

Call to Order

The P-16 Council convened March 12, 2008, at 9 a.m. ET at the Council on Postsecondary Education, Meeting Room A, Frankfort, Kentucky. Chair Jeanne Ferguson presided.

Roll Call and Introductions

Members present: Annette Bridges, James Cibulka, Bradford Cowgill, Jo Carole Ellis for Edward Cunningham, Jon Draud, Dale Duvall, Jeanne Ferguson, Judith Gibbons, Sarah Hawker, John Marks, Helen Mountjoy, Phillip Rogers, Beth Smith, and Mark Wattier. Members absent: Virginia Fox, Phyllis Maclin, and David Rhodes.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 12, 2007, meeting were approved as presented.

Chair Ferguson introduced Alyson Klein, a reporter for *Education Week*. Various P-16 Council members and staff met prior to the council meeting with Ms. Klein and researchers from the *National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education* and the *Education Commission of the States*. These organizations are jointly conducting a study of P-16 (and P-20) councils across the country, and Kentucky was one of three states selected for a site visit as part of this research.

Report of the Secretary of the Education Cabinet

Secretary of Education Helen Mountjoy gave a brief report. She commented on budget matters, including the fact that education agencies received encouraging news related to budget. The House put a high priority for restoring areas that had been cut from the budget and announced it would try to engage in a few new initiatives. These steps are small and tentative. She said that it is extremely encouraging that both the Executive Cabinet and the House of Representatives have indicated that their highest priority is to fund education at all levels. She said that after this legislative session ends, the focus of education will be on relationships and the importance of ensuring that all levels of education function together as a cohesive system.

P-20 Database and Budget Issues

Brad Cowgill, interim president for the Council on Postsecondary Education, and Dr. Jon Draud, commissioner of the Kentucky Department of Education, gave an update on the P-20 database. Mr. Cowgill said that CPE strongly supports getting the student identifier onto high school transcripts. CPE and KDE staff agree that they will work together toward the goals of a consistent accessible database available between both agencies. Commissioner Draud added that the Cabinet and all its agencies are committed to improving education at every level. All of education, including the P-16 Council, is benefiting from having a very progressive and knowledgeable chair in the Appropriations and Revenue Committee. KDE is hopeful that some new initiatives in secondary education will be funded. Mr. Cowgill reported that the \$126 million in proposed cuts to postsecondary institutions' budgets was restored by the House. The updated budget that included some funds restored was a very positive and encouraging step for postsecondary and adult education.

***Review: Kentucky
Chamber of Commerce
Task Force on
Postsecondary Education***

Last spring the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce convened a task force of 25 business leaders from across the state led by Vic Staffieri, president of E.ON U.S. The group assessed Kentucky's progress toward achieving the goals established in the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997* ("House Bill 1"). The task force concluded its work and released a report December 4, 2007. David Adkisson, president of the Chamber, presented an overview of the task force findings and recommendations. The full report can be found at this Web link:

<http://www.kychamber.com/docs/governmentaffairs/postsecondaryreort.pdf>.

One of the top two issues reported by Chamber members is the ability to attract and retain a talented workforce. The Chamber is interested in helping to have a constructive impact on education at all levels.

In its study, the Chamber contracted with the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, which was involved in constructing the postsecondary education reform in 1997. The task force held 18 meetings throughout the state. Each site had a meeting open to the public and another for educators. Mr. Adkisson highlighted the report's focus on the importance of financial aid and the need for continued examination of the "pipeline issues" leading to postsecondary enrollment and success. These include the need for greater consistency in the awarding of dual and transfer credit and consensus regarding assessments that indicate readiness for postsecondary study and the skilled workplace.

Barriers to progress were discussed and included:

- Lack of alignment. Although progress has been made, alignment does not exist between and among all levels, such as inconsistent policies governing the transferability of credits earned at KCTCS institutions to universities.
- Weak links between postsecondary education and state and regional economic development. In addition to getting more students through the education pipeline to degrees, the state must create jobs that keep and attract college-educated residents.
- Inadequate policy coordination, discipline, and accountability. These three are necessary if Kentucky is to achieve the goals of HB 1.
- Affordability. Students and families are bearing a higher percentage of the cost of postsecondary education.
- Comparatively low productivity. Kentucky produces comparatively fewer bachelor's degrees for the level of funding than other states.

Recommendations to the Governor and General Assembly were discussed and included:

- Reaffirm Kentucky's commitment to achieve House Bill 1 goals by 2020.
- Redefine the overall goal for Kentucky to shape a comprehensive, integrated strategy to develop a seamless (P-20) education system, beginning with early childhood through elementary and secondary education, postsecondary education, and adult and lifelong learning.

- Make the partnership between postsecondary education and community and economic development a priority.
- Recommit to the budget framework originally established in the 1997 act.
- Guarantee affordable access to postsecondary education for all qualified Kentuckians.
- Re-establish a mechanism to ensure full participation of the Governor and General Assembly in shaping the strategic agenda for achieving the goals of the 1997 reforms and the related Double the Numbers goals and for developing a strategic budget necessary to achieve these goals.
- Re-establish the CPE as an independent policy leadership group outside the Education Cabinet with direct access to the Governor and to leadership across state government.

Recommendations to the Chamber of Commerce include:

- Establish an entity charged with monitoring progress of reform and gaining support of the Governor and General Assembly for sustaining reform.
- Support a renewed public campaign focusing on the value of education.
- Encourage local groups to create strategic plans regarding economic and human capital development.
- Sponsor an annual summit on the status of reform and progress toward the 2020 goals.

Dr. Jim Applegate said that CPE will soon release a policy brief on transfer, which will address the issues related to transfer raised in the report.

Dr. Wattier said that the P-16 Council should focus time at subsequent meetings to discuss the recommendations of the report and their implication for P-16 Council work.

Commissioner Draud said that he would convene a task force of educators, legislators, and other experts to examine alignment and assessment issues. Secretary Mountjoy also emphasized the need for reengagement of the business community in education at both the K-12 and postsecondary levels, noting that the Chamber's task force, like those that initially supported the *Kentucky Education Reform Act of 1990* and the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997*, comprised employers from across the state and marshaled support for both policy changes and funding.

***Focus on Local
P-16 Councils***

In response to Chair Ferguson's request to devote a state council meeting to local councils, representatives of the following 14 local P-16 councils shared their respective accomplishments and challenges:

- Appalachian Regional P-16+ Council (Dale Duvall)
- Big Sandy Regional P-16 Council (Bill Duke)
- Bluegrass Area P-16+ Council (Rebecca Simms)
- Central Kentucky Area P-16 Council (Gary Perkins)
- Southeast Area P-16 Council (Gary Perkins)
- Kentucky River Area P-16 Council (Ron Daley)
- Lincoln Trail Area P-16 Council (Thelma White)

- Greater Louisville Workforce/Education Initiative (Tony Newberry)
- Maysville Partners for Student Success (Ed Story)
- Murray State Regional P-16 Council (W.A. Franklin)
- Northern Kentucky Council of Partners in Education (Barbara Stonewater)
- Greater Owensboro Alliance for Education (Secretary Mountjoy for Fred Reeves)
- Pennyriple Area P-20 Council (James Selbe)
- Purchase Area P-16 Council (Alvin Moore)
- Warren Area P-16 Council (Dale Brown)

Initiatives ranged from convening teams of faculty and teachers in specific disciplines, to dual credit and transfer guarantees for both traditional students and adult learners, to increased engagement of employers in supporting programs and professionally developing educators at all levels. During the discussion of teacher preparation issues, Phillip Rogers, executive director of the Education Professional Standards Board, offered to attend local council meetings to discuss teacher preparation, including redesign of the master's program, the principals' preparation program, and the task force working on mathematics preparation of elementary school teachers.

Commissioner Draud suggested that the P-16 Council adopt two or three goals for the year to focus local P-16 council work. For example, staff could coordinate and ask that all local P-16 councils work on alignment for the year. It was pointed out that local councils began with flexibility in structure, leadership, and focus of agenda. Few of the local councils have assembled around a single statewide issue—most are activity-driven and focused on local agenda.

Some local councils reported initial or continuing challenges in convening all the necessary stakeholders, sustaining participation over time, and finding the optimal structure. Many noted the need for some state resources to provide both sustained staffing and accountability in meeting state goals. While the executive director of the Northern Kentucky Council is paid without state funds, most local councils do not have paid staff dedicated to the council's work. The Kentucky local P-16 initiative began with a total of \$100,000 in seed money from the General Assembly and is sustained by funding from the CPE and Kentucky Adult Education. Funding for local council staff was included in the CPE's 2008 budget request but was not included in the current budget being considered.

