

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

## **Minutes of the First Meeting of the 2024 Interim**

**June 4, 2024**

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

The first meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Education was held on June 4, 2024, at 11:00 AM in Room 154 of the Capitol Annex. Representative James Tipton, Chair, called the meeting to order, welcomed new member, Representative Marianne Proctor, welcomed new staff member, Emily Wiley, and the secretary called the roll.

### **Present were:**

Members: Senator Stephen West Co-Chair; Representative James Tipton Co-Chair; Senators Shelley Funke Frommeyer, Jimmy Higdon, Stephen Meredith, Gerald A. Neal, Reginald Thomas, Lindsey Tichenor, Gex Williams, Mike Wilson, and Max Wise; Representatives Tina Bojanowski, George Brown Jr., Emily Callaway, Josh Calloway, Steven Doan, Kevin Jackson, Scott Lewis, Candy Massaroni, Bobby McCool, Marianne Proctor, Felicia Rabourn, Josie Raymond, Steve Riley, Killian Timoney, and Timmy Truett.

Guests: Dr. Michael Dailey, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Interim, Kentucky State University; Dr. Stephanie Mayberry, Vice Provost of Student Affairs, Kentucky State University; Mrs. Vickie Dunaway, Vice President of Finance and Administration/CFO, Kentucky State University; Mrs. Jennifer Linton, Director of Capital Planning and Facilities Management, Kentucky State University; Dr. John C. Gregory, Executive Director, Office of Adult Education; Micki Ray, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education.

LRC Staff: Yvette Perry, Lauren Busch, Joshua Collins, Peter Wright, Emily Wiley, and Maurya Allen.

### **2022 RS HB 250 Update**

Regent Tammy Dukes, Chair, KSU Board of Regents; Dr. Stephanie Mayberry, Vice Provost of Student Affairs; and Dr. Michael Dailey, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs spoke to the committee on the implementation of House Bill 250 of the 2022 Regular Session.

Ms. Dukes spoke to the positive impact of new President, Dr. Akakpo, on the university. Dr. Dailey spoke to the management improvement plan laid out in HB 250 and illustrated the progress toward goal completion.

Dr. Mayberry discussed the increase in enrollment. KSU is seeing improvements in the number of transfer, dual credit, graduate, and continuing students.

Over \$16 million in financial aid was awarded for the 2023-24 academic year. The FAFSA filing numbers are down. Financial aid staff are continuing to reach out to students to ensure they complete the FAFSA. Graduation rates have increased from 28 percent in the 2022-23 academic year to 34 percent in the 2023-24 academic year.

Mrs. Vickie Dunaway, CFO/Vice President, KSU; and Mrs. Jennifer Linton, Director of Capital Planning and Facilities Management, KSU spoke briefly to the capital plan. There is a projected fund balance at the end of the fiscal year, and they anticipate reaching their management plan milestones regarding finances in the next six months. Mrs. Linton presented the capital plan.

Dr. Dailey shared efforts to restructure Academic and Student Affairs to establish colleges and align program offerings. The board approved new programs in February which included streamlined course offerings for general education. KYSU Online has been redesigned and launched offering online courses in many degree programs.

In response to questions from Chair Tipton, Regent Dukes spoke to the attempts by the Board of Regents to forge a stronger connection to the KSU Foundation. The Foundation has repeatedly been invited to Board meetings as well as financial discussions. The Board of Regents has received sporadic or incomplete information regarding financial information from the Foundation. The Board of Regents, in agreement with President Akakpo, found it to be in the best interests of the university to halt new donations until the Foundation ends its lawsuit against Frankfort news media, provides the requested financial information, and a meeting is scheduled between the Board of Regents and the Foundation leadership. There has been no progress in accomplishing those goals Dukes stated that the current projections of funds in the KSU Foundation are approximately \$23 million.

Responding to questions from Senator Thomas, Dr. Dailey said the university graduated their largest class ever this spring, with over 300 degrees conferred. Dr. Mayberry said the goal for enrollment is 3000 students, and they are on target to reach that goal in the fall. The maximum capacity is probably closer to 5000 to 6000 students; however,

housing would not be adequate to support that number. The university has a capacity for 1200 residential students during the fall and spring semesters.

In response to a question from Senator West, Dr. Mayberry said the total enrollment for the last academic year was 1700. The projections for the fall far exceed recent numbers. Mrs. Dunaway said that there is a total of approximately 500 full-time and part-time employees combined.

Responding to questions from Senator Funke Frommeyer, Dr. Mayberry said the university has employed five admissions specialists, one for each region of the state, which includes a contact for Northern Kentucky. The university is looking to continue to grow, and while receptions for new students were held in Lexington and Louisville this year, they hope to add receptions in Northern Kentucky as well as Bowling Green and Christian County next year.

Responding to questions from Senator Meredith, Dr. Mayberry said the regional recruitment team was delayed by not getting started until January. In the upcoming year, they are planning to be much more intentional and speak with students starting in August to present KSU as an opportunity for Kentucky students.

