

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

## **Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2025 Interim**

**July 14, 2025**

### **Call to Order and Roll Call**

The second meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Education was held on July 14, 2025, at 11:00 AM in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative James Tipton, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

**Present were:** Members: Senator Stephen West, Co-Chair; Representatives Scott Lewis, Co-Chair; James Tipton, Co-Chair; Senators Danny Carroll, Jimmy Higdon, Stephen Meredith, Gerald A. Neal, Steve Rawlings, Aaron Reed, Reginald L. Thomas, Lindsey Tichenor, Gex Williams, and Mike Wilson and Representatives Shane Baker, Kim Banta, Tina Bojanowski, Steve Bratcher, George Brown Jr., Emily Callaway, Josh Calloway, Adrielle Camuel, Mike Clines, Jennifer Decker, Steven Doan, Ken Fleming, Daniel Grossberg, Vanessa Grossl, David Hale, Kevin Jackson, Candy Massaroni, Bobby McCool, J.T. Payne, Steve Riley, Rachel Roarx, Sarah Stalker, Aaron Thompson, Timmy Truett, and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Dr. Gerard Bradley, President, University of Louisville (UofL), Nick Peak, Assistant Vice President of External Relations, UofL; Dr. Ron K. Patterson, President, Murray State University; Travis Powell, Executive Vice President, Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE); Greg Rush, Assistant Vice President for Finance Policy and Partnerships, CPE; Tammy Dukes, Board Chair, Board of Regents, Kentucky State University (KSU); Dr. Michael Dailey, Provost, KSU; Dr. Wendy Dixie, Chief Information Officer and Special Assistant to the President, KSU; Dr. Amanda Ellis, Senior Vice President of Student Access and Success, CPE; and Jessica Fletcher, Program Director, Outreach and Partnerships, CPE.

LRC Staff: Yvette Perry, Lauren Busch, Emily Wiley, Peter Wright, and Jay Harris.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion was made by Co-Chair Lewis and seconded by Co-Chair West to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2025, meeting. The motion was passed by voice vote.

### **New University Presidents**

University of Louisville

Dr. Gerry Bradley, President, University of Louisville (UofL), testified about the university's community engagement along with his priorities on strategic focus. The presentation included statistical data on enrollment; student body demographics; access and affordability initiatives; retention, employment, and workforce; and health impacts along

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with manufacturing and economic development within surrounding communities in Louisville.

Responding to Representative Grossberg, Dr. Bradley discussed first generation student retention rate for students entering undergrad programs and students wanting to achieve advanced degrees. Dr. Bradley stated they have data on one year post graduation employment and attendance rates but it can be difficult to obtain that data and must have a better system. With the current data, the UofL is doing well.

Responding to Representative Fleming, Dr. Bradley discussed the Science of Reading program that returned to UofL this year.

Responding to Representative Stalker, Nick Peak, Assistant Vice President of External Relations, UofL, provided the committee with statistics on tuition rates along with statistics on students who receive state and federal grants.

Responding to Representative Willner, Dr. Bradley discussed the loss in federal funding for research.

Responding to Chair Tipton, Dr. Bradley discussed the partnership between UofL and Murray State University related to cybersecurity.

Murray State University

Dr. Ron K. Patterson, President, Murray State University, testified about his plans as the new president.

Responding to Senator Carroll, Dr. Patterson said Murray State University is moving to create their Board-Certified Behavioral Analyst program.

Responding to Chair Tipton, Dr. Patterson shared why he chose Murray State University.

### **2022 RS HB 250 Update**

Travis Powell, Executive Vice President, Council of Postsecondary Education (CPE), and Greg Rush, Assistant Vice President for Finance Policy and Partnerships, CPE, provided an update on the management improvement plan and the quarterly performance report for April 2025 concerning Kentucky State University (KSU) as explained by 2022 Regular Session HB 250.

Responding to Co-Chair West, Mr. Powell explained how KSU's monthly deliverables and internal control procedures ensure they are monitoring the budget and presenting the information to the board with accuracy. Mr. Powell discussed audits by the Auditor of Public Accounts between 2021 to 2024.

Responding to Co-Chair West, Mr. Rush discussed the struggles with individual financial controls and account reconciliations due to administrative changes.

Responding to Senator William, Mr. Powell stated CPE is not tasked with evaluating the process of private foundations.

Responding to Representative Decker, Mr. Powell said that they are in the process of updating the data website to improve transparency. CPE is recording 24-25 data of low-income students through preliminary enrollment data, which is published quicker than the federal data.

Responding to Chair Tipton, Mr. Rush stated unpaid student debt is high for KSU. This fall, KSU is looking to enforce stricter payment dates before students arrive on campus. KSU also reallocated funds from programs and projects to online programs that KSU is trying to build.

#### Kentucky State University Administration

Tammy Dukes, Chair, Board of Regents, KSU; Dr. Michael Dailey, Provost, KSU; and Dr. Koffi C. Akakpo, President, KSU, answered questions about KSU finances.

Responding to Senator Thomas, Dr. Akakpo said he hopes to have the design for the new health building ready to request funding. Dr. Akakpo discussed the university's issue with enrollment.

Responding to Co-Chair West, Dr. Akakpo stated he has struggled to find a Chief Financial Officer due to KSU's image prior to his acceptance as KSU President. He has acceptable applicants being interviewed for the position at this time.

Responding to Senator Williams, Dr. Akakpo indicated he is working on public-private partnerships (PPPs). The previous administration had some PPPs that were costly to the university.

Responding to Representative Grossl, Dr. Akakpo stated that KSU receives more out-of-state enrollment than in-state. High school partnerships are needed along with visits to help increase KSU's image.

Responding to Representative McCool, Dr. Akakpo stated, before his arrival, students did not think they had to pay the tuition and some abused Parent Plus loans.

### **Futuriti.org Update**

Dr. Amanda Ellis, Senior Vice President of Student Access and Success, CPE, and Jessica Fletcher, Program Director, Outreach and Partnerships, CPE, presented on FUTURITI.org, a Kentucky specific web-based platform that offers career information using Kentucky data and links directly to educational opportunities for Kentuckians.

### **Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations**

701 KAR 005:055 Proposed- Removal hearing procedures. Todd Allen, Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel, Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), was present to answer any questions related to the administrative regulation.

Responding to Representative Massaroni, Mr. Allen stated the state board of education no longer has the authority to remove a local board of education member from their seat.

Responding to Representative Clines, Mr. Allen said criteria for removal is set forth in the statute that provides the authority for removal.

Responding to Representative Grossl, Mr. Allen indicated that the Attorney General would have the authority for removal.

Responding to Senator Thomas, Co-Chair Tipton stated authority was taken from the state board of education and given to the Attorney General.

Responding to Representative Doan, Mr. Allen said KDE does not have authority over state board members. For other school officials, complaints can be made to the Commissioner of Education and citizens can make informal complaints.

No action was taken on this item at this time.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM.