MINUTES
Council on Postsecondary Education
May 23, 2008

The Council on Postsecondary Education met Friday, May 23, 2008, at 10 a.m. (ET) at the Council offices in Frankfort, Kentucky. Vice Chair Dan Flanagan presided in Chair Turner's absence due to a family illness.

The following members attended: Peggy Bertelsman, Dan Flanagan, John Hall, Phyllis Maclin (via interactive television from Paducah Community and Technical College), Donna Moore, Lisa Osborne, Ryan Quarles, Jim Skaggs, Mark Wattier, Joe Weis, and Jon Draud. Kevin Canafax and John Turner did not attend.

The minutes of these meetings were approved as distributed: April 13 CPE dinner meeting, April 14 CPE meeting, April 30 special CPE meeting, May 8 CPE dinner meeting, May 9 special CPE meeting.

Mr. Skaggs, chair of the Interim President Search Committee, thanked Ms. Bertelsman and Mr. Canafax for serving on the committee and for their support in the search for an interim president. He also thanked the Council staff who had been extremely cooperative, helpful, and supportive of the committee's task. He thanked the university presidents who provided special guidance and service and said that the committee's first conversations were with the presidents. He said that as the search took shape, requested information from many sources added insight and thoroughness of the search. The committee consulted with all of the public presidents and Gary Cox with the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities as well as with national higher education leaders to get suggestions for interim president candidates as well as to gain insights on the essential skill sets that were most needed for the person filling this position. As the search evolved, the committee conducted the necessary search required, finally speaking with certain individuals who met this criteria. Mr. Skaggs added that the committee is recommending that the interim president cannot be a candidate for the permanent presidency. The Interim President Search Committee met May 20 and decided to recommend Richard A. Crofts as interim president.

Dr. Crofts answered several questions posed by the Council members related to his background and work experience.

MOTION: On behalf of the Interim President Search Committee, Mr. Skaggs moved that Richard A. Crofts be appointed as interim president of the Council on Postsecondary Education and authorized the Council's Executive Committee to execute a contract with Dr. Crofts. Ms. Bertelsman seconded the motion.

VOTE: A roll call vote was taken. The motion passed with all members present voting yes.

Dr. Crofts, a 1962 Georgetown College graduate, described higher education as his lifelong calling. He said that Kentucky is highly regarded across the nation and he looks forward to contributing to this important work. Dr. Crofts holds a doctorate in reformation history from Duke University. He most recently served as interim commissioner of higher education in Mississippi and has held positions as commissioner and deputy commissioner of higher education of the Montana University System, assistant to the chancellor of the Minnesota State University System, a commissioner of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, and a member of the executive committee of the State

Higher Education Executive Officers. He has served in many capacities on university campuses, serving as vice president of academic affairs at Mankota State University, associate vice president for research and dean of the graduate school at East Tennessee State University, and department chair and full professor at the University of Toledo.

Mr. Hall reported that the Presidential Search Committee issued a request for proposals for search firms May 15. The deadline for submissions is June 4. The committee will meet June 9 to review submissions and hopes to select a search firm by June 30.

Sherron Jackson with the Council staff reported that the Committee on Equal Opportunities adopted at its April 21 meeting the *System Report 2003-06: The Kentucky Plan for Equal Opportunities*. The report shows that Kentucky's public colleges and universities have made steady progress in improving the status of African Americans in postsecondary education and highlights progress on seven objectives for public universities and four objectives for KCTCS related to increasing the enrollment, retention, graduation, and employment of African Americans. Key findings of the report include:

- The enrollment of African American undergraduates increased from an average of 7.0 percent in 1982 to 8.3 percent in 2006, surpassing the representation of African Americans in the total Kentucky population (7.3 percent).
- The enrollment of African Americans in graduate and professional school has experienced steady growth, but not in sufficient numbers to build the education pipeline needed in Kentucky, particularly in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math.
- While challenges exist in retaining first-year students, the rate of retention of all African American undergraduates in the system has consistently grown, increasing from 71.5 percent in 2001 to 76.1 percent in 2005.
- The share of bachelor's degrees awarded to African Americans increased from 4.4 percent of the total in 1979-80 to 6.5 percent in 2005-06. While graduation rates of African Americans have gradually increased, the system graduated no more than 37.7 percent of the African Americans enrolled between 2002 and 2006.
- Representation of African Americans in the highest level of employment at postsecondary institutions increased 9.6 percent from 2001 to 2006. The largest increase was among professional staff, which grew from 6.7 percent of the total in 2001 to 7.9 percent in 2006. African Americans continue to have a relatively small representation among faculty.

The Council and the postsecondary institutions have multiple programs underway to continue the progress of African Americans in Kentucky's higher education system:

- A statewide diversity study, commissioned by the Council in March 2007, is being conducted by the Harvard Civil Rights Project. The final report on the study is expected to be completed by June 30, 2008.
- The Council's Committee on Equal Opportunities oversees Kentucky's desegregation and equal opportunities plans for postsecondary education. The Committee reviews progress and makes recommendations for equal opportunities policy improvements to the Council.
- The Governor's Minority Student College Preparation Program (GMSCPP) provides academic enrichment activities for middle and junior high school minority students to help prepare and encourage them to go to college. Of 580 GMSCPP participants from the 2002-03 and 2003-04 program, a total of 120 participants (20.7 percent) enrolled in college courses after graduating. In addition, 43 of the 120 students enrolled in dual credit programs as high school students.

- The Academically Proficient African American High School Junior and Senior Conference gives Kentucky's public and independent colleges and universities an opportunity to recruit academically promising students early in their junior and senior year. Participation at this conference reached an all-time high in 2007 with 300 African American juniors and seniors and 100 parents attending.
- Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federally funded program that targets middle school students in low-income schools to help them prepare for college through a variety of services including extra instruction, college visits, mentoring, training for school personnel, and information for parents.
- The Southern Regional Education Board's Doctoral Scholars Program provides minority doctoral scholars with academic, personal, and financial support while earning their Ph.D. and assists with job placement after graduation. Since its inception, Kentucky's Doctoral Scholars Program has served 79 students. As of October 2007, the program has produced 34 graduates with 37 students currently enrolled. Kentucky public and independent colleges and universities also have access to over 400 program scholars for recruitment into faculty or administrative positions on their campus.

Mr. Jackson said that the CEO chair is working with the CPE chair to plan a joint meeting to receive the final report from the Harvard Civil Rights Project on the diversity study. That document would then become the foundation from which the Council staff and the institutions would develop diversity plans that reflect the needs of the individual institutions that would incorporate all ethnic minorities in Kentucky into a more broadly implemented diversity planning process for the Commonwealth. It would recognize the fact that Kentucky has made steady progress but there are things that continue to be done. This new approach would be the basis under which Kentucky will be able to make additional progress to equal opportunity and access to postsecondary education. The diversity planning process would be very supportive of the 2020 goals that the Council has established to double the number of graduates by year 2020

Ms. Maclin encouraged the Council members to attend the joint CEO/CPE meeting so they are better equipped to understand the challenges that continue to lie ahead for African Americans and other minorities in pursing postsecondary education in Kentucky.

Commissioner Draud reported on the work of the Kentucky Board of Education. Like the Council, the board is struggling with budget reductions for school districts as well as the agency budget. He has been impressed by the work of the Blue Ribbon Committee that is studying intervention strategies that have been successful in overcoming many of the obstacles to learning. He is establishing a task force to examine student assessment. The group will be composed of various education organizations and members of the General Assembly and will be facilitated by the Southern Regional Education Board. The task force will complete its work by the end of the year and plans to bring recommendations on assessment to the 2009 session of the General Assembly. He has appointed a committee to look at transportation issues. Governor Beshear recently appointed five new board members, and Mr. Draud is optimistic that the board will work together to help the children of Kentucky.

John Hayek, the Council's interim vice president for finance, reviewed a summary of the enacted, partially vetoed, and amended 2008-10 executive branch budget bill (HB 406). He said that probably the most significant amendment for postsecondary education was an additional $7.5 million to support translational research at the University of Louisville which was included in HB 514 which amended HB 406. He said that everyone should understand that the state is in a different economic environment now than last fall when the postsecondary and adult education budget recommendation

was presented to the Governor and the General Assembly. Information was provided on the difference between the Council's recommendation and what was eventually enacted and the net amounts allocated to the institutions. HB 406 included a 3 percent cut to the Council's core agency operations for FY09 and FY10. This is in addition to the 3 percent reduction taken in the current year from its original FY08 General Fund appropriation. He reported that the Council staff had received a request from the State Budget Director asking for the impact of current cuts and the impact on current operations if an additional 4.5 percent reduction is taken from the 2008-09 budget. If this additional cut is taken, the Council's budget will be down about 15 percent in 2009 from the enacted 2007-08 base budget. Mr. Hayek said that the information from the State Budget Director indicated that the institutions would be exempted from this additional 4.5 percent reduction but at this time Kentucky Adult Education would not be exempted. As the third largest provider of educational services in the state next to K-12 and postsecondary education institutions, the Council staff will have conversations about exempting adult education from this additional 4.5 percent funding cut for FY09.

Information was provided on non-budget actions related to postsecondary and adult education passed by the 2008 Kentucky General Assembly. Lee Nimocks with the Council staff called attention to Senate Bill 2 which directs the Council to establish a STEM Initiative Task Force with legislative representation and establishes the membership of the STEM Initiative Steering Committee. The steering committee provides oversight for the implementation of the STEM strategic and business plan and allocation of the Kentucky STEM Initiative Fund (which was not funded). The task force is attached to the Council for administrative services and will develop a statewide strategic plan and a business plan. The initial business plan is due December 30, 2008.

Ms. Nimocks said that another bill of interest is House Bill 694 related to institutional eligibility for the Kentucky Tuition Grant Program. Beginning with the 2011-12 school year, private postsecondary education institutions must be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or be reviewed and approved by the Council to remain eligibility as an institution in which a student may receive a Kentucky Tuition Grant. All costs associated with the institutional reviews will be the responsibility of the institution seeking approval by the Council.

RECOMMENDATION: That $300,000 in FY08 regional grant funds be granted to Eastern Kentucky University on the condition that EKU not expend any of these funds until successful completion of the regional grant process and that FY08-09 and FY09-10 regional grant money be conditional upon successful implementation of regional stewardship infrastructure plans, submission of a regional strategic plan approved by the area advisory committee, and submission of a progress report on regional grant proposals approved by the advisory committee and the Council no later than the January 2009 Council meeting date.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council approve the regional grant proposal from Morehead State University and that FY08-09 and FY09-10 regional grant money be conditional upon successful implementation of the university's regional stewardship infrastructure plan, the identification of specific metrics of success for the regional grant proposal, and adequate progress on the regional grant proposal.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council approve regional grant proposals from Kentucky State University, Murray State University, and Western Kentucky University and that FY08-09 and FY09-10 regional grant money be conditional upon successful implementation of regional stewardship infrastructure plans and adequate progress on regional grant proposals.

As part of House Bill 380 of the 2006 session of the General Assembly, the legislature requires an annual accountability report on the Regional Stewardship Program. The Council staff, working with university representatives, has developed guidelines for progress reports. In addition, all regional stewardship funds are made available through a memorandum of agreement that clearly outlines the goals that must be met to ensure continued funding. In order to ensure accountability, future 2009-10 regional grant funds will depend on successful implementation of the infrastructure plan submitted by the university as well as adequate progress on activities outlined in the revised regional grant proposal.

MOTION: Dr. Wattier moved that the three recommendations for regional stewardship program regional grants be approved. Ms. Bertelsman seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council delegate authority to the Executive Committee to approve regional stewardship initiative grant proposals in June 2008.

