

## MEETING MINUTES

*Draft for Approval by the Council on September 16, 2024*

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Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education  
Meeting Type: Business Meeting  
Date: June 21, 2024  
Time: 9:30 a.m. CT  
Location: Western Kentucky University, Jody Richards Hall, Cornelius A. Martin Regents Room, Bowling Green, Kentucky

### WELCOME REMARKS

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The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a business meeting on Friday, June 21, 2024, at 9:30 a.m. CT. The meeting occurred at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Chair Madison Silvert presided.

### ATTENDANCE

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Council members' attendance:

- Attended in person: CB Akins, Jacob Brown, Lindsey Case, Kellie Ellis, Meredith Figg, Karyn Hoover, Chloe Marsteller, LaDonna Rogers, Madison Silvert, Elaine Walker, Kevin Weaver (joined at 9:40 a.m.), Robin Kinney
- Attended via ZOOM: Faith Kemper
- Did not attend: Muhammad Babar, Jennifer Collins

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

### OATH OF OFFICE

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Notary Public, Heather Faesy, administered the oath of office for new Council member Lindsey Case from Louisa, Kentucky.

### COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

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The Council approved resolutions for outgoing Council members Connie Smith, Eric Farris and Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney for their support and service to the Council on Postsecondary Education and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Council also approved a resolution for former staff member, Shaun McKiernan, for his thirteen years of service at the Council.

## **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

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The minutes of the March 28 and April 25, 2024, meetings were approved as presented.

## **CPE PRESIDENT REPORT**

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President Aaron Thompson's written report was included in the board materials. He provided additional comments on grants CPE recently received, a recent CPE report on student debt levels, and CPE's upcoming release of the 2024 Progress Report. Ms. Lee Nimocks, Sr. Vice President and Chief of Staff, updated the board on the four studies assigned to CPE through Senate Joint Resolutions during the 2024 session.

## **KY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMISSIONER REPORT**

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KDE Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney provided a verbal report that focused on the Read to Succeed event that occurred in Lexington, Kentucky's expanded literacy efforts, and efforts to support students through the summer feeding program. She also announced that incoming Commissioner Robbie Fletcher will begin his position on July 1.

## **UPDATE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER**

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Ms. Marsteller provided her report on current student matters, which included an introduction to the new members of the Board of Student Body Presidents and how she is assisting them in getting a jump start on their goals during their service. She stated that early talks revealed mental health is still a top concern as is civil engagement. Additionally, there is an interest in increasing internships and co-op opportunities for students.

## **ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION PLAN**

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Committee Chair Elaine Walker presented the Committee on Equal Opportunities Report and provided opening remarks. Dr. Dawn Offutt, Executive Director of Access, Engagement and Belonging, presented a report on the annual evaluation of public campuses' progress toward meeting equal educational opportunity goals established by the diversity, equity and inclusion policy.

Two institutions did not meet the minimum required score for immediate eligibility to apply for new degree programs – Somerset Community College and Kentucky State University. Those institutions must submit a request and performance improvement plan, which must be reviewed and approved by either the Committee on Equal Opportunities or the Council in order to reinstate eligibility to apply for new degree programs.

## **WAIVER REQUEST FROM KENTUCKY STATE UNIVERSITY**

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Kentucky State University (KSU) did not meet the minimum required score on their annual evaluation of progress toward equal educational opportunity goals established by the diversity, equity and inclusion policy. On June 14, 2024, KSU requested a waiver with a performance improvement plan. CPE staff reviewed the performance improvement plan and found that all questions were answered satisfactorily with sufficient detail.

MOTION: Ms. Walker moved the Council approve the waiver request from Kentucky State University. Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS**

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Committee Chair Karyn Hoover presented the report and recommendations made by the Academic and Strategic Initiatives (ASI) Committee, which met on June 10, 2024.

