

**Council on Postsecondary Education  
February 11, 2010**

**Eastern Kentucky University  
Radio Transmission and Cell Phone Tower**

**ACTION:** The staff recommends that the Council approve the request of Eastern Kentucky University to construct a radio transmission and cell phone tower on the university's main campus with \$750,000 of federal funds and \$750,000 of institutional funds. The total project scope is \$1,500,000.

Eastern Kentucky University proposes to construct a radio transmission and cell phone tower using \$750,000 of federal funds and \$750,000 of institutional funds. The tower will be located on EKU's south campus. The total project cost is \$1,500,000. The Eastern Kentucky University Board of Regents approved the project at its January 25, 2010, meeting.

The Council has the statutory responsibility to review and approve postsecondary education capital projects costing \$600,000 or more, regardless of fund source, that have been approved by an institution's governing board. Since the estimated cost of this project exceeds the \$600,000 threshold, the Council and the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee must approve the project before it is initiated. During the interim, capital projects are evaluated under the requirements established by KRS 45.760(14) and KRS 45.763.

This project will construct a 1,000-foot-tall transmission tower that will collaboratively serve EKU, prospective cell leases, the Kentucky State Police, and other users. The project is scheduled to be completed by 2012. The project requires interim authorization because the federal grant has become available after the 2010-12 budget request process was completed in November 2009 and to allow the university time to properly design the tower construction, go through the project bid process, award a contract, and complete the work. The project will result in an improvement to state-owned property with ownership of the improvements to accrue to the university at completion.

Eastern Kentucky University states that funding for the project will come from a federal grant and institutional restricted funds. The university further confirms that the federal grant funds are available to implement the project. The cost of operations and maintenance for this project is provided by the university and does not represent a demand on the General Fund.

The project meets the requirement of KRS 45.760(14) that the source of funds be at least 50 percent federal or private. The university does not anticipate debt financing any portion of

this project, thus, the provisions of KRS 45.763 do not apply. The Eastern Kentucky University Capital Project Management Division will implement the project in collaboration with the Division of Facilities Management of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, and the university will pay the operations and maintenance.

Following Council approval, the staff will forward the Council's recommendation to the secretary of the Finance and Administration Cabinet and to the Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee.