MINUTES
Council on Postsecondary Education
February 26, 2008

The Council on Postsecondary Education met in a special meeting Tuesday, February 26, 2008, at 1:30 p.m. (ET) at the Council offices in Frankfort, Kentucky. Chair Turner presided.

ROLL CALL

The following members attended: Walter Baker, Kevin Canafax, Dan Flanagan, Virginia Fox (participated via Internet2 from the University of Arizona), Phyllis Maclin, Donna Moore, Lisa Osborne, Ryan Quarles, Jim Skaggs, John Turner, Mark Wattier, Joe Weis, and Jon Draud. Peggy Bertelsman, John Hall, and Alois Moore did not attend.

KENTUCKY ADULT LEARNER SUMMIT

CPE Interim President Brad Cowgill reported on the success of the Kentucky Adult Learner Summit held February 4 and 5 in Lexington. Governor Beshear addressed over 250 representatives of Kentucky's public and independent colleges, outlining his support for the Council's goal to double the number of college graduates by 2020 and emphasizing the importance of reaching out to working adults to earn their college degree. The summit brought national and state experts together with Kentucky's college and university leaders to discuss the barriers that adult learners face in pursuing a college degree and ways that postsecondary institutions can better serve them. Mr. Cowgill thanked the Council staff for their work in organizing the summit.

STEM TASK FORCE

Mr. Cowgill also reported that the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Task Force met February 6 in Frankfort to review reports developed by seven study groups which have been working since the task force report was released in early 2007. The study group reports, each focused on one of the task force's seven recommendations, provide a detailed and coordinated blueprint to improve Kentucky's performance in the STEM disciplines. The meeting was co-sponsored by the Council, the Midwestern Higher Education Compact, and the Council of State Governments' Midwestern Office with funding from Lumina Foundation for Education. Dr. Pearse Lyons, president of Alltech, gave the keynote luncheon address, and a legislative discussion panel featuring Senator Dan Kelly, Senator Ken Winters, and Representative Harry Moberly addressed current and proposed STEM legislation. Mr. Cowgill thanked Allyson Handley for her work with the STEM Task Force and offered best wishes as Dr. Handley leaves the Council staff to become the president of the University of Maine at Augusta.

P-16 DATA EXCHANGE

Mr. Cowgill reported on progress since the last Council meeting on linking K-12 and postsecondary data in the Commonwealth. Commissioner Draud has instructed superintendents across the state to include each student's identification number on his or her high school transcript. This will enable the agencies to connect student high school performance and course-taking

patterns with postsecondary performance and is a crucial first step in developing P-20 data and research capacity.

COLLEGE PRICE AND FINANCIAL AID

The Council heard a presentation on college price and student financial aid, which showed that while postsecondary education is a more productive investment than ever before, tuition and other college costs have grown more rapidly than family income. This trend creates concerns about college access for low-income families and increasing levels of student debt. The presentation, an update of the Council's 2005 affordability study conducted by JBL Associates, Inc., also showed that the Kentucky Educational Excellence Scholarship (KEES) and institutional aid are major funding sources for students of all financial means. This finding emphasizes the importance of sustained funding for these programs, as funding cuts would impact students similarly to a tuition increase.

The data presentation was followed by a discussion of financial aid trends and potential policy implications with national expert Dr. Sandy Baum. Dr. Baum is the senior policy analyst for student aid and postsecondary education finance at The College Board and professor of economics at Skidmore College in Sarasota Springs, New York. At The College Board, Dr. Baum produces the annual Trends in Student Aid, Trends in College Pricing, and Education Pays publications.

Ed Cunningham and Jo Carole Ellis with the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority provided an overview of current issues relating to the state's grant, scholarship, and loan programs and the implications for students should state and federal funding for these programs not be sustained.

Representatives of some of the institutions provided information on the impact of student financial aid programs introduced during the 2007-08 tuition approval process. The institutions were asked to provide this information to help inform the Council's discussions of college price, financial aid, and tuition policy.

TUITION POLICY AND PROCESS

RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the Council approve the 2008-09 tuition policy and the 2008-09 tuition and mandatory fee proposal.

John Hayek with the Council staff said that over the past several months the Council staff has worked to broaden the scope of the 2006-08 tuition policy to include additional objectives such as productive use of resources, recognition of the shared benefits of higher education to the state and individuals, and shared responsibility for funding. In addition, the Council staff created a tuition proposal that consolidates data and information requested in the past which is intended to provide a better understanding of the sources and uses of tuition revenue generated from proposed increases in tuition and fee rates. In 2006-08, the Council staff developed a

Technical Guide for 2006-08 Tuition and Fee Parameters, which established maximum parameters for tuition and fee charges based upon various funding adequacy and affordability indicators. Due to increased uncertainty regarding the level of state General Fund appropriations for 2008-10, and in recognition of the state's austere budgetary environment, the staff did not include parameters in the 2008-09 tuition policy. Instead, public postsecondary tuition and fee charges for 2008-09 will be established through a tuition proposal, hearing, and approval process involving the institutions and the Council. Information and data provided by the institutions using the tuition proposal will be used by the Council staff and Council members to evaluate tuition rate increases. Institutions will present information from the proposal at institutional tuition hearings. Following the hearings and a review of the proposals, the Council will then take action on 2008-09 tuition rates.

MOTION: Mr. Quarles moved that the recommendation be approved. Mr. Weis seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

DOCTORATES IN EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends the approval of the proposals from Eastern Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, and Western Kentucky University to offer an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership contingent upon the following:

(1) The submission of a report to the Council by October 1, 2008, outlining the details of the seamless transfer articulation agreements among the universities as referenced in the Collaborative Efforts in Offering the Ed.D. in Educational Leadership Memorandum of Understanding included in the proposals. This report will be considered for acceptance by the Council at its November 2008 meeting.

(2) Successful annual reviews of progress conducted by the external review committee that show commitment to meeting the recommendations included in the review committee's executive summary, and in the review committee's evaluations of each individual proposal. In addition, a full review at the end of three years will be conducted of all public university Ed.D. programs to ensure the viability, sustainability, and effectiveness of the programs.

(3) Evidence in the annual reviews that each program is on track to be financially self-sufficient by the time it is fully implemented. EKU indicates its program will be fully implemented by year five. NKU indicates self-sufficiency by year three. WKU indicates that its program will be fully implemented by year five.

(4) The Council directs each institution granting an Ed.D. to collect and to report annually to the Council staff information on the placement of all its graduates. The Council also directs each institution awarding an Ed.D. to evaluate whether these educational leaders have helped to improve student achievement in Kentucky. Finally, the Council directs the Council staff to incorporate information from these institutional reports in reports to the Council (e.g., the High School Feedback Report) and to the legislature (e.g., the annual accountability report).

In July 2007, the Council approved a set of comprehensive and rigorous criteria for the review of proposals for doctoral degrees in educational leadership at Kentucky's comprehensive universities. These criteria were the culmination of two years of reflection and study on how the comprehensive universities could expand their offerings in the area of educational leadership to have a positive impact on P-12 student achievement and the economy in their regions.

As directed in that action, the Council staff formed an external review committee to evaluate the proposals in three areas: program design, program content, and capacity. The review committee conducted interviews with representatives from each campus and found that all of the proposed programs stress regional stewardship and focus on improving student achievement and the economy in their areas of geographic responsibility. They are all focused on the long-term strengthening of the workforce through improvements in the educational system at all levels. The initial resources invested in these programs are investments in the future of the regions. In particular, EKU plans to focus on rural leadership issues; NKU emphasizes the role of the Ed.D. in the implementation of its regional strategic plan, Vision 2015; and WKU focuses on the university taking greater responsibility for P-12 student achievement in its region.

The review committee indicated that all three programs show great promise for the future of programs in educational leadership in Kentucky. The proposed programs embrace new and nontraditional ways of preparing instructional leaders and are aligned with the work of the Education Professional Standards Board's Education Leadership Redesign Task Force created by the 2006 General Assembly in House Joint Resolution 14. Along with the recommendations that apply to each proposed program, the review committee made several recommendations specific to each institution. These items must be addressed as part of the annual reviews conducted per the contingent approval of the programs. In addition, at the conclusion of the three-year review, the Council may ask the institutions to provide an assessment of the impact of their new graduates on the performance of the schools in which they serve.

The intensive and rigorous process has resulted in three proposed programs that address the needs of the proposing institutions' respective regions, as well as the needs of Kentucky as a whole. While the programs will be

expected to show progress in transferability and sustainability, the institutions have made a diligent and committed effort to address the issues of concern expressed by the Council throughout the process. The institutions have indicated that given the priority they have placed on these programs they can, even in the current difficult financial climate, reallocate funds to support the launch of the programs.

NKU President Jim Votruba thanked the Council and the staff for developing the process for offering these programs. He said that once again Kentucky is in a position to provide national leadership in this area.

MOTION: Dr. Wattier moved that the recommendation be approved. Ms. Maclin seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

NEW PROGRAMS

RECOMMENDATION: The staff recommends that the Council approve the Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication and Journalism (CIP 09.0499) proposed by Kentucky State University.

MOTION: Ms. Maclin moved that the recommendation be approved. Mr. Quarles seconded the motion.

Mr. Baker encouraged KSU to work collaboratively with WKU since WKU's journalism program is nationally recognized.

VOTE: The motion passed.

BAKER RESIGNATION

Mr. Baker resigned from the Council due to the statutory requirement for Council membership to have proportional representation of the two leading political parties. Mr. Baker said that he appreciates the opportunity which two governors have given him to serve on the Council. He said that over the past decade the Council has shared in the satisfaction of putting Kentucky on the cutting edge of postsecondary education reform. He said that the maintenance of these advances shall constitute the challenge for the coming years. Mr. Baker's resignation was effective February 28, 2008.

Mr. Turner read a resolution recognizing Mr. Baker's 40 years of public service to the Commonwealth.

MOTION: Mr. Quarles moved that the resolution be accepted. Ms. Fox seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

FUNDING RESOLUTION

Mr. Turner read a resolution that calls for the General Assembly and the Governor to identify sufficient revenue sources to resolve state budget deficits. Under the current proposed budget, the postsecondary and adult education system is facing a 12 percent budget reduction, in addition to the 3 percent cut in the current year. A cut of this magnitude would shackle Kentucky's progress toward the goals of higher education reform legislation, which includes enrolling and graduating more students, expanding research, and increasing per capita income. The resolution states the proposed budget cuts will likely result in higher tuition and diminished financial aid, impairing student access and affordability. Through this resolution the Council is urging state leaders to recognize education as the long-term solution to many social and economic problems plaguing the Commonwealth, rather than an added financial burden. Sustained, adequate investment in postsecondary and adult education will result in increased revenue, reduced health care costs, and less unemployment, and thus improved quality of life for all Kentuckians.

Mr. Baker said that without additional funding coming from the General Assembly, the state will be condemned to maintenance of mediocrity and he hopes that the Council will not allow this to happen to Kentucky.

MOTION: Mr. Canafax moved that the resolution be approved. Mr. Quarles seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

NEXT MEETING

The next Council meeting is April 14, 2008.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Bradford L. Cowgill

Bradford L. Cowgill
Interim President

Phyllis L. Bailey

Phyllis L. Bailey
Senior Associate, Executive Relations