

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Council on September 12, 2025

Who:	Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type:	Board Retreat
Date:	June 12, 2025
Time:	9:00 a.m. ET
Location:	Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Harrodsburg – West Family Wash House

WELCOME REMARKS

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education met on Thursday, June 12 in a board retreat. The meeting occurred at Shaker Village in Harrodsburg, Kentucky. Chair Madison Silvert presided.

ATTENDANCE

The following Council members attended the meeting in person: CB Akins, Lindsey Case, Jennifer Collins, Kellie Ellis, Meredith Figg, Karyn Hoover, LaDonna Rogers, Madison Silvert, and Kevin Weaver.

Council members who did not attend were Muhammad Babar, Jacob Brown, Macy Waddle, Elaine Walker, and Commissioner Robbie Fletcher.

CPE President Aaron Thompson served as secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Ms. Heather Faesy, CPE program manager, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

WELCOME AND ESTABLISHING GOALS FOR THE RETREAT

Chair Silvert called the meeting to order and invited President Aaron Thompson to provide welcoming remarks. Chair Silvert established the strategic purpose of the retreat and clarified the day's objectives. Council members also engaged in an activity in which they shared their purpose for serving on the Council.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HIGHER EDUCATION? A NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

Austin Reid, Federal Affairs Advisor at the National Council of State Legislators, provided an update on federal affairs including the budget development and reconciliation process, the proposed Congressional appropriations for higher education, and the significant changes made to the U.S. Department of Education under the Trump administration.

STATE LEGISLATIVE PERSPECTIVES

Mr. Travis Powell, Vice President and General Counsel, led a panel discussion with Representative James Tipton and Senator Steven West. Topics included performance funding, 2026-28 budget priorities, Senate Bill 77 (2025), and how CPE can lead the discussion on the value of higher education.

LUNCH BREAK

The Council members took a lunch break onsite. There was no agenda nor was business conducted during this session.

MORNING REFLECTION

Ms. Regan Satterwhite, Legislative Liaison, led a reflection on the morning discussions and encouraged board members to record their biggest takeaways.

CPE ANNUAL REVIEW

Ms. Lee Nimocks, Sr. Vice President and Chief of Staff, and Mr. Travis Muncie, Chief Information Officer, provided the 2024-25 agency review that focused on CPE's key initiatives and accomplishments. Staff also shared the key performance indicators and context metrics that showed progress toward the 2030 goals.

Following the update and resulting discussion, Dr. Dawn Offutt led a discussion on the principles of trusteeship and how board members can embrace the full scope of their responsibilities and lead by example.

DEFINING BOARD PRIORITIES FOR 2025-27

Dr. Amanda Ellis, Vice President of Student Access and Success, led a strategic conversation with board members that allowed them to define the themes heard throughout the day and establish the board's priorities for the next fiscal year. As a result of the conversation, board members identified two areas of focus:

- To strengthen efforts that make dual credit more accessible, support meaningful academic progress, and deliver long-term value for students and the state.
- To strengthen advocacy for postsecondary progress and champion policies that advance student outcomes and institutional effectiveness.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned the retreat at 4:00 p.m. ET.