

## MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Council on June 21, 2024

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Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education  
Meeting Type: Business Meeting  
Date: March 28, 2024  
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET  
Location: CPE Offices, 100 Airport Rd, Frankfort, KY 40601 – CPE Conf Rm B

### WELCOME REMARKS

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The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education met in a business meeting on Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. ET. The meeting occurred at the CPE offices in Frankfort, Kentucky. Vice Chair Eric Farris presided.

### ATTENDANCE

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Council Members' attendance:

- Attended in person: Jacob Brown, Jennifer Collins, Kellie Ellis, Eric Farris, Meredith Figg, Karyn Hoover, Chloe Marsteller, LaDonna Rogers, Madison Silvert, Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney
- Attended via ZOOM: Faith Kemper, Elaine Walker, Kevin Weaver
- Did not attend: CB Akins, Muhammad Babar, Connie Smith

CPE President Aaron Thompson served as Secretary of the board, per the CPE Bylaws. Ms. Heather Faesy, CPE's board liaison, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

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The minutes of the January 18-19, 2024, meetings were approved as presented.

### CPE PRESIDENT REPORT

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President Aaron Thompson's written report was included in the board materials. He provided additional comments on the 2024 Legislative Session, the 2024 Student Success Summit, and recent initiatives underway including the Great Admissions Redesign and CLIMB-Health.

## **KY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION COMMISSIONER REPORT**

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KDE Interim Commissioner Robin Kinney provided a verbal report that focused on the KDE's work during the legislative session, the announcement and credentials of the newly elected Commissioner, Robert Fisher, and the continued development of the United We Learn initiative.

## **UPDATE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL MEMBER**

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Ms. Marstiller provided her report on current student matters, which included the 2024 Higher Education Rally, the meetings that followed with legislators and the ongoing election processes for the 2024-25 student government associations. To follow up on the topics discussed at the annual joint meeting, she stated that campus student leaders have continued to advocate for student mental health with legislators and leaders, explore additional scholarships and other cost-saving measures to assist with overall college affordability, and establish voting locations and/or election boxes on campus to help expand civic engagement.

## **KHEAA AND KHESLC's ROLE IN COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY**

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Jo Carole Ellis, CEO and Executive Director of the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) and Kentucky Higher Education Student Loan Corporation (KHESLC), provided an overview of their work and how they are contributing to the affordability of higher education in Kentucky. KHEAA was established in 1966 and provides state aid, such as the Kentucky Education Excellence Scholarship (KEES) program, the College Access Program (CAP) Grant, the Kentucky Tuition Grant (KTG) and other scholarship and grant programs. KHESLC was established in 1978 and is Kentucky's only not-for-profit student loan lender that offers low-cost Advantage Education Loans to students and parents, as well as Advantage Refinance Loans to borrowers already in repayment.

Questions from the Council included clarifying of the percentage of Kentucky Lottery Funds that go toward scholarship funding and the distribution of funds among the five target areas of the Work Ready Scholarship.

## **ACADEMIC AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS**

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Committee Chair Karyn Hoover presented the report and recommendations made by the Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee, which met on March 25, 2024.

Committee members:

- Received an annual report of the academic programs approved, closed, and reviewed during the 2022-23 academic year. There were 150 new programs approved, of which 130 were undergraduate or postbaccalaureate certificates.

Kentucky universities also reviewed 188 academic programs and made recommendations to grow, sustain, close, or improve.

- Received an update on CPE’s research that demonstrates the impact that parenting status often has on enrollment and student success, including the work that the Kentucky Student Success Collaborative is doing to integrate holistic academic, basic needs, and childcare supports for parenting students.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the proposed revisions to the Dual Credit Policy that streamline and eliminate duplication of the data submission process.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the proposed new academic programs from the University of Louisville:
  - B.S., Applied Engineering (CIP 15.0000)
  - B.S., Biochemistry (CIP 26.0202)
  - B.S., Exercise Physiology (CIP 26.0908)
  - M.S., Artificial Intelligence in Medicine (CIP 11.0102)
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the proposed two new academic programs from Western Kentucky University
  - B.S., Data Science (CIP 30.7001)
  - B.S., Neuroscience (CIP 26.1501)

MOTION: The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee’s recommendation of approval of the endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **FINANCE COMMITTEE – REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS**

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Committee Chair Eric Farris presented the report and recommendations made by the Finance Committee, which met on March 25, 2024. Committee members:

- Reviewed the maximum tuition and fee base-rate increases allowed by institutions for the upcoming academic year.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the proposed tuition and fee rates proposed by Kentucky State University for the 2024-25 academic year, which was 1.9 percent and complied with the Council-approved parameters.
- Reviewed and endorsed for Council approval the proposed revisions to the 2022-24 Endowment Match Program Guidelines that allow federal funds to be used as matching funds, which is in line with federal guidelines that permit up to 20% of Title III grant awards to be endowed provided they are matched dollar for dollar.
- Received an update on the 2024-26 biennial budget development process.
- Received an annual update on the use of Asset Preservation Pool funds. As of February 29, 2024, Kentucky’s public institutions have drawn down 20 percent of the \$683.5 million appropriated for asset preservation.

MOTION: The Finance Committee's recommendation of approval of the endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – REPORT & ACTION ITEMS**

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Chair Silvert presented the report and recommendations made by the Executive Committee, which met the morning of March 28, 2024. Committee members:

- Received and accepted the results of the annual audit for fiscal year 2022-23. For fiscal year 2023, the auditors issued an unmodified opinion, stating that the Council's financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the governmental activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Council as of June 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, the expenditures of federal awards and supplementary information are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole. The firm also noted that it did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that they consider to be material weaknesses.
- Reviewed and endorsed revisions to the Kentucky State University Management Improvement Plan that included the removal and reassignment of financial incentives for three objectives, the addition of three new objectives and deliverables, and the revision of one deliverable.
- Discussed President Thompson and his staff's efforts during the 2024 legislative session and early needs for new measures that were approved and will go into effect.
- Received early planning details for the 2024 Postsecondary Education Trusteeship Conference.

MOTION: The Executive Committee's recommendation of approval of the accepted and endorsed action items served as the motion. A second was not needed.

VOTE: The motion passed.

Chair Silvert also made the following committee appointments:

- To the 2024 Executive Committee: Madison Silvert (chair), Eric Farris, CB Akins, Kellie Ellis, and Karyn Hoover
- Finance Committee Chairman, effective immediately: Jacob Brown

## **DATA SPOTLIGHT: ENROLLMENT AND DEGREE ATTAINMENT**

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From CPE's Data and Advanced Analytics unit, Executive Director Travis Muncie and Senior Associates Blake Nantz and Adam Blevins provided an update on enrollment and credential trends across the state, with new data for fall 2023 enrollments and 2022-23 credentials awarded.

Two indicators that assess an institution's growth and sustainability are enrollment and degree and credential attainment. Mr. Nantz and Mr. Blevins discussed major improvements statewide and across sectors, including the annual enrollment increase of over 4% at public and private/non-profit postsecondary institutions in 2023-24, and the continued increase of degrees and credentials awarded across the Commonwealth, including a 3% annual increase in 2022-23, driven by non-degree credentials and graduate degrees. They also provided insights on improvements needed, including low-income student enrollment at public institutions, which fell 10% from 2021-22 to 2022-23.

## **CAMPUS GOOD NEWS REPORTS**

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Reports from the institutions were provided in the agenda materials. Chair Silvert provided highlights from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System, the University of Louisville, Western Kentucky University, and the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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The Council adjourned the business meeting at 2:45 p.m. ET.