

# **BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

## **Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2025 Interim**

**July 15, 2025**

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

The first meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Education was held on July 15, 2025, at 10:30 AM in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Senator Steve Rawlings, Chair, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

### **Present were:**

Members: Senator Steve Rawlings Co-Chair; Representatives Kim Banta Co-Chair; Steve Riley Co-Chair; Senators Amanda Mays Bledsoe, Christian McDaniel, Gerald Neal, and Stephen West; Representatives Scott Lewis, Bobby McCool, James Tipton, Shane Baker, Tina Bojanowski, George Brown Jr., Mike Clines, and Timmy Truett.

Guests: Dana Fohl, Vice President of Compliance and University Counsel; Amy Scarborough, Chief Government, Community, and Corporate Relations Officer; Jessica Stigall, General Counsel; Todd Kilburn, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Koffi Akakpo, President; Zachary Atwell, General Counsel; Dr. Michael Dailey, Provost and Vice President for the Division of Academic and Student Affairs; Dr. Wendy Dixie, Vice President of Information Technology and Chief of Staff; Michael Decourcey, Vice President of Institutional Advancement; Dr. Joseph "Jay" Morgan, President; Meredith Reeves, General Counsel and Legislative Liaison; Dr. Ron Patterson, President; Jordan Smith, Assistant Vice President for Public Affairs; Grant Garber, General Counsel; Dr. Robert DiPaola, Provost and Co-Executive Vice President for Health Affairs; Dr. Kirsten Turner, Vice President for Student Success; Dr. Katie Cardarelli, Interim Executive Vice President and University Provost; Angela Curry, Executive Vice President --- Legal, Governance, and External Relations, Chief Legal Counsel; Andrea Anderson, General Counsel; Michael Frazier, Executive Director, Student Rights Coalition.

LRC Staff: Mariah Derringer-Lackey, Ethan Williams, and Amie Elam.

### **2025 Regular Session House Bill 4 Compliance**

Representatives from all public postsecondary institutions presented on House Bill 4 (2025 Regular Session), addressing compliance status, anticipated timelines, impacts on personnel and programs, and any potential cost savings.

In response to a question from Representative Baker, Mr. Kilburn answered that approximately \$2.5 million per year was reallocated toward general student success

Committee meeting materials may be accessed online at <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/CommitteeDocuments/11>

initiatives.

In response to Representative Tipton, Dr. Dailey stated that Kentucky State University (KSU) is working to attract all students interested in continuing education.

In response to Chair Rawlings, Mr. Decourcey stated that the University's chief diversity officer departed in 2021 and KSU does not intend to fill the position.

In response to Chair Rawlings, Dr. Patterson stated that Murray State University will continue providing services to support all students' success.

In response to a question from Chair Rawlings, Mr. Garber stated that the Norse Center for Belonging on Northern Kentucky University's campus will focus on first-generation and commuter students and is not related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).

In response to Senator West, Dr. DiPaola stated that he would provide the University of Kentucky's (UK) DEI spending prior to House Bill 4 (2025 Regular Session) and details on the current role of the former DEI head.

In response to Representative Baker, Dr. DiPaola stated that he is unsure of current course offerings but will check and report back to the committee.

In response to a question from Chair Rawlings, Dr. DiPaola said that fees previously collected for diversity initiatives have been applied and transitioned to workforce and career development programs. He said that UK has adopted a viewpoint neutrality contract.

In response to a question from Chair Rawlings, Dr. Cardarelli stated that redirected funds are being used for student success initiatives. Ms. Curry added that the University of Louisville hired additional legal counsel, including a regulatory counsel, to train units and departments on House Bill 4 (2025 Regular Session) requirements and ensure ongoing compliance.

### **Kentucky Student Rights Coalition**

Michael Frazier, Executive Director, Kentucky Student Rights Coalition, presented on the impacts of House Bill 4 (2025 Regular Session) and performance-based funding metrics.

In response to a question from Representative Banta, Mr. Frazier stated that the new system is dedicating additional resources to low-income students; however, concerns remain regarding the performance funding metrics. He urged greater transparency to ensure scholarships are directed to the students most in need.

In response to a question from Senator West, Mr. Frazier stated that the Student Rights Coalition supports performance-based funding metrics driven by student need rather than factors such as building square footage.

**There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.**