2022 REGULAR SESSION

House Standing Committee on Appropriations and Revenue

Budget Review Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education

2nd Meeting

January 20, 2022

 The Budget Review Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education of the House Standing Committee on Appropriations and Revenue held its 2nd meeting of the 2022 Regular Session on January 20, 2022, at 10:00 AM, in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. The Chair called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

 Members Present: Representative James Tipton, Chair; Representatives Ken Fleming, Derrick Graham, and Bobby McCool.

 Guests:  Dr. Paul Czarapata, President, Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS); Dr. Larry Ferguson, President, Ashland Community and Technical College; Dr. Eli Capilouto, President, University of Kentucky (UK); Dr. Nancy Cox, Vice President of Land-Grant Engagement, and Dean, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, UK; and Bart Hardin, Executive Director for Government Relations, UK.

 LRC Staff: Savannah Wiley and Amie Elam.

**Kentucky Community and Technical College System**

 Presentations included information on dual credit courses and performance based funding measures. Dual credit courses give students the chance to earn college credit by taking one or more college-level courses while still in high school, earning both high school and college credits for each dual credit course taken. They can take place at a variety of locations, including high schools, Area Technology Centers, Career/Tech Centers, a college, and online. The program helps give high school students the confidence they need to succeed in postsecondary education while they are still in high school, giving students a head start on their college careers.

 Chair Tipton commented that he sponsored legislation in the 2020 Regular Session of the General Assembly to deal with the issue, but since that session was cut short due to the pandemic, it did not move forward. The dual credit program and Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship were realigned and separated for clarity. He has sponsored House Bill 85 in the 2022 Regular Session, which should be heard in committee next week.

 In response to a question from Representative McCool regarding tracking the success of the dual credit program through numbers of participating students completing degrees, Dr. Czarapata replied that the data is available and will be provided to subcommittee members at a later date.

**University of Kentucky**

 Presentation included information on the devastating tornado damage at Princeton Research Station (Station), the Asset Preservation Pool, and the Bucks for Brains program.

 Chair Tipton commented that he remembers the early 1970s and the first time no-till planting of corn was utilized, and the Station was instrumental in developing that research that is now a staple worldwide. He asked if there had been loss of life or injury to Station employees, and Dr. Cox replied that there were a couple of people injured. One staff member was severely injured when his house was destroyed off campus. There were a few others that took shelter on campus and sustained minor injuries, but are now safe.

 In response to a question from Chair Tipton regarding insurance coverage and a need for supplemental funds, Dr. Cox said negotiations are ongoing with their insurance carrier, and at this point it is impossible to determine the outcome and if more funds will be needed. She added that every effort is being made to maximize any insurance payouts, from their comprehensive insurance plan.

 In response to a question from Chair Tipton regarding a proposed new Livestock Center for Excellence, Dr. Cox said UK has partnered with the Kentucky Cattleman’s Association and will allocate land on the farm in Woodford County for Cattleman’s Association offices. The partnership includes a joint venture project, being led by the Cattleman’s Association and the Kentucky Livestock Coalition. The project entails moving the UK meat lab facilities to that site, and design a pilot processing program to serve all the new beef producers and livestock processors. As a partner in the venture, UK will bring all the staff, expertise, and extension programs that can be offered at that facility. Chair Tipton asked if there would be an appropriation request from the General Assembly for the project, and Dr. Cox said she does expect that to happen.

 In response to a question from Chair Tipton regarding the Bucks to Brains program, Mr. Hardin said the last allocation given to that program was a total of $60 million in 2008-2010. Chair Tipton commented that the need for funds is great.

 In response to a question from Representative Fleming regarding regenerative farming, Dr. Cox said they are involved in partnerships with companies that grow crops indoors using hydroponics systems, which can operate continually. She added that they are responding to their constituents by increasing their programs, which includes the recovery of nutrients in the soils through rest periods, for example.

**Adjournment**

 There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.