

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS & REVENUE**

## **Budget Review Subcommittee on Education**

### **Minutes of the 5th Meeting of the 2021 Interim**

**October 6, 2021**

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

The fifth meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Education of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations and Revenue was held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 10:00 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: Representatives James Tipton, Co-Chair, and Steve Riley, Co-Chair; Senators Alice Forgy Kerr, Dennis Parrett, and Max Wise; Representatives Kim Banta, Tina Bojanowski, Randy Bridges, Ken Fleming, Kelly Flood, Regina Huff, Bobby McCool, and Charles Miller.

Guests: Dr. Aaron Thompson, President, Council on Postsecondary Education; Dr. David McFaddin, President, Eastern Kentucky University; Clara Ross Stamps, Acting President, Kentucky State University; Greg Rush, Vice President for Finance and Administration, Kentucky State University; Stephanie Devine, Executive Director, Teach for America Appalachia; Jason Wheeler, MD, Appalachian Education Initiatives, Teach for America Appalachia; Brittany Curry, Mathematics Teacher, Letcher County Central High School; Gavin Pielow, Law and Justice Teacher, Knott County Central High School; Ashley Morrow, College Success Coach, Knox County Central High School

LRC Staff: Jennifer Krieger, Seth Dawson, Savannah Wiley, Liz Columbia, and Amie Elam

#### **Council on Postsecondary Education**

Dr. Aaron Thompson and Dr. David McFaddin spoke to the committee about cost-saving measures for universities. The presentation included a postsecondary education update and proposed regulatory relief measures.

In response to a question from Chair Tipton, Dr. McFaddin said that 2020 Regular Session Senate Bill 5 did not include liability protection that would cover universities in class action lawsuits. He said that the issue is the delivery of services and not the health

and safety of those consuming the services. Dr. McFaddin said the university's request that federal and state aid be applied before university dollars when providing tuition waivers.

In response to a question from Representative Miller, Dr. McFaddin said that universities are asking to be exempt from KRS 57.091, which requires the Governor's approval of all state printing contracts.

In response to a question from Representative Fleming, Dr. McFaddin said that the efficacy of service contracts, quality protocols, and financial aid procedures are under constant review to contain costs on campuses. He indicated that universities have done more with less and focus on being good stewards of dollars invested by the students and the state.

### **Kentucky State University**

Clara Ross Stamps, Acting President, Kentucky State University, Greg Rush, Vice President for Finance and Administration, Kentucky State University, along with Dr. Aaron Thompson, President, Council on Postsecondary Education, gave a presentation to the committee regarding student enrollment, tuition, and a CARES Act funding update.

In response to a question from Chair Tipton, Mr. Rush indicated that KSU's total expenditures are roughly \$70 million. He said the university receives \$27 million in state appropriation and that over \$8 million of that is reserved for the land grant match. Mr. Rush said that KSU will be able to submit a final budget request by the statutory deadline.

In response to a question from Representative McCool, Ms. Stamps said that KSU is in communication with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC). Ms. Stamps said that KSU's accreditation is not in any danger of being revoked. Dr. Thompson added that CPE is in communication with SACSCOC as well.

In response to a question from Representative Graham, Mr. Rush noted the importance of budget transparency with the members of the board of regents at KSU.

In response to a question from Representative Fleming, Mr. Rush said that KSU has roughly \$100-150 million in deferred maintenance. He said that the newest residence hall was built in 2007. He added that there are many ongoing issues with chillers, roofs, and humidity.

In response to a question from Chair Tipton, Mr. Rush said KSU would provide the subcommittee with the number of students that have an unpaid balance. Mr. Rush said that going forward, it is important that students pay down outstanding balances from the fall

semester before registering for the spring semester. Mr. Rush said that he is not aware of a severance package with former KSU president Christopher Brown.

### **Teach for America**

Representatives spoke to the committee about Teach for America's impact on the commonwealth, the future of the agency, and a request for an additional allocation from the General Assembly.

In response to a question from Chair Tipton, Ms. Devine indicated that Teach for America is requesting to double its appropriation from the previous biennium to \$2 million.

In response to a question from Representative Bojanowski, Ms. Devine said that Teach for America teachers are trained internally rather than through a traditional state certification process. Ms. Devine said that Teach for America is a national 501(c)(3). Therefore, she cannot speak to corporate donations. Ms. Devine indicated that the Teach for America allocation supports teachers, college coaches, and professional development staff. She added that Teach for America teachers do get the same rank three salaries as other professionals.

In response to a question from Representative McCool, Ms. Devine said that there is little to no cost to local school districts for Teach for America teachers.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.