The Coalition of Senate and Faculty Leadership for Higher Education has not met since the last EKU Faculty Senate meeting. However, COSFL President Peggy Pittman-Munke has drafted a letter to the Governor’s Higher Education Work Group on behalf of COSFL. This letter articulates ten guiding principles that COSFL wants to have included in the final report of the Higher Education Work Group.

EKU’s Aaron Thompson, who is serving as Interim V.P. for Academic Affairs at the Council on Postsecondary Education, vetted COSFL’s letter for us and saw that the letter was distributed to members of the Higher Education Work Group at their Oct. 29th meeting. The COSFL letter will be included as Appendix B in the Work Group’s final report to the Governor.

A copy of COSFL’s letter has been distributed to all Faculty Senators today. It will also be distributed electronically. You are encouraged to share it with your faculty constituents.

The next meeting of COSFL will be Saturday, November 21, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. at the CPE’s Offices in Frankfort.

Nancy McKenney, EKU Representative to COSFL and Faculty Representative to the CPE
APPENDIX B:
LETTER FROM THE COALITION OF FACULTY
SENATE LEADERSHIP (COSFL) WORK GROUP

To: Members of the Higher Education Work Group
From: COSFL (Coalition of Faculty Senate Leadership) Work Group
Date: 28 October 2009
Re: Statewide Faculty Contribution to the Report of the Higher Education Work Group

COSFL proposes the following guiding principles related to higher education in Kentucky:

1. Although faculty understand that the state is in a dire financial situation and that the current economic situation may prevent the implementation of high cost solutions, Kentucky should not base long-term policy recommendations in the areas of state financial aid and a dedicated revenue stream to higher education solely on a short-term financial condition.

2. Since the uniqueness of each of the institutions holds much of the strength of the Kentucky higher educational system, the CPE and institutions must find ways to work with faculty to foster this uniqueness so that it best meets the needs of the state and the regions.

3. Student success should be a top priority when considering operating efficiencies and cost containment strategies. For students to succeed academically, Kentucky’s postsecondary institutions must be able to recruit and retain excellent faculty. This will require a long-term commitment to faculty salary improvement.

4. In terms of financial aid for students, when resources are limited, need-based aid should take precedence over merit and other types of financial aid.

5. There is a need for unified longitudinal data on financial aid and student performance so that Kentucky can understand whether current state financial programs are successful in improving access for all students or whether they may unintentionally contribute to gaps in enrollment and achievement.

6. The state’s existing financial aid programs should be modified to better address the needs of nontraditional students, many of whom enroll for less than six hours and thus are ineligible for many grant programs.

7. Use of student aid should be expanded to encourage transfer from KCTCS to four year institutions, rewarding transfers only after completion of the general education core at KCTCS.

8. The development of statewide joint admissions/enrollment programs between KCTCS and the four year institutions should be encouraged, along with expansion of upper division program offerings tied to joint admission and enrollment programs and greater transparency in transfer requirements.

9. Common learning outcomes for general education courses should only be aligned in a way that does not limit campus and faculty autonomy.

10. Universities should be encouraged to be more intentional about ensuring full-time bachelor’s degree seeking students graduate within four years.