

HOUSE BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2026 Regular Session

February 26, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 5th meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education was held on February 26, 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 George Brown Jr..

Guests: Gerry Bradley, President, University of Louisville; Makayla Akemon, Sophomore Economics Major & Letcher County Native, University of Louisville; Nick Peak, Assistant Vice President of External Relations, University of Louisville; Dr. Ryan Quarles, President, Kentucky Community and Technical College System; Todd Kilburn, Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, Kentucky Community and Technical College System; Chris Crumrine, Chief Government Affairs Officer, Kentucky Community and Technical College System; Jo Carole Ellis, Executive Director, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority; and Becky Gilpatrick, Director of Student Aid, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority.

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

Approval of Minutes

Due to the lack of a quorum, the minutes from the February 19, 2026 meeting were not approved.

University of Louisville

Gerry Bradley, President, University of Louisville (UofL); and Makayla Akemon, Sophomore Economics Major & Letcher County Native, UofL, provided information regarding UofL's budgetary needs and capital project requests.

In response to Representative Tipton, Mr. Peak noted that UofL was investigating its debt capacity and had requested bond funding. President Bradley stated that UofL Heath had created sites outside of the Louisville metropolitan area in order to reach more individuals

in need of healthcare. UofL is in conversations with Murray State University to establish a joint medical school on the Murray State University campus.

Kentucky Community and Technical College System

Dr. Ryan Quarles, President, Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS); Todd Kilburn, Senior Vice President & Chief Financial Officer, KCTCS; and Chris Crumrine, Chief Government Affairs Officer, KCTCS, provided information regarding the KCTCS budget and capital project requests.

In response to Representative Tipton, President Quarles noted that the KCTCS currently provides education and training within Kentucky jails and prisons. Inmates within the last eighteen months to one year of their sentence who have a high school diploma or GED are eligible to apply to become a student at KCTCS. KCTCS believes that recidivism can be reduced with this program.

Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority

Jo Carole Ellis, Executive Director, Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA); and Becky Gilpatrick, Director of Student Aid, KHEAA, provided information regarding the KHEAA budgetary needs.

In response to Representative Tipton, Ms. Ellis stated that the Workforce Pell Grant that will go into effect July 1, 2026 could increase the number of individuals eligible for the College Access Program (CAP) Grant.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 AM.