

## MEETING MINUTES

*Approved by the Committee, September 11, 2023*

---

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education  
Meeting Type: Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee  
Date: June 6, 2023  
Time: 10:00 a.m. ET  
Location: Virtual Meeting via ZOOM Webinar

### CALL TO ORDER

---

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee met Tuesday, June 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., ET. The meeting occurred virtually via ZOOM webinar. Committee Chair Karyn Hoover presided.

### ATTENDANCE

---

Committee Member attendance:

- All in attendance: Kellie Ellis, Meredith Figg, Karyn Hoover, Garrison Reed, LaDonna Rogers and Kevin Weaver.

Heather Faesy, CPE's Senior Associate for Board Relations, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

---

The minutes of the March 21, 2023, meeting, were approved as distributed.

### PROPOSED NEW ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

---

Dr. Melissa Bell, CPE's Vice President of Academic Excellence and Student Success, introduced two new academic programs for review and approval. KRS 164.020 (15) empowers the Council on Postsecondary Education to define and approve the offering of all postsecondary education technical, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree, certificate, or diploma programs in the public postsecondary education institutions.

Council staff reviewed the proposed programs and recommended approval.

#### Animal Equine Sciences (B.S.) - CIP 01.0901 – Murray State University

Presented by: Dr. Brian Parr, Dean of the Hutson School of Agriculture

- The 120-credit hour program would replace a current track of the Animal Technology program and students will gain a foundation in biological and agricultural sciences,

along with technical and practical training in animal agricultural business and animal health, breeding, and management. Additionally, this program will emphasize experiential learning through the Murray State's research farms, the William Cherry Expo Center, and the Breathitt Veterinary Center.

MOTION: Mr. Reed moved the Committee approve the proposed program from Murray State University and recommend approval by the full Council at its June 9, 2023, meeting. Ms. Rogers seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Linguistics (Ph.D.) - CIP 16.0102 – University of Kentucky

Presented by: Dr. Jennifer Cramer, Professor in the Department of Linguistics

- The 36-credit hour program would emphasize sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, and computational linguistics. Students would have the opportunity to engage in high-level linguistics research in those areas, and graduates from the proposed program would demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of the principles and methods of linguistic research as they apply to a range of specific problems.

MOTION: Ms. Rogers moved the Committee approve the proposed program from the University of Kentucky and recommend approval by the full Council at its June 9, 2023, meeting. Dr. Ellis seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **NEW ACADMIC PROGRAM APPROVED AT KCTCS**

---

Dr. Bell announced the Council approved a new program at Jefferson Community and Technical College - AAS, Computerized Manufacturing & Machining (CIP 48.0503). The program prepares students for a career in machine tool technology, with emphasis on applying knowledge of machine capabilities, the properties of materials, and machine shop practices. No further action was needed by the Committee.

## **UPDATE ON CAREER DEVELOPMENT COLLABORATION EFFORTS**

---

Dr. Rick Smith, Sr., CPE's Vice President of External Affairs and Economic Partnerships, discussed the newly developed affinity group, Career Development Officers (CDO). The group's purpose is to operate as a resource, to share innovative ideas, policies, and strategies, and to assist those on campuses who oversee and work within Career Services or Career Development departments. The CDO group is designed to address current and projected workforce shortages in Kentucky.

## **INVESTIGATING THE FINANCIAL TIPPING POINT: THE EFFECT OF UNMET FINANCIAL NEED AND STUDENT RETENTION**

---

Dr. Chris Ledford, CPE's Associate Director of Data and Advanced Analytics, presented the Council's latest findings on the effect of unmet financial need and student retention. The analyses suggested that unmet need is prevalent, increasing at the margins, and substantially endangers retention. Across sectors, around 70% of students have some unmet need and each \$1,000 increase tends to decrease retention likelihood by 1%. These trends are magnified for students enrolled at regional and two-year institutions, particularly those from minoritized and low-income backgrounds. Equally important, the models estimate that when unmet need is reduced to zero, minoritized and low-income students retain at rates equal to or higher than their peers. Cumulatively, these findings suggest how high of a barrier that affordability concerns can be.

Committee members discussed the findings, tactics the institutions are implementing to continue to reduce student unmet need, and what additional measures are needed for the future.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

---

The Academic & Strategic Initiatives Committee adjourned at 11:00 a.m., ET.