

MINUTES
Council on Postsecondary Education
Executive Committee
November 3, 2004

The Executive Committee of the Council on Postsecondary Education met November 3, 2004, at 3 p.m. at the Council offices in Frankfort, Kentucky. Chair Barger presided.

ROLL CALL

The following committee members were present: Steve Barger, Peggy Bertelsman, and Richard Freed. Ron Greenberg and Joan Taylor did not attend.

**2004-05
STRATEGIC
PLANNING
PROCESS
PROGRESS
REPORT**

An update on the 2004-05 strategic planning process was presented for discussion.

Dr. Sue Hodges Moore, Council Executive Vice President, said that earlier this year the Council began a process for updating the public agenda and related action plans for Kentucky's system of postsecondary and adult education. This process was kicked off at the 2004 Governor's Conference on Postsecondary Education with a presentation on *Measuring Up 2004* and with breakout sessions to discuss policy issues that were mirrored at the nine regional forums held around the state in September and October. Dr. Moore said that attendance at the forums ranged from 25-125 with the mode being about 60 people. The purpose of those forums was to speak with community and business leaders about the needs and challenges of the community and how postsecondary education could help. There were institutional representatives at the forums as well.

An on-line survey to solicit additional advice and comment is available on the Council's Web site. The questions parallel those asked at the regional forums. The on-line survey responses will be processed along with the forum information.

Dr. Moore said that it is fair to say that the challenges that postsecondary education has been addressing in the early phases of reform still exist despite all the progress that has been made. There are no issues at this point that have been completely resolved. There are some issues that came out that may need more attention than has been given to them in the past. For example:

- There are wide achievement gaps among subgroups – by race and ethnicity, gender, region, and income.
- Current teaching, learning, and support systems are not adequately meeting the needs of all students.
- Kentucky is losing ground in its efforts to keep college affordable for all students.

- Regional occupational outlooks suggest that, without intervention, most of the new jobs created will not require college degrees.
- Promotion of life-long learning and certificate and degree completion is an overarching concern.
- The state lacks a sufficient research base to address growing health concerns, help create good jobs that build a robust economy, and support community growth, vitality, and other issues facing regions across the Commonwealth.

A discussion outline that describes the recent progress, current challenges, and policy issues for postsecondary education was distributed. The staff is recommending that this outline be used to develop the public agenda and the statewide action plan over the next several weeks.

In addition to the community needs, the public was asked for advice about the five questions that have been guiding the work of postsecondary education since reform began. Dr. Moore said that at this point in time the analyses and discussions confirm that the policy directives embedded in the five questions are as relevant moving forward as they were seven years ago. However, the Council staff believes the addition of a sixth question and some minor refinements to the existing questions would best capture the essence of the work that lies ahead. The questions that might best represent the policy issues described in the discussion outline are:

1. Are Kentuckians of all ages prepared for postsecondary education?
2. Is Kentucky postsecondary education affordable for students?
3. Are more students enrolling and advancing through the system?
4. Are more students earning certificates and degrees?
5. Are we preparing graduates for life and work in Kentucky?
6. Are Kentucky's communities and economy benefiting?

Comments about these proposed questions will be sought during the coming months.

Dr. Moore said that the discussion outline, along with the advice and comments of Council members, presidents, and others in early November, will guide the development of a draft public agenda and statewide action plan. The Council's Executive Committee and the presidents will review a first draft at their December 1 meetings. Changes will be made and the draft will be widely distributed to all major constituents including the Strategic Committee on Postsecondary Education, other key executive and legislative branch members and their staffs, institutional board members and campus leaders, and regional forum participants and invitees. The discussion draft will be posted to the Council Web site for easy access to the postsecondary community, policymakers, and the general public.

The Council staff is in the process of developing a summary of

regional issues for each of the regional forums to be broadly distributed in early 2005 for review. These summaries, along with the public agenda and statewide action plan, will help guide the development of institutional action plans in the next planning phase, which will take place from March through July 2005. Draft guidelines for this phase of the process will be shared with Council members and presidents in January.

Mr. Barger complemented the Council staff on their work and on the organization of the regional forums.

**FUNDING
MODEL REVIEW**

Sandy Woodley, Council Vice President for Finance, gave a progress report on the comprehensive funding model review. The review began in May 2004 and will conclude with the FY 2006-08 budget recommendation in November 2005. The review was based on specific objectives and principles adopted by the Council in July 2004. The process has included the chief budget officers, the presidents of the institutions, the chief academic officers, staff of the Office of the State Budget Director, staff of the Education Cabinet, staff of the Legislative Research Commission, and the Council members. In addition, five work groups with diverse representation were established to facilitate the review and development of the recommendations.

Ms. Woodley discussed the development of recommendations regarding the benchmark funding model, the funding distribution methodology, capital, and trust funds.

**AMERICAN
DEMOCRACY
PROJECT**

Dr. Freed asked the Council staff to invite a representative of the American Democracy Project to a future meeting to speak to the Council about how education enriches lives.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Thomas D. Layzell
President

Phyllis L. Bailey
Associate, Executive Relations