The most successful local councils have been able to create a cultural change in their communities by making the connection between educational attainment and economic development and engaging educators and employers.

***Engaging the Business
Community***

Aaron Cox, executive director of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce Executives, reviewed local chamber programs and initiatives and discussed how local chambers can work with local councils to support the P-16 agenda. The KCCE conducted a survey of activities in the community and found that businesses are highly engaged in the community. By knowing their

communities, businesses are better addressing regional needs, utilizing resources effectively, and having a regional impact.

A goal of the Chamber is to increase educational attainment and the quality of life for Kentuckians. To get a complete picture, the KCCE survey had to look at the whole pipeline. The survey asked employers about their employee education programs, including what fundamental skills they were seeking, whether facilities were adequate to train employees, and what policies related to training and education were in place.

***ACT/EPAS January
Regional Workshops***

Chris Powell, policy advisor, KDE Office of Assessment and Accountability, gave a report on the January 2008 ACT/EPAS regional workshops, which were sponsored by KDE. Six workshops were conducted throughout the Commonwealth during the months of January and February. The workshops were designed to teach district staff how to interpret and use eight-grade EXPLORE and tenth-grade PLAN assessment results to prepare students for the ACT administration, which would be administered in March for the first time statewide to all public high school juniors. Local school superintendents were invited to send a district team to a full-day workshop. The teams were to be composed of an administrator, a counselor, and a lead teacher from middle or high school. After receiving the training, each team was expected to lead comparable workshops for colleagues in their district.

At the January workshops, representatives of the CPE, the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, and the KDE discussed how EXPLORE, PLAN, and the ACT would prepare Kentucky students for postsecondary education and why this was important. The district teams heard from Joe Dell Brasel, Kentucky's consultant from ACT, about the College Readiness Standards and College Readiness Benchmarks and helped participants relate those to their own student and school reports.

During the afternoon session, the school administrators met with representatives of the Office of Leadership and School Improvement. The counselors met with representatives from secondary education to learn how to integrate the EPAS data, the Individual Learning Plan, and a strong advising program. Teachers met with KDE's Division of Curriculum Development staff to study evidence of ACT's College Readiness Standards in Kentucky's Program of Studies.

Dual Credit Task Force

Linda Pittenger of KDE gave a brief update on the Interagency Dual Credit Task Force recommendations. At its June 2007 meeting, the State P-16 Council reviewed the preliminary report of the Dual Credit Task Force. The task force delivered the final report and recommendations to the Kentucky Board of Education in August 2007. The recommendations involve issues under the authority of KBE, CPE, and EPSB. KDE staff is developing a plan that will include roles, responsibilities, timelines, and regulation implications of the recommendations.

Kentucky Adult Learner

Melissa Bell, senior associate, Council on Postsecondary Education, briefed Council members on the Kentucky Adult Learner Initiative. The initiative is funded with a grant from the Lumina Foundation for Education. The purpose of KALI is to create a comprehensive framework for adult learner policies and to increase the responsiveness of campuses to the needs of adult learners.

CPE kicked off the initiative with a summit held in Lexington February 4-5, 2008. The summit included several national experts in the adult learner field. Concurrent sessions focused on developing supporting learning environments, financial aid, university-independent sector partnerships, marketing, and adult learner infrastructure issues. Important policy issues identified at the summit include: credit for prior learning, faculty and staff buy-in and professional development, role of the business community, financial aid, alignment of assessment measures, and developmental education.

CPE staff is working with stakeholders to create work groups to address policy issues and with public institutions to assess how their campuses are adult-friendly.

Other Business

Suggested topics for future Council meetings:

- Recommendations of the Chamber report and implications for P-16 work
- Dual credit
- Early childhood
- STEM and Developmental Education Task Force recommendations

The next State P-16 Council meeting is June 10, 2008.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Dianne M. Bazell, Assistant Vice President
Academic Affairs
Council on Postsecondary Education

Jerry Ann Warmouth, Executive Secretary
Academic Affairs
Council on Postsecondary Education