

## **MINUTES**

### **Council on Postsecondary Education**

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Type: Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee  
Date: March 25, 2020  
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET  
Location: Virtual Meeting - Committee members by ZOOM, Public viewing hosted on CPE YouTube Page

### **CALL TO ORDER**

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The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Wednesday, March 25, 2020, at 10:00 a.m., ET. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243 and a memorandum issued by the Finance and Administration Cabinet dated March 16, 2020, and in an effort to prevent the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the Committee met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting virtually on the CPE YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/Ysh3vVBtJKU>. Committee Chair Lori Harper presided.

### **ATTENDANCE**

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Members in attendance: Ben Brandstetter, Lori Harper, Grant Minix, Vidya Ravichandran, and Robert Staat.

Members not in attendance: Lucas Mentzer and Sherrill Zimmerman

Heather Faesy, CPE's senior associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

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The minutes of the January 9, 2020 meeting were approved as distributed.

### **UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

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CPE President Aaron Thompson provided an update on the campus's plans and actions thus far in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also discussed how the pandemic is impacting the 2020 legislative session and how campuses are responding quickly to move all classes online so courses can continue through the end of the spring semester.

## **PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS FOR REVIEW & RECOMMENDATION**

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KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council on Postsecondary Education to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree, certificate, or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions. Council staff reviewed the following proposed programs and recommended approval by the board.

### **Eastern Kentucky University**

1) Master of Social Work (MSW) CIP Code 44.0701

The Master of Social Work (MSW) Program builds on a generalist foundation to prepare students to be advanced generalist social workers, and teaches students to integrate social work theory, practice, and research as well as draw from interdisciplinary perspectives to support the well-being of individuals, groups, families, organizations, and communities. The program is 30 credit hours for the Advanced Standing Program and 60 credit hours for the Regular Program.

MOTION: Dr. Staat moved the Committee approve the Master of Social Work at Eastern Kentucky University, and recommend approval by the Council at its April 24, 2020 meeting. Mr. Minix seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

### **Northern Kentucky University**

2) Cybersecurity (B.S.) CIP Code 11.1003

The Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity is a 120 credit hour undergraduate degree program that would expand on NKU's existing curricular strengths as a DHS/NSA Center of Academic Excellence (CAE) in Cyber Defense Education. The new program would build upon existing cybersecurity courses, and meet the rapidly growing field and unfilled job positions in the region.

MOTION: Mr. Minix moved the Committee approve the Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity at Northern Kentucky University, and recommend approval by the Council at its April 24, 2020 meeting. Dr. Staat seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## University of Kentucky

3) Biomedical Engineering (BS) CIP Code 14.0501

The Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering is a 128 credit hour undergraduate degree program designed for students who aspire to engineer novel treatments, devices, materials, technologies, or processes to improve human healthcare. Students seeking careers in industry, the healthcare professions, government agencies, or graduate studies in BME are candidates for this program.

4) Computer Engineering (MS) CIP Code 14.0901

The Master of Science in Computer Engineering provides an advanced degree in the area of Computer Engineering, and will further enhance the College's ability to pursue its "Top 50" vision of being internationally recognized and ranked as one of the top 50 colleges of engineering in the United States. There are two options available: Plan A Thesis Option (24 hours of coursework plus a 6-credit thesis) and a Plan B Non-Thesis Option (30 hours of coursework which may include a 3-credit project).

5) Computer Engineering (PhD) CIP Code 14.0901

The proposed 36 credit hour program will support the College of Engineering's mission and enhance the College's ability to pursue its "Top 50" vision of being internationally recognized and ranked as one of the top 50 colleges of engineering in the United States. It will provide advanced training in the areas of computer hardware and software engineering needed to support continued regional and national workforce demands.

6) Product Design (BS) CIP Code 50.0404

The Bachelor of Science in Product Design is a 125 credit hour undergraduate degree program that offers an undergraduate degree to students pursuing professional careers in product design, which is a strategic problem-solving process that drives innovation, builds business success, and leads to a better quality of life through innovative products, systems, services, and experiences.

7) Supply Chain Engineering (MS) CIP Code 14.3501

The Master of Science in Supply Chain Engineering has a 30 credit hour requirement and is targeted at teaching students the multi-disciplinary knowledge and skills necessary to design, evaluate, and improve transformational and logistical functions in supply chains. It is a non-thesis degree that ends with a capstone industry project that will allow multi-disciplinary teams of students from the engineering and management colleges to work

collaboratively on solving real-world supply chain problems proposed by industry partners.

8) Supply Chain Management (MS) – CIP Code 52.1399

The Master of Science in Supply Chain Management has a 30 credit hour requirement and will equip students with the multi-disciplinary knowledge and skills required for careers related to operations and supply chain management. It will include a summer capstone Industry Project course, where students will work on an industrial project at a sponsoring company under the supervision of faculty from both Gatton and the College of Engineering.

9) Teacher Preparation Program in Visual Impairments (MS) CIP Code 13.1009

The Teacher Preparation Program in Visual Impairments is designed to train Teachers of the Visually Impaired (TVIs) to work with children from preschool through graduation who are blind and visually impaired, including those with and without additional disabilities. The TVI program is 33 credit hours and uses a hybrid model with synchronous classes offered via Zoom, face-to-face weekends, and intensive summer courses held at University of Kentucky and Kentucky School for the Blind (KSB) in Louisville.

10) Orientation and Mobility (MA) CIP Code 13.1009

The Master of Arts in Orientation and Mobility is a 30 credit hour graduate degree program that will address the orientation and mobility needs of children with blindness and visual impairments, individuals with complex needs, and adults with vision loss. The program will use a hybrid model with synchronous classes offered via Zoom, face-to-face weekends, and intensive summer courses held at University of Kentucky and Kentucky School for the Blind.

Upon request by the Council members, CPE and UK staff stated that while it was unusual that a university submit eight new programs at one time, they were proposed after conducting a campus-wide needs analysis and met a workplace need as well as student demand. Additionally, per Council policy, if the pandemic crises delays the institution's plans to implement the new programs, they will have up to five years to do so before going through the program approval process again.

MOTION: Dr. Staat moved the Committee approve all proposed programs at the University of Kentucky, and recommend approval by the Council at its April 24, 2020 meeting. Mr. Minix seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **ENGINEERING IN KENTUCKY: A SECTOR ANALYSIS OF LABOR MARKET INFORMATION AND PROGRAM DEMAND**

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Presenters: David Mahan, CPE's Associate Vice President for Data, Research and Advanced Analytics  
Anna Brown, Economist and Vice President of Higher Education Consulting, Emsi

Dr. Mahan and Dr. Brown presented the preliminary findings from a partnered study with Emsi that gained insight into economic conditions and workforce trends in the engineering sector. The study provided an overview of engineering occupations and industries through traditional labor market information and a job postings analysis, conducted a program demand gap analysis of Kentucky institutions' engineering program offerings, and analyzed migration patterns and other qualitative characteristics that help explain why Kentucky engineering alumni stay in or migrate out of the state. Emsi also provided an environmental scan of the state's economy to provide context for the engineering sector. The final report is set to release in late April, early May.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 11:45 a.m., ET.