

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by Committee on August 26, 2026

Who:	Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type:	AERO Act Advisory Committee
Date:	May 20, 2026
Time:	10:00 a.m. ET
Location:	ZOOM Teleconference

WELCOME REMARKS

The AERO Act Advisory Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. ET. The meeting occurred via Zoom and was livestreamed via ZOOM webinar. Committee vice chair Lindsey Case presided.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum of 7 voting committee members in attendance.

- Lindsey Case – attended
- Tristan Durbin – attended
- Marty Fryer – attended
- Laura Jones – did not attend
- Luke McCowan – attended
- Brad Schwandt – did not attend
- Brad Simms – did not attend
- Jim Smith – attended
- Todd Smith – attended
- David Springer – did not attend
- Dr. Aaron Thompson – did not attend
- Curt Wilson - attended

Mr. Miles Feroli, Executive Director, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from March 18, 2026, meeting were approved as presented.

AERO LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Ms. Case led a discussion on the 2026 Legislative Sessions appropriation as they pertain to Aviation and Aerospace. Madisonville Community and Technical College received a \$6 million dollar agency bond for equipment and Eastern Kentucky University received \$8 million dollar appropriation to establish and operate an Air Traffic Control Training program. The AERO Act itself did not receive an appropriation.

Dr. Leslie Sizemore, Vice President of Workforce and Economic Development, provided additional context on the session, stating that budget decisions were competitive and that the Council is going to continue to advocate for aviation and aerospace funding. The statute for the AERO Act does not sunset until 2030, and she recommended that Committee members speak with leaders and legislators in this field to keep up momentum.

GROUP DISCUSSION

Ms. Case led a discussion centered on next steps for the AERO Act business and next steps for the Committee. Dr. Sizemore noted the importance of continuing to raise awareness about AERO Act funding. Mr. Durbin suggested developing a “1-pager” informational flyer for Committee members to bring to meetings with key stakeholders. Ms. Case suggested that the Council engage with the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce as a partner to help legislators understand the need for investing in the aviation and aerospace talent pipeline. Mr. Smith offered implementing a ‘proof of concept’ pilot so that it will demonstrate how the AERO Act will support the workforce need.

Ms. Case then requested meeting cadence feedback from the Committee. Mr. Jim Smith and Mr. Curt Wilson suggested meeting on a quarterly basis. Mr. Jim Smith also suggested developing subcommittees to focus on various goals the Committee would like to achieve.

AERO DASHBOARD UPDATE

Ms. Madalyn White, Senior Associate for Data and Advanced Analytics, updated the Committee on the development of the AERO data dashboard. Items requested to be added to the dashboard include employment retention as well as a map that identifies companies that are in Kentucky because of the aviation industry.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m. ET.