

INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE

Budget Review Subcommittee on Education

Minutes of the 2nd Meeting of the 2020 Interim

July 8, 2020

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 2nd meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Education of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2020, at 10:30 AM, in Room 171 of the Capitol Annex. Representative James Tipton, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Present were:

Members: Representatives James Tipton, Co-Chair, and Steve Riley, Co-Chair; Senators C.B. Embry Jr., Gerald A. Neal, Johnny Ray Turner, and Mike Wilson; Representatives Kim Banta, Tina Bojanowski, Randy Bridges, Joseph M. Fischer, Kelly Flood, Cluster Howard, Regina Huff, C. Ed Massey, Bobby McCool, Brandon Reed, Rob Rothenburger, and Attica Scott.

Guests: Dr. Aaron Thompson, President, Council on Postsecondary Education; Dr. Robert L. Jackson, President, Murray State University; Dr. OJ Oleka, President, Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU)

LRC Staff: Chuck Truesdell, Seth Dawson, Nick Peak, and Amie Elam
Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE)

Dr. Aaron Thompson, President, CPE, and Dr. Robert L. Jackson, President, Murray State University, gave a presentation and answered questions regarding the effects of COVID-19 on Postsecondary Education Budgets.

In response to a question from Chair Tipton, Dr. Jackson said that Murray State University is working to mitigate concerns regarding the return of students in the fall. He said the University is installing plexiglass, providing hand sanitizer, planning for social distancing, and ensuring a clean and safe campus for the return of students, faculty, and staff.

In response to a question from Representative Scott, Dr. Thompson said that CPE is exploring solutions to remedy the issues surrounding student visas and virtual learning. He said they hope to find a satisfactory solution very soon.

In response to a question from Representative Howard, Dr. Thompson said that CPE, in conjunction with Area Technology Centers and business leaders, designed a way for students to properly social distance while still allowing them to learn in hands-on courses. Dr. Thompson added that there have been ongoing personnel adjustment conversations. He said concerns about COVID-19 have led some older faculty and staff to look more closely at their options. Dr. Jackson said there is a great concern for the safety of at-risk faculty and staff.

In response to a question from Senator Wilson, Dr. Thompson said CPE has reached out to the United States Department of Education about securing additional funding. He added that some of that federal funding could be used to offset budget cuts.

In response to a question from Representative Rothenburger, Dr. Thompson stated that several community colleges and smaller institutions in Kentucky are at risk of financial hardships if enrollment decreases or they do not receive additional funding.

Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU)

Dr. OJ Oleka, President, Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU) gave a presentation and answered questions regarding the effects of COVID-19 on Postsecondary Education Budgets.

In response to a question from Chair Tipton, Dr. Oleka said that more than 10,000 AIKCU students rely on the Kentucky Tuition Grant to make higher education attainable.

There being no further business to come before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.