Given that stewardship initiative proposals were not reviewed in time to allow for the required external review prior to the May 23 meeting and the $284,000 remaining in the initial grant pool will lapse June 30, 2008, the staff recommended that the Council authorize the Executive Committee to approve regional stewardship initiative grant proposals in June 2008. Mr. Wattier said that a proposal is expected from Northern Kentucky University. An Executive Committee meeting is planned for June 10, 2008.

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

VOTE: The motion passed.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council approve the new guidelines for extended campus programs. These new guidelines were informed by the work of the Postsecondary Education Working Group on Access to Academic Programs.

The new guidelines read:

Institutions planning to offer programs outside their areas of geographic responsibility must consult with potential postsecondary partners in that region to ensure coordination and collaboration and to minimize unproductive competition. If there is opposition, the Council will decide how best to resolve the dispute.

These guidelines replace the guidelines approved by the Council at its November 8, 1999, meeting, which proved difficult to implement and were an obstacle to flexible delivery of programs meeting regional needs. In addition, the guidelines regarding distance education courses were outdated in light of the new strategic plan for the Kentucky Virtual Campus.

MOTION: Dr. Wattier moved that the new guidelines be approved. Ms. Bertelsman seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

RECOMMENDATION: That the Council authorize institutional access to the $750,000 appropriated for the joint engineering programs to the University of Kentucky ($250,000 for civil and mechanical engineering programs with WKU), the University of Louisville ($125,000 for an electrical engineering program with WKU), and Western Kentucky University ($375,000 for civil and mechanical engineering programs with UK and an electrical engineering program with UofL).

Based on a review of the joint engineering programs in May 2007, a number of recommendations were made. A joint steering committee submitted a progress report to the Council May 2, 2008. Given progress made to date, the staff recommended that the current funding allocations be released to the institutions.

It was reported that Murray State University and the University of Louisville have decided to discontinue the effort to offer a joint program in electrical engineering.

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

VOTE: The motion passed.

In addition to these items, Dr. Wattier said that the Quality and Accountability Policy Group earlier in the day heard updates on the Kentucky Adult Learner Initiative and developmental education.

Mr. Hall reported that the Research, Economic Development, and Commercialization Policy Group met earlier in the day. Discussion topics included the Advanced Placement Enterprise of Kentucky (APEK) and the National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI) Grant, 2008-10 funding for Bucks for Brains, updates on the STEM Task Force and plans for the next Translational Research Forum, and the Kentucky Regional Optical Network (Internet2).

Ms. Bertelsman, chair of the Council's Program Audit Subcommittee, said that the subcommittee was created in 2006 as a result of questions from the external auditors regarding the Council's oversight of several programs that receive funding through the Council. The subcommittee's role is not to evaluate the programs but simply to talk with the Council staff assigned to the program to determine if the evaluative measures in place are appropriate, if the program undergoes an external review, and the need for and effectiveness of the program. The subcommittee hopes to review all of the programs by the end of calendar year 2009.

The Council will launch the KnowHow2GOKy college access initiative May 29 on the steps of the State Capitol in Frankfort. Invited guests include federal and state policy leaders and college access partners. Several students representing each of the target audiences will attend to share their college experiences and the importance of knowing how to go to college. This initiative is a multiyear, multimedia effort modeled after the national KnowHow2GO campaign developed by the American Council on Education, Lumina Foundation for Education, and the Ad Council. Ads encouraging high school students to take a tough curricula were viewed and are available on the KnowHow2GOKy web site at http://www.knowhow2goky.org.

Mr. Flanagan said that the chair has appointed Donna Moore and Joe Weis to the P-16 Council. He thanked Ms. Maclin and Dr. Wattier for their service to this committee.

[The June and July CPE meetings were cancelled. The Council will meet in retreat August 17 and 18. The next regular meeting is September 28, held in conjunction with the 2008 Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship.)

The meeting adjourned at 11: 50 a.m.

Dan Flanagan
CPE Vice Chair

Phyllis L. Bailey
Senior Associate, Executive Relations