

## **MINUTES**

### **Council on Postsecondary Education**

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Type: Executive Committee  
Date: September 5, 2019  
Time: 3:30 p.m.  
Location: Council on Postsecondary Education, Conference Room A

### **WELCOMING & CALL TO ORDER**

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The Council on Postsecondary Education met Thursday, September 5, 2019 at 3:30 p.m., ET, at the CPE offices in Frankfort, Kentucky. Chair Sherrill Zimmerman presided.

### **ATTENDANCE**

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Members in attendance: Ben Brandstetter, Kim Halbauer and Sherrill Zimmerman. All attended by teleconference.

Members not in attendance: Ron Beal and Kristi Nelson

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.

### **UPDATES SINCE LAST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**

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Presenters: Aaron Thompson, CPE President  
Lee Nimocks, CPE Vice President & Chief of Staff

President Thompson provided updates to the Committee on the discussions from the September 4 Presidents' meeting and his meeting with State Budget Director John Chilton. He also asked Ms. Nimocks to brief the committee on the sessions of the 2019 Symposium on Postsecondary Education Trusteeship.

## **CPE PLANNING DOCUMENT THROUGH 2020**

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Presenters: Lee Nimocks, CPE Vice President & Chief of Staff

Ms. Nimocks presented the agency planning priorities document through 2020. The planning document was developed to help frame and advance the work and activities of CPE through 2020. It was driven by (1) the key priorities of CPE board, (2) the statewide goals of the 2016-2021 Strategic Agenda for Postsecondary Education and educational attainment goal, and (3) the performance items in President Thompson's contract. It includes four overarching goals to drive postsecondary change and improvement in the Commonwealth.

1. Build broad understanding that higher education is the key to personal opportunity and Kentucky's economic growth.
2. Make higher education affordable for all Kentuckians.
3. Ensure more students earn degrees or certificates regardless of race, income, age, or geography.
4. Meet Kentucky's current and future workforce needs through high-quality, innovative programs.

Discussions regarding the plan of work progress will continue at future meetings.

## **LARGE PURCHASE THRESHOLDS**

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Presenter: Travis Powell, CPE's Vice President and General Counsel

Mr. Powell provided an overview of the CPE's current contract approval process, which is consistent with other Executive Branch agencies. He also discussed the contract review and purchasing approval practices of the other university boards (in-state and out-of-state) as well as the practices of various other Kentucky state boards. Finally, he also provided the Committee with the 2019-20 approved budget with more detail of how funds are planned to be spent during the fiscal year.

Following a discussion of the various types of contracts and how an additional review by the Executive Committee may impact current processes, the Committee asked staff to provide a list of contracts by dollar range amounts at its next meeting. Also suggested receiving a monthly update at each executive committee meeting regarding contracts. Discussions on the matter will continue.

## **PRESIDENT EVALUATION PROCESS**

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Presenters: Lee Nimocks, CPE Vice President & Chief of Staff

Ms. Nimocks provided an update on the development of the annual evaluation process of President Aaron Thompson. It included a proposed timeline, survey questions, and process. She asked that the Committee review each component and provide feedback before approval at the next Committee meeting.

## **CAMPUS STRATEGIC AGENDA PRESENTATIONS**

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Presenters: Lee Nimocks, CPE Vice President & Chief of Staff

Ms. Nimocks reminded the Committee of the presentation format and metrics covered during the 2018 campus Strategic Agenda presentations. The Committee stated that no changes were needed for the next set of presentations.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The committee adjourned at 4:45 p.m. ET.

***MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: March 6, 2020***