TITLE: Annual Report of Academic Programs - Academic Year 2022-23

DESCRIPTION: The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received a report of the overview of the new, closed, and reviewed academic programs during the 2022-2023 academic year.

STAFF CONTACT: Dr. Melissa Bell, CPE's Vice President of Academic Excellence and Student Success

COMMITTEE'S REVIEW

The Academic and Strategic Initiatives Committee received this information update at their March 25, 2024, meeting. It will not be covered or presented in detail at the March 29 board meeting; however, staff will be available for questions.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The Council is the approving body for academic programs at Kentucky's public institutions. KRS 164.020(15) empowers the Council to define and approve the offering of all technical, certificate, diploma, associate, baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degree at public postsecondary institutions. It also mandates that the Council expedite the approval of requests from KCTCS for new programs of a vocational-technical and occupational nature. This statutory duty is operationalized through the Council's New Academic Program Approval Policy, which was last updated in September 2020.

The Council also has the authority to review programs after they are implemented. Under KRS 164.020 (16), the Council has the authority to eliminate or modify existing programs using the criteria of consistency with institutional mission, alignment with the statewide strategy agenda, elimination of unnecessary duplication, and the creation of collaborative programs. This statutory duty is operationalized through two Council policies – the Statewide Academic Program Review Policy, which was last revised in June 2021, and the Statewide Academic Review for KCTCS, which was approved in January 2023.

NEW PROGRAM APPROVALS IN 2022-23

A total of 150 new academic programs were approved during the 2022-2023 academic year. Of these, 97 are undergraduate certificates and 33 are postbaccalaureate certificates, which require only staff review.

CPE staff approved five associate's degrees at KCTCS institutions:
- Ashland Community & Technical College - Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assisting, and Associate of Applied Science in Radiography
- Hazard Community & Technical College – Associate of Applied Science in Education
- Hopkinsville Community College – Associate of Applied Science in Computerized Manufacturing & Machining
- Maysville Community & Technical – Associate of Applied Science in Education

The Council approved three bachelor's degrees and three master's degrees:
- Northern Kentucky University – Master of Arts in Educational Leadership
- University of Kentucky – Bachelor of Science in Leadership for Community Education and Human Learning
- University of Louisville – Master of Arts in Applied Philosophy
- Murray State University – Master of Science in Wildlife and Conservation Biology
- Eastern Kentucky University – Bachelor of Science in Manufacturing Engineering and Bachelor of Science in Management Information Systems

REVIEW OF EXISTING PROGRAMS IN 2022-23

Per Council policy, universities submitted their program review reports in July 2023. These reports included a summary of the institutional program review processes, programmatic decisions, and plans for the upcoming year.

<u>Overview of Institutional Program Review Processes</u>

Eastern Kentucky University
- A cohort of the chairs and/or program coordinators of the programs to be reviewed during the current year was established. Each college created a committee to evaluate and provide recommendations concerning the program review documents originating in their respective college, which received the program's final program review. The Provost, the Associate Provost for Academic Programs, the Vice President of Student Success, and the Executive Director for Institutional Effectiveness & Research and Financial Aid reviewed the reports and recommendations from the program and the college and determined if an academic program should: continue without modification, continue with modification, or close within one to three years. The process concluded with a meeting among all affected parties to document the program's strengths and areas for improvement.

Kentucky State University
- Academic stakeholders participated in a series of workshops in collaboration with CPE partners. The program economics and market data for all of KSU's academic programs were reviewed, which was one of the Management Improvement Plan objectives.

Members of the Deans and Chairs council, as well as the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, participated in workshops and made decisions on various programs.

Morehead State University
- The 2023 process had a focus on efficiency. Meetings included the President, the Provost, the Associate Provost, the Director of Budgets, and the Dean of the college being reviewed. Careful analyses of each program included metrics such as student credit hour production and full-time equivalent faculty.

Murray State University
- Academic deans and the Provost evaluated programs based on three metrics: program enrollment, program demand, and program degrees. Meetings were held with chairs of departments and department faculty reviewed a five-year review plan. Comments from program faculty were shared with the Dean, who finalized the report in conjunction with the department chair.

Northern Kentucky University
- The process consisted of regular meetings with deans and those who oversaw the programs undergoing a review. The program faculty were provided with a template that included different data points. Regular follow-ups were sent and additional meetings held as necessary. After programs addressed the information in the template, the program review was sent to the appropriate deans for review and approval before final submission.

University of Kentucky
- The process was conducted at the department level. Each academic unit was encouraged to facilitate a collaborative self-study process involving faculty, staff, and other constituents. Following the self-study, an external review committee was created and charged with reviewing and summarizing the self-study, as well as making at least five recommendations. The department had a conversation with the dean to create an implementation plan to guide the department's continuous improvement activities.

University of Louisville
- Unit-level Program Review Orientation meetings were held with program directors to provide guidance on how to submit a program review. The Academic Program Review Committee analyzed the program review reports and identified areas of commendation, needs, and/or areas for improvement, including suggested revisions to the report. The Academic Program Review Committee received the revised reports and members of the committee were subsequently polled on their opinions. The poll also asked members to provide a brief, written rationale for their selections and for their votes for each category (fix, sunset, sustain, or grow) were conducted. A final list of recommendations was then sent to the Provost.

Western Kentucky University
- Two processes were used to review academic programs – the Program Sustainability Check-up (PSC) and Academic Program Review (APR). The Program Sustainability Check-up committee is intended to quickly and efficiently identify programs that may need help to improve their long-term viability. Programs that did not meet certain thresholds provided reports describing improvements. Academic Program Review evaluates the quality of WKU's programs and provides the opportunity to reflect upon the content of programs and curricular delivery. This was the first year using APR; APR is more extensive than PSC and focuses more on continuous improvement beyond, but in addition to, enrollment and staffing.

Results of Institutional Program Review Processes

During the 2022-2023 academic year, Kentucky's public universities reviewed 199 academic programs and provided recommendations:
- 45 programs were recommended to grow;
- 86 programs were recommended to sustain;
- 52 programs were recommended to be improved; and
- 16 programs were recommended to close.

Of the 16 programs that were set to close, six were postbaccalaureate certificates. Other programs set to sunset included:
- Eastern Kentucky University
  - Master of Arts in History – the program had low enrollments.
- Kentucky State University
  - Each of these programs were due to sunset due to low enrollment and/or low market demand.
    - Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in General Social Sciences
    - Bachelor of Science in Mathematics
    - Bachelor of Science in Chemistry
    - Master of Public Administration in Public Administration
    - Master of Science in Child Development and Family Relations
- Northern Kentucky University
  - Bachelor of Arts in German – the loss of a full-time German faculty member made it difficult to continue offering the program.
- University of Kentucky – Each of these programs were due to sunset due to low enrollment and/or low demand.
  - Postbaccalaureate Certificate in School Technology Leadership
  - Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Inclusive Education
  - Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Liberal Studies
  - Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Gerontology
  - Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Design: Digital Literacy
  - Postbaccalaureate Certificate in Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training

- o Master of Engineering in Biomedical Engineering
- Western Kentucky University
    - o Master of Arts in Folklore Studies – the program was due to sunset due to low market demand.