

# MINUTES

## Council on Postsecondary Education

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Type: Quarterly Business Meeting  
Date: November 16, 2018  
Time: 9:40 a.m.  
Location: Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College, Bowling Green

### CALL TO ORDER

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The Council on Postsecondary Education met Friday, November 16, 2018, at 10:00 a.m., CT, at Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Chair Sherrill Zimmerman presided.

### ATTENDANCE

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Members in attendance: Ron Beal, Ben Brandstetter, Joe Ellis, Kim Halbauer, Lori Harper, Lucas Mentzer, Donna Moore, Kristi Nelson, Robert Staat, Sherrill Zimmerman, and Wayne Lewis.

Members not in attendance: Vidya Ravichandran, Shawn Reynolds, Sebastian Torres, and Carol Wright.

CPE President Aaron Thompson attended the meeting and served as Secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Heather Faesy, CPE's senior associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

### WELCOMING REMARKS

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Chair Zimmerman welcomed everyone and thanked President Phillip Neal and the Southcentral Kentucky Community and Technical College staff for hosting the meetings on November 15 and 16, as well as the dinner at the National Corvette Museum on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Chair also gave an overview of the campus performance presentations. Overall, six-year graduation rates have improved, achievement gaps for low-income and underrepresented minority students are narrowing, and bachelor's degree production is up for the fourth consecutive year. There were no significant gains in retention, and preliminary fall data indicate that enrollment is down. Average net price among the

comprehensive universities has increased, although the amount is still below national and SREB averages.

And finally, Chair Zimmerman welcomed Aaron Thompson to his first meeting presiding as President of the Council. She also thanked the committee and staff for their work during the national search process. Ms. Nelson also thanked the committee for lending their time and expertise to the process.

## **REPORT FROM THE COMMISSIONER OF EDUCATION**

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Presenter: Wayne Lewis, Commissioner, KY Department of Education

The Commissioner of Education's written report was included in the agenda materials. Dr. Lewis commented on concern surrounding testing in the proposed high school graduation requirements and clarified the requirements that are now included.

## **THE QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMONS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION\***

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Presenters: Melissa Bell, CPE's associate vice president of Academic Affairs  
Ralph Wolff, founder and president of The Quality Assurance Commons

\*This session is part two of a five-part series titled "*Strengthening Partnerships and Alignment between Higher Education and the Workforce*," which focuses on several postsecondary programs and strategies to prepare students for dynamic, meaningful careers and respond to the needs of Kentucky employers.

QA Commons' Essential Employability Qualities Certification is a quality assurance process that identifies certificate, associate, and baccalaureate programs that prepare graduates with the Essential Employability Qualities (EEQs). The EEQs are centered on people skills, problem-solving abilities, and professional strengths that are needed to thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> century workforce. EEQ certification will signal to employers that a program focuses on these EEQs and will engage employers in program design and evaluation.

Kentucky is the first state to pilot this certification process. Three KCTCS institutions (Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Gateway Community and Technical College, and Jefferson Community and Technical College) will participate, as will Kentucky State University, Murray State University, and the University of Kentucky. Each institution will choose at least three academic programs that will go through the EEQ certification process. The programs will be evaluated on criteria related to graduate preparation, career support services, employer engagement, student and

alumni engagement, and public information. Programs that meet all of the criteria will be EEQ Certified in spring 2020. The six participating campuses will work together in a learning community to share resources and best practices. A Steering Committee comprised of institutional leadership and key employers in the state will guide the initiative.

Throughout the presentation, the presenters answered several questions from the Council including the number of participants and evaluation methods in the process. Ms. Nelson suggested the program include background checks and screenings for drug offenses as part of the degree certification. Dr. Staat remarked positively on this program's relationship to K-12 career development pathways.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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The minutes of the September 20 and 21, 2018 and October 25, 2018 meetings were approved as distributed.

## **CPE PRESIDENT CONTRACT**

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Presenter: Sherrill Zimmerman, CPE's chair

Chair Zimmerman presented the executive committee's recommendation, which was approved at their meeting on November 15, 2018:

The executive committee recommended a two-year contract for Dr. Aaron Thompson as president of the Council on the Postsecondary Education with a base annual salary of \$275,000 including the standard state benefits and an allowance to cover all expenses related to a vehicle. In addition, it was recommended that the Council provide Dr. Thompson with the opportunity each year to earn incentives for meeting specified goals in an amount up to thirty (30) percent of his base salary, the total of which would not exceed the maximum salary limitations set forth by KRS 164.013. Those incentives and related goals would be negotiated and agreed upon prior to the beginning of each calendar year by Dr. Thompson and the chair and vice chair on behalf of the Council. The Council chair will report on the annual goals and incentives structure to the full Council at its first meeting of the calendar year. Further, the committee recommended the final contract, within the parameters described, be negotiated and finalized with President Thompson by the chair and vice chair on behalf of the Council.

Ms. Halbauer suggested the full executive committee be responsible for the finalization of the incentive plan parameters. Chair Zimmerman asked that the Council members

submit their thoughts on those parameters within the next few weeks before the executive committee meets. Additionally, Ron asked that a formal process for the development of the annual incentive plan parameters be in place prior to the next calendar year.

MOTION: Ms. Moore moved that the Council accept and approve the executive committee's recommendation, with the exception that the incentives and related goals shall be negotiated and agreed upon by the full executive committee, instead of the chair and vice chair, on behalf of the Council. Mr. Beal seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

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Presenter: Melissa Bell, CPE's associate vice president of Academic Affairs

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.

- 1) Bachelor of Science in Civil and Sustainability Engineering (CIP 14.0801) - Murray State University

Program Contact: Danny Claiborne, chair of the Institute of Engineering  
Dr. Claiborne answered several questions on the total number of credit hours, additional expenses to operate the program, and the number of businesses available and able to accommodate student internships.

