

MINUTES

Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Business Meeting
Date: April 24, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting – Committee member by ZOOM teleconference. Public viewing at: <https://youtu.be/mUQMIWeboal>

WELCOMING & CALL TO ORDER

The Council on Postsecondary Education met Friday, April 24, 2020, at 9:00 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 CPE met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting virtually on the CPE YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/mUQMIWeboal>. Chair Ben Brandstetter presided.

ATTENDANCE

Members attended: Ron Beal, Ben Brandstetter, Kim Halbauer, Lucas Mentzer, Donna Moore, Kristi Nelson, Richard Nelson, Vidya Ravichandran, Robert Staat, Carol Wright, and Sherrill Zimmerman and KDE Commissioner Kevin Brown.

Members not in attendance: Lori Harper and Grant Minix

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.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the January 23-24, 2020 meetings were approved as distributed.

COMMENTS FROM KDE INTERIM COMMISSIONER, KEVIN BROWN

Kentucky Department of Education's Interim Commissioner, Kevin Brown, provided an update on how the P-12 community has responded to the changes related to the COVID-19 pandemic. He discussed the student participation rates and how administrations are ensuring students are still have their other basic needs met. Although NTI was not designed to be used long term, he commended Kentucky's teachers for embracing what

needed to be done to ensure their students are able to continue learning in the unusual circumstances.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

President Aaron Thompson provided an update on the agency's teleworking experience and special COVID-19 coordination and communication efforts. He also discussed several areas of work including ten additional programs certified with Essential Employability Qualities (EEQ), the status of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding, and the expected budgetary shortfalls at Kentucky's institutions due to the pandemic. Finally, he commended campus leaders for responding quickly to the public safety threat and thanked them for being on the front lines providing healthcare, working on COVID-19 treatments, and manufacturing PPE while also providing online instruction and meeting the needs of students.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Ben Brandstetter presented the Finance Committee Report. The Committee met several times in February, March and April, with the majority of the conversations surrounding the financial impact on Kentucky's campuses related to the COVID-19 pandemic and how that may affect the tuition and mandatory fee ceilings for the upcoming academic year.

Mr. Brandstetter presented the Finance Committee's recommendation for 2020-21 Tuition and Mandatory Fees:

- A zero percent (0.0%) increase in resident undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees for academic year 2020-21 at the public research and comprehensive universities and at KCTCS institutions.
- If extenuating circumstances arise, the Council reserves the right to revisit the parameters as warranted.
- Additionally, the Committee recommends that the public institutions be allowed to submit for Council review and approval market competitive tuition and fee rates for graduate and online courses, as well as, tuition and fee rates for nonresident students that comply with Council policy and approved MOUs.

Following the recommendation, Vice Chair Halbauer stated additional information had been presented since the Finance Committee met. Due to the dynamic situation in light of the pandemic, she stated that for the next academic year only it may be best that the Council forgo placing a tuition cap for the 2020-21 academic year.

Presidents Eli Capilouto (University of Kentucky) and President Neeli Bendapudi (University of Louisville) presented jointly on the reasons they may need flexibility to raise tuition for the 2020-21 year, which included:

- Increasing institutional aid in the form of grants and scholarships.
- Ensuring student success for low income, underrepresented minority, and STEM+H students.
- Maintaining minimal tuition rate increases over the past 10 years has kept the net price low for students in the lowest income quartiles.
- Providing additional benefits & economic value to students by attending a R1 university.

Kentucky Community and Technical College System President Jay Box also presented focusing on the fact that a tuition freeze would directly impact KCTCS's ability to employ its own workforce in the next fiscal year while also transitioning its post-COVID-19 educational environment. Both of those instances would thus impact KCTCS's ability to meet the needs of Kentucky's post-COVID-19 workforce. This is due to KCTCS's inability to raise funds through other means such as athletics and large alumni donations.

Following the presentation, Council members discussed the staff's original recommendation of a 2 percent tuition and mandatory fee ceiling, the Committee's presented recommendation of a tuition freeze, and the comments from Presidents Capilouto, Bendapudi, and Box. Discussions included whether forgoing a tuition cap for one year would set a precedent for future years, and the expenses related to online instruction and related student services.

MOTION: Ms. Halbauer moved the Council approve a no cap increase in resident undergraduate tuition and mandatory fees for academic year 2020-21 at the public research and comprehensive universities and at KCTCS institutions due to the evolving situations surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, public institutions shall be allowed to submit for Council review and approval market competitive tuition and fee rates for graduate and online courses, as well as, tuition and fee rates for nonresident students that comply with Council policy and approved MOUs. Ms. Ravichandran seconded the motion.

