2022 REGULAR SESSION

House Standing Committee on Appropriations & Revenue

Budget Review Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education

3rd Meeting

January 27, 2022

The Budget Review Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education of the House Standing Committee on Appropriations & Revenue held its 3rd meeting of the 2022 Regular Session on January 27, 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, Kelly Flood, Derrick Graham, and Bobby McCool.

Guests:  Dr. Lori Stewart Gonzalez, Interim President, University of Louisville; Dr. Kevin Gardner, Executive Vice President for Research and Innovation, University of Louisville, Dan Durbin, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration/CFO; University of Louisville; Dr. Ashish Vaidya, President, Northern Kentucky University; Carmen Hickerson, Assistant Vice President, Economic Engagement and Government Relations, Northern University Kentucky; Mary Paula Schuh, Senior Director, Planning, Design, and Construction; Syed Zaidi, Assistant Vice President, Facilities Management, Northern Kentucky University.

LRC Staff: Savannah Wiley and Amie Elam.

**University of Louisville (UofL)**

In response to a question from Chair Tipton, Dr. Gonzalez said that UofL’s purchase of KentuckyOne allowed the system to provide 225,000 vaccines in 2021 and 28,000 COVID-19 tests in the last 30 days. She said that without the KentuckyOne acquisition, hospitals would have been overrun and not been able to treat patients. Dr. Gonzalez added that UofL hospitals served over one million patients in the past year, and the vast majority were COVID-19 patients. She said UofL Health has not stopped performing elective procedures and that Intensive Care Unit beds have freed up more than in the past. She added that there are more patients in the hospital but, the illnesses are less acute.

In response to a question from Chair Tipton, Mr. Durbin answered that UofL would likely bond for the required match on the asset preservation funds. Dr. Gardner said that UofL has met with representatives from Ford regarding the workforce they will need for future projects. He added that UofL has research in battery technology that would be helpful to the battery plant that Ford plans to build in Glendale, Kentucky. Dr. Gonzalez said that UofL hopes to help Ford with research and development by adding an engineering technology degree.

In response to a question from Representative Fleming, Dr. Gardner answered that UofL is exploring arrangements with companies to offset the university’s costly deferred maintenance needs.

**Northern Kentucky University (NKU)**

In response to questions from Chair Tipton, President Vaidya said expanding and repairing the Brent Spence Bridge would improve infrastructure and traffic challenges in Northern Kentucky and help advance the region. In response to a question regarding performance funding, Dr. Vaidya stated that the correct elements are in place with the performance funding model to reach the Council on Postsecondary Education’s 60 by 30 goal. He said that with continued investment over time, equalization would occur at NKU. Dr. Vaidya stated that the pandemic has taken a toll on students, faculty, and staff at NKU. He added that NKU has made a renewed investment in mental health and peer support on campus. Ms. Hickerson said that part of her job is to ensure that NKU is aligned with the needs and challenges of the industry and workforce organizations in the community. Ms. Hickerson said that many students at NKU are working adults. She stated that NKU offers multiple ways of delivering opportunities for education, including the traditional student pathway, microcredentials, on-demand learning, and accelerated online graduate programs. Ms. Hickerson said that NKU is reactive and proactive to the needs of their community.

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