

BUDGET REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Minutes of the 1st Meeting of the 2026 Interim

June 3, 2026

Call to Order and Roll Call

The 1st meeting of the Budget Review Subcommittee on Education was held on June 3, 2026, at 10:30 AM ET/9:30 AM CT 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; Representative Steve Riley, Co-Chair; Senator Amanda Mays Bledsoe; and Representatives Scott Lewis, Bobby McCool, James Tipton, Tina Bojanowski, George Brown Jr., and Mike Clines.

Guests: Jerome Gels, Principal, Ignite Institute, Erlanger, KY; Dr. Timothy Minella, Director of Higher Education, Goldwater Institute; Michael Frazier, State Affairs Manager, Goldwater Institute; Travis Powell, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Government Relations, Legal and Operations, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education; Dr. Kathryn Cardarelli, Executive Vice President and University Provost, University of Louisville (UofL); Rick Graycarek, Executive Vice President for Finance & Administration and Chief Financial Officer, UofL; Angie Martin, Vice President for Financial Planning and Chief Budget Officer, University of Kentucky (UK); and Rob Edwards, Vice President and Chief Strategy and Government Affairs Officer, UK.

LRC Staff: Justin Smith, Ethan Williams, and Benjamin Thompson.

Student Affordability

Ignite Institute

Jerome Gels, Principal, Ignite Institute, Erlanger, KY, provided information regarding dual credit scholarships and college affordability.

In response to Senator Mays Bledsoe, Mr. Gels stated that students in his school pay for those classes themselves without assistance from the district.

In response to Representative Tipton, Mr. Gels noted that the dual credit scholarship now only pays for 1 class per year as opposed to the 2 classes that were previously covered. Mr. Gels stated that college tuition has increased 100% in the previous 5 years.

Goldwater Institute

Dr. Timothy Minella, Director of Higher Education, Goldwater Institute; and Michael Frazier, State Affairs Manager, Goldwater Institute, spoke on the increasing cost of college attendance.

In response to Representative McCool, Mr. Frazier noted that there are inconsistent faculty workloads within postsecondary institutions.

Council on Postsecondary Education

Travis Powell, Executive Vice President and General Counsel, Government Relations, Legal and Operations, Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, provided information regarding the tuition setting process.

In response to Chair Rawlings, Mr. Powell noted that when the economy is better, especially in the community college population, individuals tend to go straight to the workforce. The Council on Postsecondary Education considers anything above high school as college.

In response to Representative Tipton, Mr. Powell noted that dual credit scholarships paid \$203 per credit hour in the 2025-2026 academic year. If a high school student exhausts their scholarship in a given year, they can pay the reduced scholarship rate out of pocket to take additional dual credit courses.

University of Louisville

Dr. Kathryn Cardarelli, Executive Vice President and University Provost, UofL; and Rick Graycarek, Executive Vice President for Finance & Administration and Chief Financial Officer, UofL provided information regarding the UofL and its budgetary process.

In response to Senator Mays Bledsoe, Mr. Graycarek noted that the UofL has 25,000 students in total with 6,000 of them living on campus or affiliated properties.

In response to Chair Rawlings, Dr. Cardarelli said that the UofL added a regulatory attorney to ensure compliance with 2025 RS HB 4.

In response to Representative Clines, Mr. Graycarek stated that there are standards countrywide regarding endowment spending. Typically the limit is 5% or less per year. The UofL Foundation has set the limit for FY 2027 at 4%.

In response to Representative Tipton, Mr. Graycarek noted that the UofL is a people heavy institution. The UofL's health insurance costs will increase 19% next year.

James Orlick, Ph.D. Student, UofL, provided remarks regarding higher education funding.

University of Kentucky

Angie Martin, Vice President for Financial Planning and Chief Budget Officer, UK; and Rob Edwards, Vice President and Chief Strategy and Government Affairs Officer, UK presented information regarding the UK budget and its needs.

In response to Representative McCool, Ms. Martin confirmed that the UK hospital system takes roughly 60% of the UK budget. UK accounts every dollar by fund source, keeping the university and hospital funds separate.

In response to Senator Mays Bledsoe, Ms. Martin noted that the cost of living is not accounted in tuition, but in the more encompassing cost of attendance.

Chair Rawlings recognized the family of Captain Hollis Kevin Franklin of the UK police department and Mr. Frazier recited a legislative citation in Captain Franklin's honor.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the subcommittee, the meeting was adjourned at 12:26 PM ET/11:26 AM CT.