VOTE: In a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. Ron Beal was not present for the vote.

At this time, the Council took a 7 minute break.

Upon returning, Chair Brandstetter presented the following Finance Committee recommendations:

- Five individual Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) on nonresident student tuition between the Council and Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State University, Northern Kentucky University, the University of Louisville and Western Kentucky University.
- Interim capital project request from Western Kentucky University for 1.5 million in agency funds to reconfigure three classrooms in the Medical Center/Health Sciences Complex to meet the expanding nursing program at WKU and accreditation requirements.

MOTION: Ms. Zimmerman moved that the Council accept the recommendations of approval by the Finance Committee. Dr. Staat seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Chair Brandstetter also provided the following report: At the January 24th meeting the Council delegated authority to the Finance Committee to review KCTCS's interim project request for a scope increase for the Fire Commission's National Responder Preparedness Center Parking Lot. That request was reviewed and approved on the Council's behalf by the Finance Committee at its February 19th meeting.

ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Lori Harper was unable to attend the meeting. In her absence, Chair Brandstetter presented the Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee Report and Recommendations.

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee met on March 25 in which the members received the preview of an upcoming report on a sector analysis on engineering supply and demand in Kentucky and reviewed and approved the following ten new academic programs:

1. One new program at Eastern Kentucky University – a Master of Social Work
2. One new program at Northern Kentucky University – a Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity.
3. Eight new programs at the University of Kentucky: (a) Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering; (b) Master of Science in Computer Engineering; (c) PhD in Computer Engineering; (d) Master of Science in Teacher Preparation Program in Visual Impairments; (e) Master of Arts in Orientation and Mobility; (f) Bachelor of

Science in Product Design; (g) Master of Science in Supply Chain Engineering; and
(h) Master of Science in Supply Chain Management

MOTION: Mr. Nelson moved that the Council accept the recommendations of approval by the Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee. Ms. Halbauer seconded the motion.

The motion passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND RECOMMENDED ACTION ITEMS

Chair Brandstetter presented the Executive Committee Report which included the preliminary timeline for the next statewide strategic agenda and the approval to redistribute Strategic Initiative agency funds to create a COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund.

Chair Brandstetter also presented the following action items, which were reviewed by the Executive Committee and recommended for approval by the Council:

- Approval of a modification to President Aaron Thompson’s contract which would remove the annual incentive compensation provisions and increase his base annual salary to \$340,000.
- Establishment of the meeting dates for the 2020-21 academic year, which included dates for both full Council and its standing committees.
- Approval of an amendment to 13 KAR 1:050 for Licensed Out-of-State College’s Eligibility for the Kentucky Tuition Grant, which would align the standards for participation with the SACS COC Principles of Accreditation that went into effect on January 1, 2018. Approval would authorize Council staff to file the proposed administrative regulation with LRC and proceed with that standard process.

MOTION: Dr. Staat moved that the Council accept the Executive Committee’s report and recommendations of approval. Mr. Mentzer seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

COMMITTEE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES – REPORT

Committee Chair Robert Staat updated the Council on the status of the annual review of campus progress toward meeting their equal educational opportunity goals set in the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy. Reports will be evaluated and scored in the coming months and staff should be ready to present those results at the June Council meeting.

2020 PROGRESS REPORT

Dr. David Mahan, CPE's Associate Vice President of Data, Research, & Advanced Analytics presented the annual progress report, which is required by statute. Progress is being made in educational attainment, degree/credential production, progress of underprepared students, and achievement gaps in regards to graduation rates. Areas noted as continuing challenges include the in-state college going rate, the number of Kentucky adults enrolled in college, the net price at public 4-year institutions, and the 2-year to 4-year transfers after completion.

Questions and commentary from the board included the marketing and dissemination plan for the report, the ability to review the data by type of degree attained, and how this data can be shared with campuses to help with financial aid counseling efforts.

PROPOSED COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

The Council approved resolutions for the following individuals in thanks of their support and service to postsecondary education in Kentucky:

- Brandon Wilson, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
- Reecie Stagnolia, Kentucky Adult Education Skills U

CAMPUS "GOOD NEWS" REPORTS

Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned at 11:35 a.m. ET.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL: June 19, 2020