



Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education

Steven L. Beshear
Governor

1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 320
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
Phone: 502-573-1555
Fax: 502-573-1535
<http://www.cpe.ky.gov>

Bradford L. Cowgill
President

April 15, 2008

The Honorable Steven L. Beshear
Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky
State Capitol
Frankfort, KY 40601

Dear Governor Beshear:

I want to thank you for your April 4 letter and for the opportunity to discuss our presidential selection with you last week. When the Council met Sunday evening and yesterday morning to consider this matter, the members took very seriously the points you raised in the letter and at our meeting.

We concluded that in conducting the broad and thorough national search in 2007 for a new permanent president, the Council complied in both substance and spirit with the statute. As you know, we voted to name Brad Cowgill as the Council's third permanent president after a thorough deliberation of your observations.

The Council concluded that Mr. Cowgill has served with distinction during a challenging time in the life of this agency. He has proven to be a capable leader with a thorough knowledge of state public policy. In his tenure as interim president, Mr. Cowgill has earned the confidence of the board, and has reinvigorated the Council through strong leadership and his vision for a more responsive and effective system. He now brings to the position established working relationships with key state-level policy, education and political leaders throughout the Commonwealth.

In the ten years since the passage of postsecondary reform, the Council has undergone five leadership changes (two permanent and three interim presidents). Given the positive momentum established since Mr. Cowgill took office last September, the Council determined that continuing with a proven leader is in the best interests of our entire higher education system. Any other option would mean yet another round of leadership changes facing the agency, and a year or more of opportunities that Kentucky cannot afford to lose.

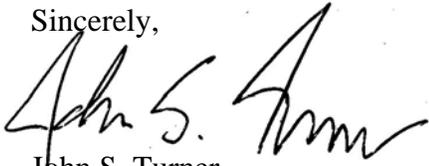
The Honorable Steven L. Beshear
Page 2
April 15, 2008

The next several years will be crucial ones for postsecondary education in Kentucky. We are confronting a challenging fiscal environment. Key decisions on tuition policy and student financial aid will determine the affordability of the system. During this time it will be essential that Kentucky maintain its focus on the goal of increasing educational attainment and doubling the number of college graduates.

The progressive vision and statesmanship for which you have been recognized will be essential to the fulfillment of Kentucky's bold objectives. It also will be essential that the Council and the Governor's office work collaboratively.

To discuss these important issues further, I would like to suggest a meeting at your convenience with former Council member Walter Baker, Council member John Hall and me. I look forward to continuing our conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Turner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" and the last name "Turner" clearly visible.

John S. Turner
Chair