

MEETING MINUTES

Approval by the Council on September 28, 2026

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Business Meeting
Date: June 12, 2026
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET
Location: University of the Cumberlands, Grace Crum Rollins Fine Arts Center,
Williamsburg – Kohn Theater

WELCOME REMARKS

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education held a business meeting on Friday, June 12, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. ET. The meeting occurred at the Grace Crum Rollins Fine Arts Center at the University of the Cumberlands in Williamsburg, Kentucky. It was also livestreamed by ZOOM webinar. Vice Chair Elaine Walker presided.

ATTENDANCE

There was a quorum of 12 voting Council members in attendance.

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| • Rev. CB Akins – did not attend | • Karyn Hoover – in person |
| • Jai Bokey – in person | • Dennis Repenning – in person |
| • Jacob Brown – virtual | • LaDonna Rogers – did not attend |
| • Lindsey Case – in person | • Madison Silvert – virtual |
| • Jennifer Collins – in person | • Elaine Walker – in person |
| • Dr. Kellie Ellis – in person | • Kevin Weaver – virtual (arrived 10:09) |
| • Dr. Meredith Figg – in person | • Michael Wheeler – did not attend |
| • Sean Garber – virtual | • Comm. Robbie Fletcher – did not attend |

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

Before meeting business began, Dr. Quentin Young, President of the University of the Cumberlands, addressed the Council thanking them for visiting the campus and engaging with their leadership staff during their two days of meetings.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the April 1-2, 2026, meetings were approved as presented.

REPORT FROM CPE PRESIDENT

In addition to his comprehensive written report provided in the board materials, President Aaron Thompson offered developments for the upcoming convenings of the Postsecondary Education Working Group on Performance Funding, the launch of CPE's new branding and communications efforts, and highlights of the Council's recent media coverage showcasing staff expertise on critical policy issues.

REPORT FROM KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (KDE)

The written report from KDE Commissioner Robbie Fletcher was provided in the materials

STRATEGIC DISCUSSION WITH THE ASSOCIATION OF INDEPENDENT KENTUCKY COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (AIKCU)

President Mason Dyer provided the Council with the annual update of progress for the eighteen private, nonprofit institutions represented by the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU). The update focused on how the institutions are contributing to the state's strategic priorities of the statewide agenda as well as the baseline data and progress on key performance indicators. He provided additional context on how the institutions rely on fundraising efforts for scholarship opportunities as well as the current debt levels of students upon graduation.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES - REPORT

Committee Chair Walker presented the Committee on Educational Opportunities report. The committee met on April 28, in which members received presentations on the ongoing efforts within the Great Admissions Redesign project, as well as an update on state strategies for Dual Credit that the Council also explored during our work sessions over the past year. Looking ahead, the Committee discussed plans to incorporate campus site visits and institutional presentations into future meetings to gain more on-the-ground insights.

No action was recommended by the Council.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS

Vice Chair Walker presented the Executive Committee report and recommendation of approval to the Council, which met the morning of June 12. At its meeting, the Committee reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the following items:

- The proposed agency budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, which is based on the enacted state budget allocations and aligns closely with the agency's strategic priorities.

- The Council meeting dates for the 2027 calendar year, including those for the Academic and Strategic Initiatives, Finance, and Executive Committees.
- Proposed policy that would guide the Council's review and approval of Kentucky State University's financial obligations and expenditures of \$20,000 or greater, which was written to be consistent with the statutory requirements of Senate Bill 185.

MOTION: The Executive Committee's recommendation to approve the endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS

Committee member Case presented the Finance Committee report and recommendations of action to the Council, which met on June 9. At its meeting, the Committee received an update on the enacted 2026-28 biennial budget as well as the distribution of performance funding for the 2026-27 fiscal year. It also reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the following items:

- Interim capital project request from KCTCS to create a health sciences simulation lab in the Blakely Building at Somerset Community College, with a project scope is \$1.5 million, funded entirely by agency restricted funds.
- Tuition and mandatory fee rates for the upcoming academic year for the following institutions, all of which fell within the Council's previously approved parameters.

University of Kentucky

- Increase the resident undergraduate base rate by \$270.00 or 1.9 percent.
- Increase the nonresident undergraduate base rate by \$682.00 or 1.9 percent.
- Increase the resident graduate base rate by \$293.00 or 1.9 percent.
- Increase the nonresident graduate base rate by \$724.00 or 1.9 percent.

