

Report to Faculty Senate

Janna P. Vice, Interim Provost

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Proposed Legislation

The following two pieces of legislation, if passed, will have a significant impact on Kentucky's public universities. CPE predicts they are almost guaranteed to pass. President King and Dr. Aaron Thompson are offering suggestions to the bills' sponsors to make the bills more feasible for the universities, but the overall mandates are not likely to change.

Transferability

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

+SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

(1) Beginning with the 2012-2013 academic year for first time students, no bachelor degree program requirement shall exceed one hundred and twenty (120) credit hours and no associate of arts or associate of science degree program shall exceed sixty (60) credit hours. The Council on Postsecondary Education may approve exceptions to the requirements of this subsection for specialized programs that must comply with specific program standards established by external accreditation bodies.

(2) The Council on Postsecondary Education in collaboration with KCTCS and the public universities shall:

(a) Facilitate the development and implementation of a statewide agreement for alignment of KCTCS lower division coursework that shall be accepted and fully credited to related bachelors degree programs by all public universities. The agreement shall specify the general education student learning outcomes, program specific prerequisite credit hours, and comparable course titles which shall be accepted for transfer and fully credited within bachelors degree programs. The agreement shall direct that courses specified within the agreement shall be accepted for transfer and degree credit whether earned as individual courses, or within block programs, or associate degree programs;

(b) Develop, implement, and maintain a KCTCS statewide course numbering system for lower-division general education and program specific prerequisite courses that include the same student learning outcomes;

(c) Develop, implement, and maintain a statewide common classification system based upon common general education learning outcome areas for the 30 credit hour general education core for KCTCS and the public universities so that the transfer and articulation of equivalent courses or specified learning modules or units completed by students are not inhibited by inconsistent

judgment about the application of transfer credits. Coursework completed within such a system at one public postsecondary institution and transferred to another public postsecondary institution shall be applied to the student's degree requirements in the same manner as equivalent coursework completed at the receiving institution;

(d) Establish procedures under a statewide common classification system to monitor the transfer and crediting of lower-division coursework, including a system of ongoing assessment of that coursework in terms of level, content, quality, comparability, and degree program relevance;

(e) Standardize credit-by-exam equivalencies and common passing scores for general education credit-by-exam courses and program specific prerequisites credit-by-exam courses;

(f) Develop policies to align statewide articulation and transfer procedures across educational institutions, including admissions criteria, student declaration of major, and student guidance and counseling policies designed to ensure that students pursuing an associate of arts or associate of sciences degree program provide timely notification of their intention to transfer to a public university;

(g) Develop uniform data collection and reporting methods to facilitate and ensure statewide and institutional compliance with course transfer and credit requirements;

(h) Guarantee that upon admission to a public university, graduates of an associate of arts or an associate of science degree program approved by the council shall be deemed to have met all general education and program specific course prerequisites and be granted admission to related upper division degree programs of a public university on the same criteria as those students earning lower division credits at the university to which the student transferred.;

(i) Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts and associate of sciences degree programs who transfer to a bachelors degree program shall not be required to repeat or to take any additional lower-level courses to fulfill bachelors degree requirements in the same major;

(j) Provide that graduates of approved associate of arts or associate of science degree programs shall receive priority for admission to a public university over out-of-state students if they met the same admission criteria;

(k) Establish a common college transcript to be used in KCTCS and all public universities;

(l) Encourage private colleges and universities to collaborate with public educational institutions in developing programs and agreement to expedite the transfer of students and credits between institutions; and

(m) Establish an appeals process to resolve disagreements between transferring students and receiving educational institutions regarding the transfer and acceptance of credits earned at another institution.

(3) The Council on Postsecondary Education shall ensure that all articulation and transfer policies are compliant with the rules and regulations established by all appropriate institutional accrediting agencies as recognized by the United States Department of Education.

(4) [Awaiting CAO feedback]. When a public university changes the learning outcomes within any course or program identified as a transfer equivalent, the state public university must communicate the change to KCTCS within a reasonable amount of time and either identify other KCTCS course equivalencies that will satisfy the new learning outcomes or collaborate with KCTCS to develop curriculum that ensures equivalent learning outcomes and thus transferability. Transferability must be resolved before the change is implemented. If disputes arise between public postsecondary institutions due to course and program revisions, the Council is empowered to appoint a committee, chaired by the Vice President of Academic Affairs at the Council, and comprised of distinguished faculty, with equal representation from KCTCS and the public universities, to resolve the dispute through evidence-based alignment of learning outcomes.

Student Success

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 164 IS CREATED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

- (1) By no later than December 1, 2010, each public college and university shall submit to the Council on Postsecondary Education a plan, using a common format specified by the council, which lists strategies, incentives, programs, and timelines to increase the number of students who graduate with a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree within four (4) years of their initial enrollment as full-time students in a postsecondary education program.*
- (2) The council shall:*
- (a) Have in place, by no later than August 30, 2011, a multifaceted tracking process with the capability of following cohorts of students throughout the public postsecondary education system;*
 - (b) Collect baseline data with the freshman class of 2011 and in subsequent years on the number of full-time students in the freshman class entering college for the first time seeking a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree; and*
 - (c) Collect data on the number of full-time students seeking a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree who transfer in the fall semester of 2011 into a public postsecondary education undergraduate degree program from other postsecondary programs.*
 - (d) No later than November 1, 2013 and annually thereafter, report to the Legislative Research Commission on the number of full-time students who transferred from other postsecondary education programs; and the number who:*
 - 1. Are on track to graduate within four (4) years of initial enrollment in postsecondary education; or*
 - 2. Are on track to graduate within five (5) years of initial enrollment in postsecondary education; or*
 - 3. Graduated within four (4) years of initial enrollment in postsecondary education; or*
 - 4. Graduated within 5 years of initial enrollment in postsecondary in a five-year specialty program.*

(e) No later than November 1, 2015 and annually thereafter, report to the Legislative Research Commission on the number of full-time freshman students who enrolled for the first time seeking a bachelor of arts or bachelor of science degree who:

- 1. Graduated within four (4) years of initial enrollment in a postsecondary education program;*
 - 2. Graduated within five (5) years of initial enrollment in a five-year specialty program;*
- (3) By no later than 2014, the board of trustees or the board of regents of public colleges and universities shall include progress on subsection 2 of this section as part of the annual evaluation of the president of the institution.*

Faculty Panel on Distance Learning

The ECU Faculty Panel held a rich discussion regarding on-line education. Over 80 people attended on November 20. Thanks to the following faculty who, in addition to sharing their own experiences, gathered input from their colleagues in order to provide a very comprehensive view of the challenges and opportunities we face in developing an ECU model for distance learning.

Richard Fern	Steve Sumithran
Mary Ann Kolloff	Mixon Ware
Brad Marcum	Tom Schneid
Rick Mott	

Lunch with the Provost

Faculty Senators are invited to eat lunch with the Provost on Wednesday, December 2, 11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room, Powell Cafeteria. Please sign in at the register.