

HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2026 Regular Session

February 19, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 4th meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education was held on February 19, 2026, at 10:00 AM in Room 129 of the Capitol Annex.

Representative Steve Riley, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representative Steve Riley, Chair; Representatives Bobby McCool, James Tipton, and Shane Baker.

Guests: Tim Caboni, President, Western Kentucky University; Matthew Chausee, Chief Executive Officer, CareerViewXR; and Tanelle Sawyer, Chief External Impact Officer, Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

LRC Staff: Justin Smith, Ethan Williams, and Benjamin Thompson.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the February 5 meeting of the subcommittee were not approved due to the lack of a quorum.

Western Kentucky University

Tim Caboni, President, Western Kentucky University (WKU) provided information on WKU and its top additional budget requests.

In response to Representative Tipton, President Caboni stated that the Student Life Foundation had been established over twenty-five years prior. Due to a lack of university oversight, WKU recently decided to transition its campus housing to a public-private partnership with leading student housing developer Gilbane Development Company.

In response to Chair Riley, President Caboni said that the combined space residence hall/dining facility rendering that was presented would sit on the footprint of where Douglas Keen Hall, Hugh Poland Hall, and The Den dining facility sit currently.

CareerViewXR

Matthew Chausee, Chief Executive Officer, CareerViewXR; and Tanelle Sawyer, Chief External Impact Officer, Kentucky Community and Technical College System provided a presentation on the benefits of CareerViewXR and its budgetary request.

In response to Representative McCool, Mr. Chausee stated that the initial cost of the program would be one point eight million dollars to impact fifty to sixty thousand students in three different regions. The funds are being requested through the Kentucky Community and Technical College System budget.

In response to Chair Riley, Ms. Sawyer stated that the three campuses that CareerViewXR would be located in initially are the Hazard Community and Technical College, Southeast Community and Technical College, and Western Kentucky Community and Technical College located in Paducah.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:32 AM.