Eastern Kentucky University

- Increase the resident undergraduate base rate by \$210.00 or 2.0 percent.
- Increase the nonresident undergraduate base rate by \$240.00 or 2.0 percent.
- Increase per-credit-hour rates for resident graduate students by \$13.00 or 2.1 percent.
- Increase per-credit-hour rates for nonresident graduate students by \$17.00 or 2.1 percent.

Morehead State University

- Increase the resident undergraduate base rate by \$210.00 or 2.1 percent.
- Increase the nonresident undergraduate base rate by \$318.00 or 2.1 percent.

- No change to the per-credit-hour rates for both resident and nonresident graduate students.

Western Kentucky University (WKU)

- Increase their resident undergraduate base rate by \$204.00 or 1.7 percent.
 - No change to nonresident undergraduate base rate.
 - No change to the per-credit-hour rates for both resident and nonresident graduate students.
- Delegation of approval authority to President Thompson for the tuition and fee rates at the University of Louisville, Northern Kentucky University, and KCTCS, provided the proposed rates comply with the Council's parameters.
 - The proposed *2026-2028 Asset Preservation Guidelines*, which identify eligibility criteria and outline project expenditures and reimbursements from the asset preservation pools.
 - Delegation of authority to Council staff to review and make final determinations on interim capital projects funded by the asset preservation pool, provided they have already been authorized by the General Assembly.

MOTION: The Finance Committee's recommendation to approve the endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Following action taken, Dr. Adam Blevins, Executive Director, and Mr. Brent Floyd, Senior Associate provided the Council with an update on the Finance Policy and Program unit's recent work as well as what projects and priorities will be focused on in the next six to twelve months. Much of the discussion focused on the timeline of tuition rate setting for the 2027-28 academic year as well as performance funding.

ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS

Committee Chair Hoover presented the Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee report and recommendations of action to the Council, which met on June 9.

The Committee reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the following three proposed new academic programs:

- University of Kentucky – B.A. Applied Psychology (CIP 42.2813)
- University of Kentucky – B.A. Music Industry (CIP 50.1003)
- Eastern Kentucky University – A.A.S. Air Traffic Management (CIP 49.0105)

In SB 185 (2026), the General Assembly declared a state of financial exigency at Kentucky State University (KSU) for five years and required that KSU conduct a thorough review of all

academic programs for long-term viability, financial stability and alignment with the university's mission as a polytechnic institution. KSU developed and submitted a comprehensive academic transformation plan to the Council, and SB 185 required that the Council review the proposed program list before KSU submits to SACSCOC for review and approval July 1, 2026. In response to this, the Committee reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the following recommendations for Kentucky State University:

- Defined the six areas of study as: Applied Sciences, Engineering, Health Sciences, Humanities, Natural Sciences, and Technology.
- Continue to offer the following 28 academic programs:
 - Agriculture, Food, and Environment (baccalaureate)
 - Aquaculture (baccalaureate and master's)
 - Biological and Agricultural Engineering (bachelor's and master's)
 - Biology (baccalaureate)
 - Business Administration (baccalaureate and master's)
 - Criminal Justice (baccalaureate)
 - Chemistry (baccalaureate)
 - Computer Science – Cybersecurity (baccalaureate)
 - Elementary Education (baccalaureate)
 - Environmental Science and Technology (master's)
 - Exercise Science (baccalaureate)
 - Interdisciplinary Studies (associate's and baccalaureate)
 - Manufacturing and Agricultural Engineering (baccalaureate)
 - Mathematics (baccalaureate)
 - Music and Industry (baccalaureate)
 - Mass Communication (associate's)
 - Nursing (associate's and baccalaureate)
 - Nursing Practice (doctoral)
 - Psychology (baccalaureate and master's)
 - Social Work (baccalaureate and master's)
 - Special Education (master's)
- Close the following 4 academic programs:
 - Bachelor of Music Education
 - Bachelor of Music Performance
 - Bachelor of Arts in Political Science
 - Bachelor of Arts in Child Development and Family Studies

MOTION: The ASI Committee's recommendation to approve all endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Chair Hoover stated that at the meeting, members also received a report of four new KCTCS programs that were reviewed and approved by staff and did not require additional Council approval. Those programs were:

- Ashland Community and Technical College - Associate of Applied Science, Automotive Technology (47.0604)
- Ashland Community and Technical College - Associate of Applied Science, Diesel Technology (47.0605)
- Maysville Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science, Air Conditioning Technology (47.0201)
- Owensboro Community and Technical College – Associate of Applied Science, Physical Therapy Assistant (51.0806)

CAMPUS GOOD NEWS REPORTS

Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council adjourned the business meeting at 11:30 a.m. ET.