

KENTUCKY COUNCIL ON POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

ACTION ITEM
November 17, 2023

TITLE: Recommendations of SJR 98 Study

RECOMMENDATION: The Council moves CPE staff submit the final report to the legislature by December 1, 2023 as requested by Senate Joint Resolution 98 (2023) that is consistent with the presented staff recommendations based on the following:

- The CPE staff recommendations are based upon extensive research and stakeholder feedback.
- The CPE recommendations demonstrate changes that are in the best interest of the Commonwealth's public universities and community colleges.
- The CPE staff recommendations present an outcomes-based approach for each question presented by the legislature that the Council believes will provide the best educational outcomes with the least disruptions and with the best benefits for the associated costs.

STAFF CONTACTS: Lee Nimocks, Sr. Vice President and Chief of Staff

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Senate Joint Resolution 98 (2023) directed CPE to complete a comprehensive study of Kentucky postsecondary education by December 1, 2023. The study charged the Council to address the following areas:

1. The structure of higher education governance in the Commonwealth, including recommendations on potential changes needed to the state's postsecondary governance structure that would be essential to meet identified needs and result in improved delivery of postsecondary educational services to students.
2. The potential impact and feasibility of establishing a regional, residential, four-year public university in southeastern Kentucky.
3. The feasibility and potential programmatic and fiscal impacts of having KCTCS continue to be responsible for technical education programs but transferring responsibility for traditional academic subjects to the regional universities.

A combination of quantitative and qualitative methods to analyze each of the SJR 98 study areas. The study was conducted by Council staff and consultants from Ernst and Young.

REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS

Section 2 of the resolution states that the “President of the Council on Postsecondary Education shall report the comprehensive study required by Section 1 of this Joint Resolution with findings and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission to be distributed to the relevant subject matter committees, including but not limited to the Interim Joint Committee on Economic Development and Workforce Investment and the Interim Joint Committee on Education by December 1, 2023.”