



Senate Minority Caucus Chair Reginald Thomas, D-Lexington, speaks during Tuesday's Interim Joint Committee on Education meeting.

Education committee discusses university DEI efforts

BY STAFF REPORTS

FRANKFORT — Legislators on the Interim Joint Committee on Education offered a variety of viewpoints Tuesday about diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs in Kentucky higher education.

Committee Co-Chair Sen. Stephen West, R-Paris, said bills related to DEI programs were filed in both the House and Senate during the 2024 legislative session.

“We felt that if we were going to broach the subject, if this subject was going to be addressed again, that we should have all the information available to us, and we should have a thorough understanding of what all our postsecondary institutions were doing as it pertains to DEI,” he said.

Presidents of two state universities, a representative from a constitutional advocacy center, and two officials from the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) were on hand to testify and answer lawmakers’ questions.

Travis Powell, vice president and general counsel for CPE, said the Office for Civil Rights found Kentucky in violation of the Civil Rights Act in 1982 due to racial segregation in higher education. CPE was tasked at that time with responding to the U.S. Department of Education’s desegregation plan.

Kentucky was released from the plan in 2008, “which was a great accomplishment for the state,” Powell said. “But we still had this legislation in place in order to set equal educational opportunity goals. So, in 2010, the council created a new diversity plan, and then in 2016, we created a DEI policy that was integrated into our strategic agenda.”

Powell said CPE sets targets for supporting low-income and underrepresented minority students and evaluates campuses based on their progress toward those targets. However, he said, CPE does not set quotas.

“No one student is discriminated against based on any of our policies that we have in place,” he said, adding that state universities maintain high admission rates. “We are not about turning anybody away on our campuses at all.”

Cady Short-Thompson, president of Northern Kentucky University, and Jay Morgan, president of Morehead State University, also testified about DEI policies on campus.

Short-Thompson said NKU spent 0.34% of its budget on programs and activities related to DEI in fiscal year 2024.

Morgan testified that MSU does not require diversity statements from job applicants, require DEI training or use race-based admissions for students.

Lawmakers asked the present-

ers about several DEI-related issues, including campus pronoun policies, affinity groups and how DEI has impacted academic standing.

Sen. Lindsey Tichenor, R-Smithfield, noted that, even though Morehead serves a high-number of low-income students, it has not always met CPE’s targets for DEI. She asked if the campus has been affected by CPE’s scoring process.

Morgan said MSU did not meet the diversity goals one time out of the past seven years. However, he added that it can be hard for MSU to meet the diversity goals while supporting the region. Half of the institution’s students qualify as low-income, placing serious demands on funding and resources, he said.

“We do not let diversity take a back seat with respect to the CPE state plan,” he said. “However, there have been some times when we have gently disagreed with some of the metrics that were in there.”

Timothy K. Minella, senior constitutionalism fellow at the Goldwater Institute’s Van Sittert Center for Constitutional Advocacy, testified that CPE annually scores institutions based on DEI metrics.

“Through this annual process, CPE essentially threatens public institutions, ‘get on board with racial discrimination and DEI practices or lose the ability to expand your academic offerings to serve students,’” he said.

Senate Minority Caucus Chair Reginald Thomas, D-Lexington, said his grandmother once told him that there were only three or four other Black students when she attended the University of Kentucky in 1955.

He asked Minella if he wanted to return UK to the 1950s or if he had something else in mind that wasn’t included in the report Minella shared with committee members.

Minella said the intent is to prohibit racial discrimination in public institutions of higher education, both in admissions and hiring.

House Majority Whip Jason Nemes, R-Middletown, said conservatives do themselves a disservice in conflating efforts to help people who have been harmed historically, whether it be redlining, poverty or something else.

“What I think we should be hyper focused on is making sure we have intellectual diversity, and making sure that we attack the places in our university that are going after the institutions of western civilization and trying to change our culture like we’ve seen all over the country this past year,” he said.

West said the committee will continue to discuss DEI and hear from state universities in September.

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

The Owen County Senior Center has a variety of events scheduled during July. The center is located at 118 N. Main St. in Owenton. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Options available daily include cards, Wii, cornhole games, puzzles, color therapy, TV, and walking and exercise equipment. Individuals can call 502-484-3139 for more information. All trips require an RSVP by a certain date. Individuals can call the center for information on the dates.

The schedule for next week is as follows:

MONDAY

9 a.m., coffee and chat; 11 a.m., book club; 1 p.m., walking club; 1:30 p.m., karaoke

TUESDAY

9 a.m., coffee and chat; 11 a.m., color therapy; 1 p.m., walking club; 1:30 p.m., pool game

WEDNESDAY

9 a.m., coffee and chat; 11 a.m., Rook; 1 p.m., blood sugar checks by Sarah Patton with St. Elizabeth Healthcare; 2 p.m., walking club.

MEALS ON WHEELS

The meals on wheels menu for the final three days of July is as follows ...

MONDAY

Country Fried steak, scalloped potatoes, California vegetables, slice of bread, Sun Butter, tropical fruit juice, Nutri-Grain bar

TUESDAY

Sloppy joe with no bun, green beans, roasted bakiers, slice of bread, tropical fruit juice, Cheez-It crackers

WEDNESDAY

Boneless chicken bites, au Gratin potatoes, mixed vegetables, slice of bread, Sun Butter, mixed fruit cup

LIBRARY

FROM PAGE A5

AUG. 22

10 a.m. Yoga. The all-levels yoga practice will empower your mind, body, and spirit. Follow an instructor on the big screen. Everyone is welcome.

