

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

## **Budget Review Subcommittee on Education**

### **Minutes of the 4th Meeting of the 2022 Interim**

**October 19, 2022**

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

The 4th meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Education of the Interim Joint Committee on Appropriations & Revenue was held on Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 10:30 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 James Tipton, Co-Chair, and Steve Riley, Co-Chair; Senator Christian McDaniel; Representatives Kim Banta, Ken Fleming, Kelly Flood, Derrick Graham, Bobby McCool, and Charles Miller.

Guests: Dr. Aaron Thompson, President, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education; Lee Nimocks, Senior Vice President and Chief of Staff, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education; Dr. Amanda Ellis, Vice President of K-12 Policies and Programs, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education; Dr. Ronald A. Johnson, Interim President, Kentucky State University; Dr. Daarel Burnette, Interim Chief of Staff, Kentucky State University; Dr. Gerald Shields, Interim Chief Financial Officer, Kentucky State University; Bridgett Goleman, Interim Vice President of Student, Engagement and Campus Life, Kentucky State University.

LRC Staff: Seth Dawson, Savannah Wiley, Liz Columbia, Justin Smith, and Amie Elam.

#### **Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE)**

Representatives from CPE testified regarding the council's administrative and financial needs. Dr. Thompson expressed the need for additional agency operating funds to support the growth in CPE's duties and to meet the objectives of the state's strategic agenda.

In response to a question from Representative Riley, Dr. Thompson said that only 3-4% of people know about the Work Ready Kentucky Scholarship Program. He stated that CPE secured grant money to promote the program. Dr. Thompson added that B. Stille, of the music group Nappy Roots, became the spokesperson after returning to Kentucky to get his degree. Ms. Nimocks said that it is important to focus on educating employers on the Work Ready program.

In response to a question from Senator McDaniel, Dr. Thompson said that the increased demand for an online learning experience requires additional wrap-around services for students. He added that while conversations are ongoing about the increase in virtual learning, employers want employees to have a physical work-based learning experience.

In response to a question from Representative Graham, Dr. Thompson said that CPE has been at the forefront of economic development projects in Kentucky. He said that the needs of companies coming into the Commonwealth are ever-growing and that education and training programs must be adaptable to meet these needs.

In response to a question from Chair Tipton, Dr. Ellis said the Commonwealth Education Continuum is a cradle-to-career initiative to strengthen Kentucky's education pipeline. She said a weak spot for Kentucky was the transition from secondary to postsecondary. Dr. Ellis said the most significant needs were academic preparedness and college and career advising. She said that the Kentucky Advising Academy was created with COVID Relief funding. The Kentucky Advising Academy assists counselors and school staff in advising families and students. Dr. Thompson said that roughly \$50 million of federal funding was left on the table by students who did not fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

In response to a question from Senator West, Dr. Ellis said that the grade level in which counseling starts varies between districts. She added that advising for families and students should be early and often. Dr. Ellis said that all sixth graders must complete an individual learning plan.

### **Kentucky State University (KSU)**

KSU representatives testified regarding declining enrollment, retention rates, and the status of the new dormitory. The presentation also addressed delinquent student balances and the emergency declaration for campus facilities.

In response to a question from Chair Tipton, Dr. Burnette anticipates that KSU's Fiscal Year 2021 audited financials will be available in four to six months.

In response to a question from Senator West, Dr. Shields said that KSU has approximately 400 employees. He said 20-25 of those employees are custodial staff. Dr. Burnette added that maintenance and custodial services are outsourced. Dr. Shields and Senator West discussed the possibility of writing language to remove some restrictions on deferred maintenance funds.

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 12:22 P.M.