MOTION: Mr. Brandstetter moved the Council approve the Bachelor of Science in Civil and Sustainability Engineering at Murray State University. Dr. Staat seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

- 2) Master of Science in Exercise Science (CIP 31.0505) - Northern Kentucky University

Program Contact: Gary Eippert, Kinesiology  
Dr. Eippert answered several questions on the lab work required for the degree, if it is considered a terminal degree, the additional costs to the university to administer the program, and the community's demand for the program.

MOTION: Mr. Staat moved the Council approve the Master of Science in Exercise Science at Northern Kentucky University. Ms. Nelson seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

3) Bachelor of Arts in Law (CIP 22.0000) - Northern Kentucky University

Program Contact: Jennifer Kreder, Professor of Law

Ms. Kreder answered several questions on the additional costs to the university to administer the program, the career opportunities for graduates, and how the degree differs from a degree in paralegal studies.

MOTION: Ms. Nelson moved the Council approve the Bachelor of Arts in Law at Northern Kentucky University. Mr. Lucas seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **STRENGTHENING OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATIONS**

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Presenter: Sue Patrick, CPE's executive director of Communications

Ms. Patrick briefed the board on upcoming outreach and communications initiative, including the president's statewide listening tour and increased communication from the agency and president's office about policy issues, state-level projects and initiatives, and higher education performance. She also discussed strategies to engage the board more deeply in communications and advocacy efforts supporting student access and success, and the broader work of the Council.

## **COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT**

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Presenter: Aaron Thompson, CPE's president

Dr. Thompson briefed the Council on a new cross-agency working group between the Kentucky Department of Education and the Council that will meet to discuss the actions needed to drive education forward from preschool through postsecondary and identify opportunities for greater collaboration, planning and policy development. The work group will provide a forum for continued discussion and evaluation around topics such as teacher quality, outreach and advising, postsecondary readiness, and transitions between high school and postsecondary programs. Recommendations from the work group may be used to inform policy and program decisions, joint projects, and joint budget requests.

Dr. Thompson also addressed the statewide and campus performance gains over the last year, as well as areas that need focus and improvement. He briefed the Council on the upcoming Postsecondary Education Symposium and board training session on December 18, 2018, and the \$400,000 Lumina Grant to enroll more underrepresented, low-income adults in high-demand postsecondary certificate and degree programs through the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship program.

## **IMPROVING OPPORTUNITY AND ACCESS TO POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION: KENTUCKY'S NEW GEAR UP PROGRAM**

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Presenter: Melissa Bell, CPE's associate vice president of Academic Affairs

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education was awarded a \$24.5 million GEAR UP federal grant to increase the number of low-income students graduating from high school and enrolling in college. The program will serve a minimum of 10,000 students in middle and high schools in at least 10 school districts, and will provide support through their first year of college.

GEAR UP focuses on identifying and closing achievement gaps of low-income, underrepresented and underprepared students. The program provides three categories of services to boost student success: direct services for students and parents, school support services, and statewide and community services.

GEAR UP has three national goals: increasing academic performance and college preparation; increasing high school graduation and participation in college; and increasing student/family knowledge of college options, preparation and financing.

The federal funds are matched dollar-for-dollar by local, state, and national partnerships, for a total impact of \$49 million over a seven-year funding cycle. This is the fourth GEAR UP grant awarded to CPE.

## **PREVIEW OF UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

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Presenters: Ron Carson, CPE's senior fellow and legislative liaison  
Travis Powell, CPE's vice president and general counsel  
David McFaddin, EKV vice president and convener of the BULLs

Mr. Carson briefed the Council on the new House and Senate leadership, the calendar and specifics of the upcoming thirty-day session, and the key issues that may arise concerning postsecondary education. Mr. Powell and Dr. McFaddin provided an update on performance funding and pension issues for the regional universities.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

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Presenter: Sherrill Zimmerman, CPE's chair

Chair Zimmerman discussed the FY 2017-18 audit results presented at the Executive Committee meeting on November 15, 2018. Blue and Company LLP, a certified public accounting agency in Lexington, conducted the audit this year.

The auditors issued an unmodified opinion, stating that the Council's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Council as of June 30, 2017, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, the expenditures of federal awards and supplementary information are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole. The firm also noted that it did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that they consider to be material weaknesses.

Chair Zimmerman thanked the CPE finance and administration and executive staff for their compliance with the audit requirements.

## **UPDATE FROM THE COMMITTEE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

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The written report was provided in the agenda book. Topics covered included the activities of the CEO meeting on October 22, 2018, and the 2019 CEO meeting dates.

## **REPORTS FROM THE INSTITUTIONS**

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Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda book.

## **COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS**

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Chair Zimmerman made the following committee appointments:

- 2019 Nominating Committee: Ms. Donna Moore, Ms. Kristi Nelson, Mr. Lucas Mentzer
- 2019 Retreat Committee: Ms. Kim Halbauer, Mr. Ron Beal, Dr. Robert Staat, Mr. Ben Brandstetter, Chair Sherrill Zimmerman

- 2020-22 Budget Development Work Group: Dr. Bob Staat, Mr. Ben Brandstetter, Mr. Lucas Mentzer, Chair Sherrill Zimmerman

## **RESOLUTIONS**

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The Council approved resolutions for the following individuals:

- Joe Ellis, Council on Postsecondary Education
- Elaine Maher, Council on Postsecondary Education
- Angela Jones, Council on Postsecondary Education

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The Council adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m., CT. The next scheduled meetings are February 21-22, 2019 in Frankfort, Kentucky.

***MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL: February 22, 2019***