Committee members:

- Received an update from GEARUP Kentucky, the initiative aimed at increasing the number of Kentucky students in low-income communities who are ready to successfully transition to and through postsecondary education.
- Received a recap from the first-ever CLIMB Convening held on May 14th in Lexington.
- Discussed the mid-term review process for the statewide strategic agenda, which will be presented for final approval by the Council at its November meeting.
- Received a report on the new academic program approved at Owensboro Community and Technical College, an AAS Degree, Professional Student Artist.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval one proposed new academic program from the University of Kentucky: B.A., Law and Justice (CIP 22.0000).
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval one proposed new academic program from Northern Kentucky University: B.A., Special Education (CIP 13.1001).
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the proposed new academic programs from Murray State University:
  - M.S., Economic Analytics (CIP 45.0603).
  - M.S., Accountancy and Analytics (CIP 52.1301).
  - Ed.S., School Psychology (CIP 42.2805).
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the proposed three new academic programs from Kentucky State University, pending approval of the DEI policy waiver request:
  - B.S., Biological and Agricultural Engineering (CIP 14.0301).
  - B.S., Manufacturing Engineering Technology (CIP 15.0613).
  - B.S., Cybersecurity (CIP 43.0404).

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

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS**

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Chair Silvert presented the report and recommendations of the Executive Committee, which met the morning of June 21, 2024. Committee members:

- Reviewed the agenda for the upcoming 2024 Postsecondary Education Trusteeship Conference.
- Discussed the 2024 agency review and how the agency will continue to evolve over the next year.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval several revisions to the Kentucky State University Management Improvement Plan that included: revised deadlines to allow for additional time; more substantive changes to three quarterly objectives that address adjustments to outcomes reflecting current needs or reorganizations; and seven monthly objectives related to accounting and budget reporting and operations.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the rescheduled meeting date for the Committees (November 11, 2024 to November 15, 2024) and the following meeting dates for 2025:
  - ASI & Finance Committee meetings: Jan. 27, Apr. 14, June 9, Sept. 8, Nov. 10.
  - CPE Board Meetings: Jan. 30-31, Apr. 17, June 12-13, Sept. 11-12, Nov. 13-14.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval revisions to the Council bylaws that:
  - Provide clarification of attendance and participation expectations at meetings.
  - Make changes to the provision related to Committees, including removal of the chair as a voting member; the expectation that each member serve on at least one standing committee; the removal of member term limits; and broadening the responsibility of the Executive Committee for items not in the jurisdiction of other Committees at the discretion of the Chair.
  - Provide cleanup of clauses in Section 7 related to the President to remove unnecessary statutory references and include a broader reference to the President's role in CPE's statutory compliance.
  - Provide cleanup of unnecessary language throughout the document.

MOTION: The Executive Committee's recommendation of approval of the accepted and endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Chair Silvert also made the following committee appointments:

- To the Finance Committee, Lindsey Case.
- To the Executive Committee, effective April 15, 2024, Jacob Brown.
- To the Healthcare Workforce Investment Fund Steering Committee and effective May 15, 2024, Timothy Gaillard from the University of Kentucky to replace Amy Mitchell, who resigned in early May.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS**

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Committee Chair Jacob Brown presented the report and recommendations made by the Finance Committee, which met on June 10, 2024. Committee members:

- Received a performance funding update that included a summary of the work group recommendations made to the legislature this past session, how senate bill 191 differed from those recommendations, and the changes that resulted following the passage of that bill. Staff also shared the performance distributions to the institutions for 2024-25, as well as an analysis showing how the model is operating.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the 2024-26 Asset Preservation Pool Guidelines, which were similar to previous year guidelines. Changes reflect dates, funding amounts and campus allocations, and additions and/or revisions address projects that qualify as both asset preservation and space expansion projects that would be more cost effective to raze and replace rather than renovate, and an explanation of how those new provisions would apply.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval a recommendation that the same revisions be applied to the 2022-24 Asset Preservation Pool Guidelines.
- Discussed and endorsed for Council approval the recommendation to delegate authority to CPE staff the review and approval of interim capital projects funded from the asset preservation pool. This change would expedite the reimbursement process, since these projects fit within the definition of projects already approved by the General Assembly.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the proposed tuition and fee rates proposed by five institutions. All proposals complied with the Council's approved ceilings for resident undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees. Additionally, all submitted, proposed tuition and fee charges for nonresident and online students also adhered to Council parameters:
  - Eastern Kentucky University, 1.9%.
  - Morehead State University, 1.9%.
  - Murray State University, 2%.
  - Western Kentucky University, 1.9%.
  - KCTCS, 1.6%.
- Discussed and endorsed for Council approval the recommendation to delegate authority to the CPE president to review and provide final approval authority to the tuition and fee proposal from the University of Louisville, provided their submission falls within Council parameters.

