

MEETING MINUTES

Reviewed and approved by the Committee on January 16, 2024

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee
Date: October 23, 2023
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

CALL TO ORDER

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Monday, October 23, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM webinar. Committee Chair Karyn Hoover presided.

ATTENDANCE

All committee members attended the meeting: Dr. Kellie Ellis, Dr. Meredith Figg, Karyn Hoover, Chloe Marsteller, LaDonna Rogers and Kevin Weaver.

Heather Faesy, CPE's Senior Associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the June 6, 2023, meeting, were approved as distributed.

PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Dr. Melissa Bell, CPE's Vice President of Academic Excellence and Student Success, introduced two 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.

Sports Leadership (B.A.) - CIP 31.0508 – University of Kentucky

Presented by: Justin K. Nichols, Ed.D, Assistant Professor, Program Chair of Sport Leadership MS option in Kinesiology and Health Promotion

- The 120-credit hour program which focuses on leadership across sport and fitness industries through a blend of sport psychology and sport management/leadership. It

will be a transdisciplinary degree across colleges and departments in both the College of Education and the College of Communication and Information that allow students to specialize in specific areas of sport related to communications and socio-cultural issues while also providing a foundation of sport skills as recommended by the Commission on Sport Management Accreditation

Statistics and Data Science (B.S.) - CIP 27.0501 – University of Kentucky

Presented by: Dr. William Rayens, Professor and Chair of the Dr. Bing Zhang Department of Statistics

- The 120-credit hour program will equip students to execute all stages of data analysis, from data acquisition and exploration to application of statistics and machine learning methods for the creation of data products. Graduates will be prepared to enter the workforce directly or enroll in graduate-level programs in statistics.

MOTION: Ms. Rogers moved the Committee approve both proposed programs from the University of Kentucky and recommend final approval by the Council at its November 17, 2023, meeting. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

PRELIMINARY ENROLLMENT FOR FALL 2023

Mr. Travis Muncie, Executive Director of Data and Advanced Analytics, and Mr. Blake Nantz, Senior Associate, presented the preliminary enrollment data for the fall of 2023, which showed impressive year-to-date growth in undergraduate enrollment at public institutions.

- Total undergraduate enrollment at 4-year publics increased 3.1%.
- KCTCS is up 3.6% overall and experienced a 14.9% increase in dual credit enrollment.
- The 4-year publics as a system showed 3.3% increase.
- All institutions showed increases with the exceptions of NKU and KSU.
- Murray State showed 21.7% increase in their first-time undergraduate students.
- KCTCS had an increase of 5.8% in their first-time student count.
- Enrollment of underrepresented minority students total undergraduate enrollment increased by 6.7% at the 4-year publics and 8.7% at KCTCS.

Staff answered questions from the committee on what the data shows regarding the potential for a overall enrollment turnaround for the state.

CPE KYNECTOR PARTNERSHIP WITH CHFS

Dr. Lilly Massa-McKinley, Executive Director of Kentucky's Student Success Collaborative, discussed the new partnership with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (CHFS) to ensure basic student needs are met, thus allowing them to persist through graduation. This is being done by establishing "kynectors" at each of the KCTCS colleges and Kentucky universities. The kynectors are CHFS employees who provide benefit eligibility screening,

application assistance, and referrals to community-based organizations for basic needs support.

As of October 2023, a kynector has been placed at every KCTCS campus to serve full-time and lead outreach to students; promote benefit programs including SNAP (food assistance), CCAP (childcare assistance), KTAP (cash assistance), and Medicaid (healthcare assistance); and serve as a point of contact for all basic needs issues. Currently, kynectors are also dedicating two days per month on university campuses to do outreach and support benefit screening and application assistance.

CPE will be tracking the monthly impact of the kynectors including: number of students receiving outreach, number of students they screen for benefits eligibility, number of students assisted with benefit applications, and the number of new students enrolled in a benefit program (including SNAP, CCAP, KTAP, Medicaid).

Connecting students to benefits such as SNAP ultimately reduces unmet financial need by approximately \$3,000 per year. The impact of benefit participation on retention, completion, and employment/earnings within one year of graduation will also be tracked.

Dr. Massa-McKinley answered questions from the committee members regarding campus-wide training for all advisors on campus on how to direct students needing this service, as well as how to better communication efforts overall.

CLIMB HEALTH INITIATIVE

Dr. Leslie Sizemore, CPE's Assistant Vice President of Workforce Initiatives, provided an overview of the CLIMB Health initiative and how its work will be conducted over the next year. CLIMB Health, which was funded by the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, establishes career ladders in mental and behavioral health for individuals with lived experience in addiction recovery. It promotes higher education led opportunities for workforce re-entry and encourages healing for the Kentucky communities most affected by the effects of drug abuse and addiction.

CLIMB Health focuses on three key components: recovery/re-entry directed pathways, facilitation of relationships between specialty courts and participating campuses, and dedicated infrastructure for distinct educational opportunities available exclusively from CLIMB campuses. The program invites individuals, who have been previously excluded from workforce participation, to capitalize on educational opportunities designed for workforce re-entry into mental and behavioral health professions.

Dr. Sizemore discussed the workforce outlook for occupations and regions associated with this work, the certification career pathways, and how success will be measured. She answered questions regarding how the program is being operationalized on campuses as well as the long-term vision for the program.

COMMONWEALTH EDUCATION CONTINUUM UPDATE

Dr. Amanda Ellis, Vice President of K-12 Policies and Programs, Dr. Robin Hebert, Senior Fellow, and Dr. Kellie Norman, Senior Fellow, provided the annual update on the work of the Commonwealth Education Continuum (CEC). Over the last year, the CEC has continued to seek stakeholder input and use data to address barriers and identify ways to increase transition to postsecondary education. Due to the work of the CEC and leadership of CPE, the agency also received a grant from Education Strategies Group for the Launch program.

Dr. Norman discussed the Launch program which is a national college and career pathways initiative that strives for every learner to have access to and succeed in high-quality and equitable pathways. She discussed the Kentucky cohort's scope and timeline as well as the work groups established to improve alignment to credentials of value, the create seamless transitions between K-12 and postsecondary and workforce, to create individualized advising and career navigation supports, and to advance next generation work-based learning experiences.

ADJOURNMENT

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 11:40 a.m., ET.