In response to a question from Chair Tipton, Regent Dukes said the main purpose of the SACS letter was to get all of the audits to be current and at the end of 2023, two of the three outstanding audits were completed. Now the Board is working to get the final one completed, as well as their 2024 audit, and submitted to SACS in time for their October meeting.

Senator Neal said it was one of the most refreshing and encouraging presentations that he had heard in a long time. He congratulated the presenters for their momentum and thanked them for their transparency.

Responding to questions from Representative Emily Callaway, Dr. Mayberry said 67 percent of out-of-state students who attend KSU stay in Kentucky.

### **General Education Diploma Update**

Dr. John C. Gregory, Executive Director of the Office of Adult Education, was present to share the purpose and goals of adult education as well as success stories. The purpose of adult education is for employment and economic self-sufficiency. Federal goals to determine progress include employment rate, median earnings, credential attainment rate, and measurable skill gains.

Last year, Kentucky surpassed their goals benchmarks and the federal government subsequently significantly increased the benchmarks. Dr. Gregory said he is confident that Kentucky can meet or exceed these new goals.

Dr. Gregory presented testimonials from individuals who participated in an adult education program. Adult education is embedded with rehabilitation working with drug courts, detention centers, and other reentry programs and in businesses needing English language learner education.

In responding to questions from Representative Bojanowski, Dr. Gregory said one of the major barriers is visibility so the office is striving to improve that issue in addition to transportation, childcare, and lack of infrastructure (specifically internet availability). All incarcerated individuals have access to adult education services.

In response to a question from Senator Higdon, Dr. Gregory said the Office of Adult Education is invested in providing the best route possible for every student to meet their goals, whether that is attaining a GED or going back to complete a high school diploma.

Responding to a question from Representative Raymond, Dr. Gregory said the largest group moving through the English language learner program is between age 20 and 24, with nearly 75 percent being 38-years-old or younger. Additionally, many English language learner students have college credits that are not recognized in the U.S. and need a GED or other credential to qualify for employment.

### **State Textbook Commission**

Micki Ray, Chief Academic Officer, Office of Teaching and Learning, Kentucky Department of Education, and Sarah Peace, Policy Advisor, Kentucky Department of Education discussed on the State Textbook Commission and instructional resource adoption and implementation.

Ms. Ray briefly reviewed the statutory authority of the State Textbook Commission as well as the charge of the Commission to receive assistance from professionals and lay citizens in reviewing textbooks. The KDE defines HQIR materials as those which are aligned with the Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS); research-based and/or externally validated; comprehensive (including textbooks, multimedia, tasks, and assessments); culturally relevant and free from biases; and accessible to all students.

KDE has worked since 2019 to ensure that key responsibilities of the State Textbook Commission have been addressed. The KDE established a Quality Curriculum Task Force

(QCT), comprised of 21 district leaders, teachers, library specialists, educational cooperative representatives, and university faculty, to review materials and provide feedback on HQIR. The KDE meets with the KAS Advisory Panels and content specific review committees to review instructional resources and ensure alignment of recommended resources with the standards. The KDE would welcome continued discussion of amending the statutes relating to the Textbook Commission to repurpose the commission towards supporting local districts in the evaluation, selection, and use of HQIR.

In response to a question from Chair Tipton, Ms. Ray said there have been significant gains in adoption of HQIR across the state.

Responding to a question from Senator West, Ms. Ray said it is mandated for schools to adopt high-quality K-3 literacy curriculum as part of the Read to Succeed Act, and similar language was included in the Numeracy Counts Act.

In response to a question from Representative Massaroni, Ms. Ray said there is a gap between the local adoption of a resource and the professional development of teachers. There are districts that have not yet adopted HQIR.

Responding to a question from Senator Thomas, Ms. Ray said the current guidance supports the use of advisory panels of community members, and would be welcomed by many superintendents.

Responding to questions from Senator Tichenor, Ms. Ray said Kentucky participated in the LTRS program and data supports the positive impact of HQIR on student success. Funding for the commission would need to be approximately \$500,000, but a budget allocation of at least \$17 million would be needed to provide districts with funding for adopting resources as well as professional development for teachers.

In response to a final question from Chair Tipton, Ms. Ray said the University of Louisville was selected as the site for the Kentucky Reading Research Center and Dr. Amy Lingo was named as the executive director. This will create a clearinghouse for research-based reading HQIR and curriculum.

### **Consideration of Referred Administrative Regulations**

#### **704 KAR 3:095 Proposed – The Use of Multitiered System of Supports**

Micki Ray was present to address questions regarding the regulation. No action was needed on this item. Representative Bojanowski said she appreciated the expansion of multitiered system of supports (MSS) in the regulation through high school.

In response to a question from Senator Funke Frommeyer, Ms. Ray said the regulation is designed to help address learning and support for the whole child.

Chair Tipton also directed members to instructions in their packets to sign up for electronic news bulletins from KDE and encouraged them to sign up and stay informed.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m. The next meeting of the committee will be Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.