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

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **TUITION AND FEE PROPOSALS – UK AND NKU**

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Mr. Ryan Kaffenberger, Associate Director of Finance and Budget, and Dr. Bill Payne, Vice President of Finance, presented the proposed tuition and mandatory fee proposals for academic year 2024-25 from the University of Kentucky and Northern Kentucky University. Both proposals complied with the Council's approved ceiling for resident undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees. Additionally, all submitted, proposed tuition and fee charges for nonresident and online students also adhered to Council parameters.

- University of Kentucky – Increase its annual base-rate charge for resident undergraduate students by \$290.<sup>00</sup>, or 2.2 percent.
- Northern Kentucky University - Increase its annual base-rate charge for resident undergraduate students by \$192.00, or 1.8 percent.

MOTION: Rev. Akins moved the Council approve the tuition and fee proposals from the University of Kentucky and Northern Kentucky University. Mr. Brown seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY REQUEST**

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Mr. Travis Powell, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, presented the staff's recommendation that the Council delegate to the Executive Committee final approval of new regulations required by Senate Bill 127 to administer the Kentucky Aerospace, Aviation, and Defense Investment Fund.

The bill was created to incentivize collaboration between aviation programs, aviation industry partners, and the Commonwealth to grow and strengthen the education and training pipeline of aviation professionals within Kentucky. It requires CPE to reserve at least 65% of the fund for partnership proposals between aviation programs and aviation industry partners to provide aviation training scholarships to Kentucky residents enrolled in aviation programs. Selected partnership proposals would match contributions from aviation industry partners dollar-for-dollar with monies appropriated to the Fund. In addition, CPE shall reserve up to 35% of the fund for aviation equipment partnership contracts between public aviation programs and aviation industry partners to provide aviation and aviation equipment grants for a public high school vocational program or public postsecondary education institution to maintain, acquire, or lease aviation or aviation equipment.

Administrative regulations will be created for each program to outline the process by which proposals will be submitted and evaluated for awards, in accordance with the requirements of the enacted legislation. Pursuant to the requirements of the bill, CPE shall promulgate regulations by August 1, 2024, and at least 30 days before filing, submit draft regulations to members of the Interim Joint Committee on Education and the Interim Joint Committee on Transportation for review and comment. In order to meet that deadline, staff recommended the Executive Committee be granted final authority to review and approve those regulations on the Council's behalf during a special-called meeting that would take place before August 1, 2024.

MOTION: Mr. Weaver moved the Council designate authority to the Executive Committee for final approval of administrative regulations required by SB 127 to administer the Kentucky Aerospace, Aviation, and Defense Investment Fund. Ms. Hoover seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

#### **ELECTION OF COUNCIL VICE CHAIR**

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Council member Eric Farris served as vice chair from January 2021 through his resignation in early June 2024. His resignation left the position of vice chair vacant through the end of the elected term of January 2025. Chair Silvert opened the floor for nominations to serve as vice chair through the end of the elected term. Ms. Hoover nominated Elaine Walker; there were no other nominations.

MOTION: Rev. Akins moved the Council elect Elaine Walker as vice chair, to serve the remainder of the current term through January 2025. Ms. Rogers seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

#### **DATA SPOTLIGHT: DUAL CREDIT PROMOTES MATRICULATION, SUCCESS AND COMPLETION**

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From CPE's Data and Advanced Analytics unit, Executive Director Travis Muncie, Associate Director Chris Ledford, and Senior Associate Adam Blevins provided an update on the state's efforts to increase participation and access to dual credit opportunities from its latest research on the efficacy of dual credit in Kentucky.

The analysis revealed substantive evidence that dual credit continues to be a great wager for the Commonwealth and its aspiring students. In recent years, dual credit enrollment and hours earned increased over 50 percent. Compared to their peers, dual credit students have been far more likely to matriculate and continue additional postsecondary opportunities.

Further, they have been more academically successful than their college peers and more likely to complete a credential.

### **CAMPUS GOOD NEWS REPORTS**

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Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials. Chair Silvert provided highlights from Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University and the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

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Chair Silvert appointed newly elected vice chair, Elaine Walker, to the CPE Executive Committee.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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The Council adjourned the business meeting at 12 p.m. CT.