

MEETING MINUTES

Approved by the Committee on June 23, 2025

Who: Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education
Meeting Type: Committee on Equal Opportunities
Date: April 28, 2025
Time: 1:00 p.m. ET
Location: ZOOM Teleconference

CALL TO ORDER

The Committee on Equal Opportunities (CEO) met Monday, April 28, 2025, at 1:00 p.m., ET. The meeting occurred by ZOOM teleconference. Chair Elaine Walker presided.

ROLL CALL

Committee Member attendance:

- Attended: CB Akins, Whitney Allen, Rochelle Brown, David Carpenter, Robert Croft, Kellie Ellis and Elaine Walker.
- Did not attend: Luv'Tesha Robertson.

Dr. Dawn Offutt, Executive Director of Access, Engagement and Belonging, served as recorder of the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the October 28, 2024, meeting were approved with a revision to the meeting attendance.

REPORT FROM CPE PRESIDENT

CPE President, Dr. Aaron Thompson, provided an update from the legislative session to the CEO members and discussed his vision for the Committee moving forward. Dr. Thompson emphasized the importance of the Committee and its longstanding history and commitment to historically disenfranchised students and how CPE will need guidance from the Committee as to how to serve all students. Dr. Thompson acknowledged that there will be some changes to the charge and the

work of the Committee, but that it will remain an important committee whose input will be needed for policy, practice, and strategy implementation.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Mr. Travis Powell, Sr. Vice President and General Counsel, discussed legislation that was passed during the 2025 session pertinent to postsecondary education, including HB 4. The discussion included the removal of the diversity, equity, and inclusion evaluation process that was monitored by the CEO and the compliance portion of the bill. Mr. Powell emphasized the need to support all students on campuses while complying with the law and the importance of the role the CEO will play in providing input for supporting students who are first generation, low income, adult learners, and differently-abled.

Dr. Offutt then facilitated a discussion on the forward direction of the CEO. CEO members offered thoughts as to the role the committee could play moving forward. Thoughts included researching similar committees in other states and their works, identifying best practices that have shown to be effective for all students, and serving as an advisory group to inform postsecondary practices.

ADJOURNMENT

The Committee adjourned at 2:00 p.m. ET.