

HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2023 Regular Session

February 16, 2023

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 2nd meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education was held on February 16, 2023, at 10:00 AM in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Representative Bobby McCool, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Bobby McCool, Chair; Representative James Tipton, Representative Adam Bowling, Representative Derrick Graham, and Representative Killian Timoney.

Guests: Dr. Larry Ferguson, Acting President, Kentucky Community and Technical College System; Jessie Schook, Vice President of Workforce and Economic Development, Kentucky Community and Technical College System; Dr. Scott Williams, President, Owensboro Community and Technical College; Dr. Robert L. Jackson, President, Murray State University

LRC Staff: Justin Smith, Savannah Wiley, and Amie Elam.

The minutes from February 9, 2023 meeting were approved.

Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Representatives from KCTCS provided a brief overview to the subcommittee. Topics discussed during the meeting included asset preservation, needs assessments, and an update on the Commonwealth West Healthcare Workforce Initiative.

In response to a question from Representative McCool, Dr. Ferguson said that apprenticeship programs are difficult for rural areas. He added that unions are making an effort to increase apprenticeship levels in these areas. Ms. Schook said KCTCS covers up to 75% of the costs for the KCTCS-TRAINS program, and the employer is responsible for 25% plus a 10% administrative fee.

In response to a question from Representative Graham, Ms. Schook said that employees who participate in the apprenticeship program stay with their employer at a higher percentage than an average new hire. Ms. Shook agreed to provide additional information regarding employee retention to the subcommittee.

In response to a question from Representative Bowling, Ms. Shook agreed to provide a list of Education First, TRAINS, and apprenticeship employers.

In response to a question from Chair McCool, Dr. Ferguson said that the Huron study includes a space utilization assessment and academic programming optimization. He added that there is a focus on energy savings to assist with the current budget shortfall. He said it would take up to a year to receive the results of the Huron study.

In response to a question from Representative Tipton, Dr. Ferguson stated that there are challenges with the supply chain and that there will be a shortfall with the capital construction projects.

In response to a question from Chair McCool, Dr. Williams answered that the bid for mobile units is out, and the purchase orders are complete for the initial round of virtual reality equipment. He anticipates that the high-fidelity center will open this fall. He said that progress metrics for the Commonwealth West Healthcare Workforce Innovation Center would be reported to the General Assembly as required.

In response to a question from Representative Graham, Dr. Williams said that connectivity issues would need to be addressed in rural areas. He added that mobile units have Wi-Fi capability.

Murray State University

Dr. Robert L. Jackson, President, Murray State University, provided a brief overview to the subcommittee. The topics discussed during the meeting included deferred maintenance, asset preservation, and the Breathitt Veterinary Center.

In response to a question from Chair McCool, Dr. Jackson said that state funds were appropriated to build the Breathitt Veterinary Center. He added that the center does receive federal funds.

In response to a question from Representative Timoney, Dr. Jackson stated that Murray State requires students to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for admission. He said that Murray State participates in college fairs and other events where students are encouraged to fill out the FAFSA.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.