

MINUTES

Council on Postsecondary Education

Type: Executive Committee
Date: June 4, 2020
Time: 9:00 a.m. ET
Location: Virtual Meeting - Committee members by ZOOM, Public viewing hosted on CPE YouTube Page.

CALL TO ORDER

The Executive Committee met Thursday, June 4, 2020, at 9:00 a.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 Committee met utilizing a video teleconference. Members of the public were invited to view the meeting virtually on the CPE YouTube page: https://youtu.be/ck2vW_xUIT8. Chair Ben Brandstetter presided.

ATTENDANCE

Members in attendance: Ben Brandstetter, Ron Beal, Kim Halbauer, Kristi Nelson, Robert Staat, and Sherrill Zimmerman.

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The committee approved the minutes of the May 7, 2020 Executive Committee meeting.

UPDATE FROM THE PRESIDENT

CPE President Aaron Thompson discussed several items including potential mid-year budget cuts, campus reopening plan discussions with the presidents, and how campuses and CPE staff are reacting after the protests to bring about systemic changes in race relations. Committee members asked that campus reopening plans be placed on the agenda for the June 19, 2020 meeting.

2020-21 AGENCY OPERATING BUDGET

Shaun McKiernan, CPE's director of Finance and Budget, presented the agency's proposed revenue and expenditure budget for the upcoming 2020-21 fiscal year. The enacted state budget for 2020-21 (HB 352), along with CPE's 2020-22 biennial budget request, submitted to the state budget office and Legislative Research Commission in November 2019, provided the framework, and budgeted figures for the 2019-20 fiscal year were included for comparison.

House Bill 352 provided for flat funding of most CPE allotments (i.e., subdivisions of appropriations), though it did require the use of agency Restricted Funds to maintain spending levels. In lieu of transferring accumulated agency restricted funds to the state General Fund, the Office of State Budget Director (OSBD), in the Governor's Executive Budget, proposed that \$1,500,000 of CPE's Licensure Funds be used in place of state General Fund to support Agency Operations for 2020-21 only. Likewise, OSBD proposed that \$2,000,000 of Technology Trust Fund program funds be used in place of state General Fund for the Kentucky Virtual Library and Postsecondary Education Network in fiscal year 2020-21 only. In the Executive Budget, state General Fund for these programs increased to their original levels in fiscal year 2021-22.

Other notable changes for fiscal year 2020-21 included an additional \$50,000 for the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) Doctoral Scholars program, which will provide scholarships and other programming to help underrepresented minority doctoral candidates at the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville succeed and encourage them to pursue careers in academia after graduation.

Funding to assist students pursuing degrees in veterinary medicine and optometry through the Contract Spaces program was moved to the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority in fiscal year 2020-21. Additional funding was provided in the enacted budget to cover increases in that program's costs. Funds for Kentucky's dues to SREB are traditionally paid from this allotment and remain in the CPE budget for 2020-21.

Discussion points included the approval authority to reallocate funds according to the budget provided and the expected increased salary and benefits expenses allocated due to related to increasing retirement rates and employee transfer agreements.

MOTION: Dr. Staat moved the Executive Committee accept the proposed 2020-21 CPE Agency Operating Budget and recommend approval by the full Council at its June 19, 2020 meeting. Ms. Nelson seconded the motion.

VOTE: The motion passed.

UPDATE TO THE COUNCIL ON BYLAWS

Travis Powell, CPE's general counsel and vice president, presented amended Council bylaws which provide a framework for deliberations and actions of the CPE so that it may effectively carry out its duties and responsibilities. At the April 26, 2019 meeting, the Council approved a standing committee structure on a pilot basis through June of 2020. Due to the successful pilot implementation, the Council needed to formally adopt the committee structure by adding it to the Council bylaws. The proposed additions were provided to the Committee for review prior to the meeting.

MOTION: Mr. Beal moved to accept the proposed updates to the Council bylaws and recommend approval to the full Council at its June 19, 2020 meeting. Dr. Staat seconded the motion.

JUNE 2020 CPE MEETINGS AND AGENDA

Chair Brandstetter presented the meeting calendar for June 2020. Staff also provided a list of webinars offered the first several weeks of June that Council members may be interested in attending.

ROLE OF ASI COMMITTEE AND STATEWIDE STRATEGIC AGENDA

Lee Nimocks, CPE's Chief of Staff and Vice President for Strategy discussed the preliminary work being done on the next Statewide Strategic Agenda. She proposed the Council utilize the work of the Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee to oversee the process instead of appointing members to a separate steering committee. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The Executive Committee adjourned at 10:15 a.m., ET.

MINUTES REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY THE COMMITTEE: August 6, 2020