

MINUTES

Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Business Meeting
Date: January 29, 2021
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting – Council members by ZOOM teleconference. Public viewing at: <https://youtu.be/n3Z-Kf5qvw>

WELCOMING & CALL TO ORDER

The Council on Postsecondary Education met Friday, January 29, 2021, at 1:00 p.m., ET. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243 and a memorandum issued by the Finance and Administration Cabinet dated March 16, 2020, and in an effort to prevent the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the CPE met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting virtually on the CPE YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/n3Z-Kf5qvw>.

Chair Ben Brandstetter presided.

ATTENDANCE

Members attended: Muhammad Babar, Colby Birkes, Ben Brandstetter, Eric Farris, Kim Halbauer, Lori Harper, Lucas Mentzer, Richard Nelson, Vidya Ravichandran, Robert Staat, Kevin Weaver, Carol Wright, and Commissioner Jason Glass.

Members not in attendance: Ronald Beal, Donna Moore, and Kristi Nelson.

CPE President Aaron Thompson attended the meeting and served as Secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Heather Faesy, CPE's senior associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the November 13, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed.

PROPOSED COUNCIL RESOLUTION

The Council approved a resolution for Michael Carter, President of Campbellsville University, in thanks of his support and service to postsecondary education in Kentucky.

COMMENTS FROM CPE PRESIDENT AARON THOMPSON

President Aaron Thompson provided a written report in the agenda materials. He also thanked his staff for their hard work over the last year during the pandemic, provided a summary on the many initiatives and innovations achieved in the last few years, and discussed various developments during the 2021 Legislative Session and 2021-22 budget.

COMMENTS FROM KDE COMMISSIONER JASON GLASS

Kentucky Department of Education's Commissioner, Jason Glass, provided an update on Kentucky's K-12 schools performance during the pandemic, how annual assessments may be conducted in the spring, and steps the state is taking to ensure students don't fall behind amid non-traditional instruction.

ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT

Committee Chair Lori Harper presented the Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee Report. The Committee met on January 12, 2021 and discussed the development of the next statewide strategic agenda; received a closer look at the Cultural Competency Certification Program that is being developed by CPE staff and will soon be available as a pilot program to Kentucky's campuses and other organizations; and received an update on the research projects that will be released in the coming months, including the annual progress report, a teacher preparation sector analysis; and a second iteration of the Return on Investment Report.

There were no action items from the Committee for recommendation.

COMMITTEE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES – REPORT

Committee Chair Robert Staat presented the Committee on Equal Opportunities report. The Committee met on January 25, 2021 and reviewed the Diversity Plan reporting schedule and discussed how the scoring process might be streamlined. They also reviewed the Cultural Competency Certification Program, and Dr. Dawn Offutt, CPE's Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, provided the Council with

an overview of the program and the potential types of credentials that could be earned upon completion of the program.

Finally, Dr. Staat discussed the membership of the Committee and asked Chair Brandstetter to make formal appointments and reappointments.

Committee Appointments

Chair Brandstetter reappointed David Carpenter and Robert Croft for a term of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023. He also made the new appointments of Rochelle Brown and Terrance Sullivan with terms of January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2023.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Ben Brandstetter presented the Finance Committee Report. The Committee met on December 15, 2021 and discussed the 2021-22 postsecondary education budget priorities and the final decisions of the Postsecondary Education Work Group on Performance Funding. He also reported that the Committee reviewed and approved Murray State University's request for a \$2,000,000 interim capital project to make significant upgrades and repairs to the Lovett Auditorium HVAC system. This action served as final approval authority per the delegation at the November 13, 2020 meeting, and thus no additional action was needed by the Council.

Chair Brandstetter also presented the Committee's recommendation to approve the proposed revisions to the Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy that will guide the development of the ceiling recommendations for the 2021-22 academic year.

MOTION: Ms. Wright moved that the Council accept the Finance Committee's recommendation to approve the proposed revisions to the Tuition and Mandatory Fee Policy. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT

Chair Brandstetter presented the Executive Committee report. The Committee met in December to complete President Aaron Thompson's annual evaluation. The Committee also met in January and received the results of the fiscal year 2019-20 audit results from Blue & Co., PSC, discussed the ongoing development of the

student information portal website, and reviewed the details of the federal stimulus bill that was signed into law in December 2020.

Chair Brandstetter also presented the Committee's recommendation to approve proposed amendments to the following regulations:

- 13 KAR 1:020 - Private College Licensure
- 13 KAR 4:010 - State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement

The necessity for the proposed revisions were due a greater federal focus on state authorization as a requirement to access federal Title 4 student financial aid, increased consumer protection and quality assurance standards, and the additional staff to conduct the necessary work.

Approval of the action would authorize staff to file the proposed administrative regulation, and authorize Vice President and General Counsel, pursuant to KRS 13A.290(4) and KRS 13A.320(1)(b), to make such changes on behalf of the Council as necessary to comply with KRS Chapter 13A and obtain adoption by the Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee and the Interim Joint Committee on Education.

MOTION: Ms. Harper moved that the Council accept the Executive Committee's recommendations of approval. Mr. Farris seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Committee member Carol Wright presented the Nominating Committee report. The Nominating Committee met on December 7 and 16, 2020 to discuss and recommend members to serve as chair and vice chair of the CPE for a one year term, per the bylaws. After seeking out nominations and expressions of interest, the Committee unanimously agreed to nominate Ben Brandstetter for re-election as Chair, and Kim Halbauer for re-election as Vice Chair.

MOTION: Mr. Nelson moved that the Council elect Ben Brandstetter as Chairperson and Kim Halbauer as Vice Chairperson for the 2021 calendar year. Ms. Ravichandran seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

CAMPUS “GOOD NEWS” REPORTS

Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials.

OTHER BUSINESS

On January 28 and 29, 2021, the Council received the annual statewide data briefing from CPE staff and the campus data briefings from the four-year university presidents and KCTCS’s president. Despite a spring semester marred by COVID-19, graduation and retention rates continued to climb at Kentucky’s public universities last year, and the net cost of attending college held mostly steady across the state; however the continued trend regarding declining enrollment was a shared concern among the campus presidents and Council members.

In response, Mr. Mentzer proposed the Council approve a resolution to call on education leaders across the state to take decisive steps to combat a drop in college enrollment, especially in the aftermath of COVID-19. The proposed language was shared and Council members discussed several ways to clarify and strengthen its intent.

MOTION: Mr. Mentzer moved that the Council delegate the final review and approval of the resolution to the Executive Committee, which would meet on February 4, 2021. Mr. Nelson seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 2:45 p.m. ET.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL: April 16, 2021