

## **MINUTES**

### **Council on Postsecondary Education**

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Type: Work Session  
Date: September 14, 2020  
Time: 3:00 p.m. ET  
Location: Virtual Meeting – Council members by ZOOM teleconference. Public viewing at: <https://youtu.be/TYRI74588kE>.

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

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The Council on Postsecondary Education met Thursday, September 14, 2020, at 3:00 p.m., ET. Pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243 and a memorandum issued by the Finance and Administration Cabinet dated March 16, 2020, and in an effort to prevent the spread of Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), the CPE met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting virtually on the CPE YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/TYRI74588kE>.

Chair Ben Brandstetter presided.

### **ATTENDANCE**

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Members attended: Ron Beal, Colby Birkes, Ben Brandstetter, Kim Halbauer, Lori Harper, Lucas Mentzer, Kristi Nelson, Richard Nelson, Vidya Ravichandran, Robert Staat, Carol Wright, and Sherrill Zimmerman.

Members not in attendance: Donna Moore, Commissioner Jason Glass

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.

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

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Chair Brandstetter welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Colby Birkes, the student member for the 2020-21 academic year.

## **COPING WITH COVID-19: THE IMPACT OF THE PANDEMIC ON KENTUCKY HIGHER EDUCATION**

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Facilitator: Travis Powell, CPE's Vice President and General Counsel  
Panelists: Robert Jackson, President, Murray State University  
Scott Williams, President, Owensboro Community & Technical College  
Burton Webb, President, University of Pikeville

Presidents Robert Jackson, Scott Williams, and Burton Webb participated in a facilitated discussion on how COVID-19 is affecting their campus. The topics discussed included:

- How regular campus operations have changed.
- The financial shortfalls it has created in campus budgets.
- The inability to create a lasting long-term plan of action.
- The opportunity to see clear needs of change to make education more accessible to remote learners.
- How some schools have redesigned their course length from 16 weeks to 8 weeks, and whether students are getting the same amount of maturation of knowledge with that platform.
- Communication efforts being made to keep students informed on the latest case counts, quarantine status, and safety precautions.
- How education in Kentucky must continue to evolve to meet the needs and wants of the students but also stay current with future market needs.

## **STATUS REPORT AND DISCUSSION, 2020 WORK PLAN**

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Ms. Lee Nimocks, CPE's Vice President and Chief of Staff, provided a status report on the work accomplished toward the 2020 work plan. The session covered a review of the work accomplished in 2020 based on the four priorities driving CPE's work, how the Covid-19 pandemic has changed the way CPE works and forced it to refocus on its priorities and shift strategies accordingly, and the areas of focus that still need attention.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The Council adjourned at 5:10 p.m., ET.

**MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL: November 13, 2020**