

## MEETING MINUTES

*To be reviewed and approved by the Committee on April 14, 2025*

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Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education  
Meeting Type: Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee  
Date: January 27, 2025  
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET  
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

### CALL TO ORDER

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The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Monday, January 27, 2025, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM webinar. Committee Chair Karyn Hoover presided.

### ROLL CALL

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Committee members who attended the meeting: Dr. Kellie Ellis, Dr. Meredith Figg, Sean Garber, Karyn Hoover, LaDonna Rogers and Macy Waddle. Kevin Weaver was unable to attend.

CPE Program Manager, Heather Faesy, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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The minutes of the November 15, 2024, meeting were approved with a revision to note the abstention taken by Meredith Figg during the vote to approve a new academic program at the University of Kentucky.

### CPE PRESIDENT UPDATE

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Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE President, updated the Committee on the upcoming Futuriti website launch and early legislative happenings in the 2025 session.

### PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

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Ms. Sheila Brothers, CPE's Senior Director of Academic Excellence, introduced three new academic programs for review and approval. KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council on Postsecondary Education to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate and professional degree, certificate or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions.

Council staff reviewed the proposed programs and recommended approval.

Master of Science, Applied Behavior Analysis (CIP 42.2814) - Murray State University

Presented by: Dr. Sean Simmons – Associate Professor of School Psychology and Clinical Director of the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders

- The 34-credit hour program will focus on addressing the behavioral needs of individuals, particularly those with developmental disabilities and autism. Through a combination of coursework, supervised practicum experiences and internships, students will work with individuals experiencing mental health issues, developmental disabilities and aging.

MOTION: Dr. Ellis moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed program from Murray State University. Dr. Figg seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Doctor of Philosophy, Biomedical Informatics and Data Science (CIP 26.1103) - University of Kentucky

Presented by: Dr. Justin Miller - Assistant Professor, Pathology/Biomedical Informatics

- The 41-credit hour program will prepare students to computationally analyze large-scale datasets to promote better health for residents of Kentucky and beyond. It is designed to take disease research and clinical care to new levels using advanced computational approaches, including natural language processing, bioinformatics, machine learning and artificial intelligence.

MOTION: Ms. Rodgers moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed program from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Ellis seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed. Dr. Figg abstained from the vote.

Doctor of Philosophy, Translational Bioengineering (CIP 14.0501) - University of Louisville

Presented by: Dr. Patricia Soucy - Associate Professor of Bioengineering and Director of Graduate Studies for the Department of Bioengineering

- The 47-credit hour program will provide multidisciplinary training in translational bioengineering, preparing students to lead research and development in academia, industry and governmental agencies, as well as advance bioengineering technologies through start-up companies or within established biomedical companies. Students will have the option to customize their program of study by selecting one of four specializations (bioelectronics and biomedical devices, bioimaging and biocomputational modeling, biomechanics and rehabilitation, and molecular and tissue engineering) and will further specify one of three tracks (traditional bioengineering research, clinical translational research, and entrepreneurship of bioengineering technologies).

MOTION: Dr. Ellis moved the Committee endorse for final Council approval the proposed program from the University of Louisville. Ms. Rogers seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

#### **KCTCS PROGRAMS APPROVED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 2024 AND JANUARY 2025**

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KRS 164.020 (15) mandates that the Council expedite the approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature. Ms. Brothers presented the three new programs reviewed and approved by the Council between September 2024 and January 2025. No action was required from the Committee.

##### Maysville Community and Technical College

- AAS, Civil Engineering Technology (CIP 15.0201)
- AAS, Electrical Technology (CIP 46.0302)

##### Ashland Community and Technical College

- AAS, Electrical Technology (CIP 46.0302)

#### **ANNUAL REPORT OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMS – ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24**

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Ms. Brothers provided the Committee with a report of the programs approved, closed and reviewed during the 2023-24 academic year.

- A total of 232 new academic programs were approved during the 2023-24 academic year. Of these, four were diplomas, 170 were undergraduate certificates, 32 were postbaccalaureate certificates and four were post-master's certificates, all of which require only staff review.
- Per Council policy, universities submitted their program review reports in July 2024. These reports included a summary of the institutional program review processes, programmatic decisions and plans for the upcoming year. A summary for each institution was provided in the materials.
- During the 2023-24 academic year, Kentucky's public universities reviewed 294 academic programs and provided these recommendations:
  - 72 programs were recommended to grow;
  - 136 programs were recommended to sustain;
  - 48 programs were recommended to be improved; and
  - 29 programs were recommended to close.

No further action was needed by the Committee.

## **FALL 2024 FINAL ENROLLMENT UPDATE**

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Mr. Travis Muncie, Chief Information Officer, and Dr. Chris Ledford, Director of Data and Advanced Analytics, provided an update on final enrollment numbers for fall 2024.

Since fall 2023, enrollment has grown 5 percent across public and private institutions, inclusive of strong growth among dual credit, first-time, underrepresented, adult and first-time adult students. On the whole, Kentucky has equaled or surpassed pre-pandemic enrollment levels. These trends generally hold across sectors. Growth in enrollment among continuing and first-time adults also is a positive indicator. There is a sizable market for postsecondary degrees and credentials among Kentucky adults with no college experience. Sustaining the current enrollment patterns will be critical to reaching Kentucky's 60x30 goal.

## **KENTUCKY STUDENT SUCCESS COLLABORATIVE UPDATE**

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Dr. Lilly Massa-McKinley, Assistant Vice President of the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative, introduced five new staff members that are advancing the state's initiatives on student basic needs, transfer, gateway course success and adult initiatives. She also discussed the upcoming 2025 Student Success Summit taking place on February 10 and 11.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 11:30 a.m., ET.