

**MINUTES**  
Council on Postsecondary Education

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Type: Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee  
Date: August 31, 2021  
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET  
Location: Virtual Meeting - Committee members by ZOOM teleconference, Public viewing hosted on CPE YouTube Page.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Tuesday, August 31, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM teleconference. Members of the public were invited to view the livestream on the CPE YouTube page.

Committee Chair Lori Harper presided.

**ATTENDANCE**

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Members in attendance: Lori Harper, Karyn Hoover, Lucas Mentzer, Richard Nelson, Vidya Ravichandran, Robert Staat, and Kevin Weaver.

Members not in attendance: Muhammad Babar and Colby Birkes.

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 August 10, 2021 meeting were approved as distributed.

**REMARKS FROM PRESIDENT AARON THOMPSON**

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CPE President Aaron Thompson provided an update on Kentucky State University's financial situation and details regarding legislative testimony he has provided to the Capital Planning Advisory Board and the State Commission on Race and Access to Opportunity.

## **PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

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Dr. Melissa Bell, CPE's Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Success presented three proposed new academic programs for review and approval. 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.

### **Northern Kentucky University**

#### Education, Culture and Society (B.A.) – CIP Code 13.0901

Presented by: Dr. Sara Runge, Director, Center for Educator Excellence Associate Professor; and Dr. Ginni Fair, Dean and Professor, College of Education

- This 120 credit hour undergraduate program offers a non-teaching education-related major of study that allows students to develop and apply innovative and practical understandings of education from multidisciplinary perspectives. Its coursework consists of courses in social foundations of education; fundamentals in curriculum, instruction, and assessment; equity and education; and the culminating capstone. Students can choose two concentrations from the following options: (a) youth and community studies; (b) diversity and social justice; (c) workforce development; and (d) teaching and learning. This program does not lead to P-12 teaching certification upon completion.

#### Cybersecurity (M.S.) – CIP Code 11.1003

Presented by: Dr. James Walden, Professor, Director of the Center for Information Security; and Dr. Maureen Doyle, Associate Professor of Computer Science

- This 30 credit hour masters program focuses on the development of technical knowledge, hands-on skills, and soft skills while providing a thorough understanding of both business and technological aspects of cybersecurity in the industry. The primary objective of the program is to produce advanced cybersecurity professionals, who will understand the processes and technologies needed to secure the information infrastructure of a modern organization.

MOTION: Mr. Nelson moved the Committee approve the proposed programs from Northern Kentucky University, and recommend approval of both by the full Council at its September 14, 2021 meeting. Dr. Staat seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **Western Kentucky University**

### **Legal Studies (B.A.) – CIP Code 22.0001**

Presented by: Dr. Eric Reed, Professor, Department of History

- This 120 credit hour undergraduate program consists of 18 hours of core courses in Political Science, History, and Paralegal Studies (including a capstone experience), and 18 hours of electives from a wide range of disciplines across WKU. A second major, minor, or certificate is required. The program provides students an interdisciplinary perspective while fostering greater understanding of the law as it relates to history, the sciences, and ethics in the United States and around the world.

MOTION: Dr. Staat moved the Committee approve the proposed program from Western Kentucky University, and recommend approval by the full Council at its September 14, 2021 meeting. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **KENTUCKY'S STUDENT SUCCESS COLLABORATIVE**

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The Council received a \$2.1 million grant from the James Graham Brown Foundation to create a new statewide initiative that will help improve equity and close outcome gaps on college campuses. The effort, called the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative, will be the country's first statewide center that works with both two- and four-year institutions, linking campuses with business leaders and state policy makers. It also positions Kentucky as a national leader in developing strategies for student achievement.

Dr. Lilly Massa-McKinley, the executive director leading the effort, provided an overview of the project and the work conducted so far.

## **REPORT: POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION'S RETURN ON INVESTMENT**

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Mr. Travis Muncie, Executive Director, and Dr. Grace Dai, Senior Associate, provided a preview of the findings of the upcoming second Return on Investment Report, which will be presented to the Council on Postsecondary Education at their September 14th meeting.

The report tracks the 43,655 students in Kentucky's high school class of 2011 from high school graduation to 2019. About 60% of the cohort entered an in-state or out-of-state postsecondary institution after high school. By 2019, 36.2% had completed a postsecondary credential and 37% had left college before completion or were still enrolled. The report also provides information on the median net cost, median grant and scholarship award, and median loan amount for this cohort, by credential level and discipline. It also looks at earnings from 2011 to 2019 by credential level and academic discipline.

## STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA DEVELOPMENT

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Ms. Lee Nimocks, CPE's Vice President of Strategy and Chief of Staff, presented a recap of the work completed since the previous Committee meeting in August, which included a continued review of research and data, finalizing the statewide objectives, development of statewide strategies, and continued discussions regarding key performance indicators.

### **Approval of the statewide strategic objectives**

At the last meeting, Committee members discussed draft objectives for each of the five strategic priorities. Since that time, the objectives were formalized and CPE staff presented them for Committee approval.

#### Priority 1 - Affordability

Objective 1: Reduce financial barriers to college enrollment and completion.

Objective 2: Improve the public's understanding of how to pay for college.

#### Priority 2 - Transitions

Objective 1: Increase students' readiness to enter postsecondary education.

Objective 2: Increase enrollment in postsecondary education.

#### Priority 3 - Success

Objective 1: Increase persistence in and timely completion of postsecondary programs

Objective 2: Maximize transfer of academic and experiential credit.

Objective 3: Ensure academic and co-curricular offerings are high-quality, relevant and inclusive.

#### Priority 4 - Talent

Objective 1: Improve the career outcomes of postsecondary education graduates.

Objective 2: Increase research and service to support strong communities and economies.

#### Priority 5 – Value

Objective 1: Increase public belief in the power of postsecondary education.

Objective 2: Build support for greater investment in postsecondary education.

MOTION: Dr. Staat moved the Committee approve the proposed objectives of the next strategic agenda. Mr. Weaver seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

The approved objectives will be presented to the full Council as part of the statewide strategic agenda approval process in November 2021.

### **Discussion of draft statewide strategies and key performance indicators**

CPE staff presented drafted statewide strategies that would fall within the approved objectives. These strategies would be in place for the first three years of the agenda and be reevaluated in 2024. Each of the institutions will develop campus-level strategies that will fall within the statewide priorities and objectives.

### **Next Steps**

The full Council will receive a status update at its September 14 meeting. The ASI Committee will meet twice in October to finalize the last components of the agenda before its final approval by the Council at its November 5 meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at Noon, ET.

***MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE: October 29, 2021***