10:30 a.m. Tales and Tots. In addition to reading at the library, attendees will have book totes and bookmarks to decorate and a book to take home. The program is intended for 3-5-year-olds and their parent or caregiver. This program requires registration.

11 a.m. Walk away the pounds. Walk your way to better health. Join in and walk in place to the Leslie Sansone 30-minute walking video. Speed up your metabolism. Feel better. It’s low impact.

3 p.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Bookmobile at New Columbus Baptist Church.

All dates and times are subject to change due to inclement weather.

5:30 p.m. Herbal remedies. Join Jennifer Beach as she demonstrates how to make homemade remedies. For centuries, people have relied on traditional herbal medicine, and now, there is renewed interest in herbal remedies.

AUG. 26

10 a.m. Stretch and Strengthen. Do you want to stretch and strengthen for better health? Come participate in all standing exercises. Move every muscle to prevent muscle atrophy. Join Miss Julie and follow the video on the big screen.

AUG. 27

3 p.m. until 4 p.m. Bookmobile at Perry Park Resort. All dates and times are subject to change due to inclement weather.

4:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. Bookmobile at Eagle Creek

Resort. All dates and times are subject to change due to inclement weather.

AUG. 29

10 a.m. Yoga. The all-levels yoga practice will empower your mind, body, and spirit. Follow an instructor on the big screen. Everyone is welcome.

11 a.m. Walk away the pounds. Walk your way to better health. Join in and walk in place to the Leslie Sansone 30-minute walking video. Speed up your metabolism. Feel better. It’s low impact.

4 p.m. Ballet lessons. Beginner ballet lessons with Miss Julie. Sign up for a six-week session. Ballet slippers are recommended but not required. Wear comfortable clothes or tights and a leotard/bodysuit. The class is best for participants age 6 years old and older. The class size is limited. Participants must register.



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Location: 4196 S. Carlisle Road, Bedford, KY., 40006 and 1082 Carlisle Road, Carrollton, KY., 41008
 Real Estate: 4196 S. Carlisle Road will sell at 11AM onsite. This property consists of a parcel with a manufactured home, barns, bottom ground, crop ground, and river frontage with 31.383 acres. The other parcel contains 14.012 acres with a mobile home and barns, open pasture ground, and some woods.

1082 Carlisle Road will sell at 12:00 PM will sell at the 4196 S. Carlisle Road property. This property consists of a parcel with approximately 40 acres of bottom ground with river frontage. The other tract is approximately 30 acres of hilltop woods that is ideal for good hunting and recreational purposes.

Terms: A 10% Buyers Premium will be added to the final bid price to determine the final sales price. The winning bidders must put down at the time of the auction 10% of the total sales price with the balance due in 30 days. Subject to court approval.

Public Inspection: Sunday, July 28th 2-4pm

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LEGAL

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
 UNIFIED COURT OF JUSTICE
 OWEN CIRCUIT COURT
 CASE NO. 23-CI-00154

“Electronically Filed”

CITY OF OWENTON, KENTUCKY PLAINTIFF

VS. **AMENDED NOTICE OF COMMISSIONER'S SALE**

CHRIS BEACH, et al. DEFENDANTS

* * * * *

By virtue of a Judgment and Order of Sale entered in the Owen Circuit Court on June 11, 2024, I will sell at public auction on the front steps of the Owen County Courthouse, the property described herein located in Owen County, Kentucky, on **FRIDAY, August 16, 2024**, at the hour of **12:00 p.m.** prevailing time, and more particularly described as follows:

Situated in the State of Kentucky, in the County of Owen and bounded as follows:
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 334 Gayle Avenue, Owenton, KY 40359
 PIDN: 061-20-00-065.10

There is not a mobile home, doublewide and/or manufactured home included in the sale.

The amount of money to be raised by this sale is the principal sum of \$534.51 for the 2020 through 2023 city taxes together with interest continuing to accrue at the legal rate of interest, until the entire amount has been paid in full, together with its reasonable attorney’ fees and court costs plus in the principal sum of \$4,644.00, together with interest on the Judgment until the entire amount is paid in full.

The real estate shall be sold on the terms of ten (10%) percent cash at the time of the sale, except that said deposit shall be waived if the Plaintiff is the successful bidder at the sale, and the balance on a credit of thirty (30) days bearing interest at the rate of twelve (12%) percent per annum from date of sale. When the purchase price is paid in full, the deed will be delivered to the purchaser. It is further provided that the property sold includes insurable improvements and the successful bidder at said sale shall, at bidder’s own expense, carry fire and extended insurance coverage on said improvements from the date of sale until the purchase price is fully paid, to the extent of the Court appraised value of said improvements or the unpaid balance of the purchase price whichever is less, as a minimum, with a loss payable clause to the Commissioner of the Owen Circuit Court or the Plaintiff herein. Failure of the purchaser to effect such insurance shall not affect the validity of the sale or the purchaser’s liability thereunder, but shall entitle, but not require, the Plaintiff to effect said insurance and furnish the policy or evidence thereof to the Commissioner if it so desires, and the premium thereon or the proper portion thereof shall be charged to the purchaser as purchaser’s costs.

The aforesaid property shall be sold free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, except the following:

- All unpaid state, county and city real estate taxes for the year 2024;
- Easements, restrictions, and stipulations of record;
- Assessments for public improvements levied against the property;
- Any facts which an inspection and/or accurate survey of the property may disclose.

For further information, see the Final Judgment and Order of Sale and pleadings of record in the Office of the Circuit Court of Owen County.

/s/ EDWARD M. BOURNE
 SPECIAL MASTER COMMISSIONER
 OWEN CIRCUIT COURT