

# **INTERIM JOINT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**

## **Minutes of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the 2024 Interim**

**December 10, 2024**

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

The seventh meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Education was held on December 10, 2024, at 11:00 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: Senator Stephen West, Co-Chair; Representative James Tipton, Co-Chair; Senators Danny Carroll, Shelley Funke Frommeyer, David P. Givens, Jimmy Higdon, Stephen Meredith, Gerald A. Neal, Reginald Thomas, Lindsey Tichenor, Gex Williams, Mike Wilson, and Max Wise; Representatives Shane Baker, Jared Bauman, Tina Bojanowski, George Brown Jr., Emily Callaway, Josh Calloway, Kevin Jackson, Scott Lewis, Candy Massaroni, Bobby McCool, Marianne Proctor, Felicia Rabourn, Steve Rawlings, Steve Riley, Killian Timoney, Timmy Truett, and Lisa Willner.

Guests: Dr. Aaron Thompson, President, Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE); Scott Friedman, Engagement Principal, Deloitte Consulting LLP; Amy Wittmayer, Engagement Lead, Deloitte Consulting LLP; Dr. Ryan Quarles, President, Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS); Dr. James McCaslin, Acting Executive Director, Project Management Office, KCTCS; and Dr. Phil Neal, Acting Executive Vice President, KCTCS.

LRC Staff: Yvette Perry, Lauren Busch, Peter Wright, Joshua Collins, and Landen Holder.

### **Approval of Minutes – November 8, 2024**

Senator Funke Frommeyer made a motion, seconded by Representative Timoney, to approve the minutes. The motion passed by voice vote.

### **2024 RS SJR 170 Feasibility Study of Postbaccalaureate Programs**

Dr. Aaron Thompson, President, CPE; Scott Friedman, Engagement Principal, Deloitte Consulting LLP; and Amy Whittmayer, Engagement Lead, Deloitte Consulting LLP, outlined the findings of a feasibility study conducted from August 2024 until November 2024, which explored the proposed addition of a new postbaccalaureate program at each of the following universities: Eastern Kentucky University, Murray State University,

Western Kentucky University, and Kentucky State University. The results of the feasibility study identified concerns. However, many of the identified concerns would be present at any institution which planned to launch a new graduate college, given the significant reputational and financial risk associated with such a venture. Deloitte Consulting LLP's recommendations included clarifying the mission of public institutions in statute, as well as ensuring that the coordinating entity (CPE) is empowered to carry out its statutory role of defining and approving all postsecondary academic programs in the Commonwealth.

### **2024 RS SJR 179 Report Findings**

Dr. Ryan Quarles, President, KCTCS; Dr. James McCaslin, Acting Executive Director, KCTCS; and Dr. Phil Neal, Acting Executive Vice President, KCTCS, presented 11 recommendations from recently completed forensic audits which explored avenues for improving its existing systems. These recommendations included supporting third-party validation of academic programs, restructuring Program Advisory Committees, establishing a statewide workforce plan, exploring mergers and consolidations to repurpose and revitalize locations, preserving college-level accreditation, reforming governance, evaluating the current funding model, assessing tuition rates and analyzing affordability, restructuring the personnel system, examining the effectiveness of dual credit course offerings as well as the transferability of associate's degrees to other institutions, and rewriting outdated statutory language.

### **Public Comment**

Dr. Lewis Pittman, DVM, and Dr. Jon Laster, DVM, expressed multiple concerns with Murray State University's ability to construct and operate a successful school of veterinary medicine. They cited a perceived lack of ability to attract and retain qualified professors, an inability to adhere to American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines, ineffectiveness of the proposed distributed model college, as compared to a traditional model college, as well as a lack of clinical sites for instructional use.

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

703 KAR 005:240 – *Proposed*

Accountability administrative procedures and guidelines.

703 KAR 005:080 – *Proposed*

Administration Code for Kentucky's Educational Assessment Program.

780 KAR 003:080 – *Proposed*

Extent and duration of school term, use of school days and extended employment.

780 KAR 003:072 – *Proposed*

Attendance, compensatory time, and leave for certified and equivalent service.

704 KAR 003:305 – *Proposed*

Minimum requirements for high school graduation.

702 KAR 004:090 – *Proposed*

Property disposal.

702 KAR 001:116 – *Proposed*

Annual in-service training of district board members.

102 KAR 001:320 – *Proposed*

Qualified domestic relations orders for TRS 1 members, TRS 2 members, and TRS 3 members.

No action was needed on these items at this time.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 12:54 PM.