



**ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE**

May 7, 2026

SUSPENSION OF MASTER OF SCIENCE IN KINESIOLOGY

REQUEST:

Approval for suspension for the following academic program: **Master of Science in Kinesiology**.

FACTS:

Recent shifts in the job market and changing professional standards have prompted the faculty in the Kinesiology program to restructure their curriculum. To ensure future offerings translate directly to professional success for graduates, the graduate faculty and program coordinator have decided to suspend the Kinesiology master's program.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:

Suspending this program will have minimal impact on the university budget, as faculty will continue to teach in other programs within the School of Kinesiology, Recreation, and Sport.

RECOMMENDATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATE:

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends approval of the suspension of the **Master of Science in Kinesiology** to be implemented Fall 2026.

MOTION:

Approval to suspend the following program: **Master of Science in Kinesiology** with implementation in Fall 2026.

WKU Innovation Campus Microgrid Project

REQUEST:

Approve authorization to proceed with the WKU Innovation Campus Microgrid Project with a total project cost not to exceed \$2,000,000, funded entirely through non-general fund sources.

FACTS:

Western Kentucky University (WKU) proposes to implement a microgrid at the Innovation Campus to enhance energy resilience, ensure continuity of critical operations, and support community emergency response capabilities. The Innovation Campus currently relies on the local utility grid with some backup generation. Past severe weather events—including the December 2021 tornado and regional windstorms—have demonstrated the vulnerability of campus operations to extended power outages. The proposed microgrid will integrate:

- Approximately 300 kW of solar photovoltaic generation
- A Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) (~300 kWh capacity)
- Existing backup generators
- Advanced microgrid controls for islanding and load management

This system will enable some areas within the Innovation Campus to operate independently from the utility grid during outages, maintaining power to critical infrastructure and supporting regional emergency response. The project aligns with Kentucky's energy security and resilience objectives and serves as a pilot model for distributed energy systems across the Commonwealth. It also supports WKU's institutional goals related to sustainability, operational efficiency, and student engagement.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:

The total project cost is approximately \$2,000,000, supported through external funding sources, including grant funding and institutional non-general funds. No General Fund appropriations will be used for this project.

RECOMMENDATION:

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends approval of interim authorization for the WKU Innovation Campus Microgrid Project.

MOTION:

Approval for authorization for the WKU Innovation Campus Microgrid Project.

EMERITUS APPOINTMENTS

REQUEST:

Approval of faculty emeritus status for Dr. Amy Cappiccie and Dr. Larry Owens

FACTS:

Listed below are faculty members who have been recommended by tenured faculty, department chair and college dean to be awarded emeritus status. They have served the university for at least ten years and have had distinguished records of achievement and service.

College of Health and Human Services

Amy Cappiccie, Professor of Social Work, Emeritus

Larry Owens, Professor of Social Work, Emeritus

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:

No funds needed.

RECOMMENDATION:

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends awarding the above individuals emeritus status.

MOTION:

Approval of emeritus status awarded for the recommended individuals.