudy stated that if the presidents cannot come to a consensus for the General Assembly, that the General Assembly will make the decisions for them, which may not be in the best interest of any institution. He therefore encouraged the university presidents to determine the best approach within the parameters of scenarios 4, 4.4, and 38, and to come with a collective proposal at the following meeting of what the model should look like going forward.

Chair Thompson addressed the scheduled start time of the next meeting on November 10. The working group agreed to move the start time to 9 a.m. ET (8 a.m. CT) to allow enough time to work through the agenda. Chair Thompson also stated that the group may need to add an additional meeting before its December 1, 2026, deadline.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m. ET. Dr. Quarles motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Representative Aull.