

**State of Indiana  
Commission for Higher Education**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Thursday, September 12, 2024**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 9:03 a.m. ET at Indiana University, 900 E. 7th Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47405.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

*Members Present:* Dennis Bland, Kathy Cabello, Jud Fisher, Samantha Fleischaker, Larry Garatoni, Bill Hanna, Nancy Jordan, Molly Kitchell, Kent Kramer, Chad Lochmiller, Pepper Mulherin, Dan Peterson, and Tom Saunders

*Members Absent:* Mike Alley

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Good morning, everyone. Welcome to Bloomington. It is my pleasure to call this meeting of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education to order.

First, I would like to thank our colleagues and friends at Indiana University for hosting us. President Whitten could not be here today. As you know, she was here last night for a wonderful dinner that she and the IU team hosted at Henke Hall, and she will be attending a Board of Trustees meeting today in Indianapolis.

Dinner was wonderful, and it was wonderful to see each other and be together. Our pictures were up on the big screen; I can tell you that's the first and last time that I will ever be on a diamond vision screen, so we appreciate that.

I want to thank Michael, who I will introduce in a moment, for his collaboration and especially for his remarks that reflected the camaraderie that exists between not only the Commission and the institution, but all the institutions and the representatives from each of the schools. We see the congeniality and cooperations that exists. But I think it is important, and it really hit me last night, the reflection of how positive that is for the state of Indiana, for our students, families, and businesses, etc. to work strongly together towards the same mission. The themes that we have through the work of the Commission, in partnership with the institutions, reflect that in so many ways.

Michael, Vice President of University Relations, I will welcome you to the podium and thank you for your hospitality.

**Vice President Michael Huber, Vice President of University Relations, addresses the group.** Thank you. I will now turn it over to our Commissioner, Chris Lowery, for his report.

## **COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Lowery thanked Chairman Dan Peterson.

Commissioner Lowery reported on the following topics:

### **Partnership Pentagon Report**

1. Recommendations align with the Commission's HOPE Agenda goals
2. Provide recommendations built from discussions with business, education, non-profit, philanthropic, and government leaders
  - i. Serve as a policy menu to use as a base guide, with opportunities for all sectors to be involved and/or lead.
3. It is not expected for all recommendations to be addressed immediately
  - i. Recommendations may not be addressed due to legislative changes, landscape changes, student needs, etc.
4. Receiving interest from various individuals and organizations in the work

### **Perceptions and Realities of Higher Education**

1. Research Firm: Heart + Mind Strategies (H+MS)
2. Funding Source: Lilly Endowment (\$1 million)
3. Purpose: To conduct qualitative and quantitative research into the factors that impact Hoosiers' decisions to pursue education and training after high school, and potential solutions to address barriers to enrollment and completion.
4. Research Phases:
  - i. Value of Higher Education & Training: In-dept interviews
  - ii. Decision Pathway Validation & Message Prioritization: Surveys
  - iii. Message Fine Tuning: Focus Groups
  - iv. Synthesis, Production, Final Recommendations

### **State of Higher Education Report**

1. Combines best portions of previous reports (i.e., College Readiness, Completion) into one annual report
2. Aligns to HOPE Agenda & addresses:
  - i. Current rankings
  - ii. CHE initiatives, work, and metrics
  - iii. Goals
3. Will be published in November 2024

## Program Updates

### **Indiana College Core**

1. More schools are now offering the Indiana College Core
  - i. With strategic efforts from the Commission and the passing of SEA 8-2024, the Indiana College Core will be more accessible to Hoosiers across the state.
2. The Indiana College Core saves students time and money
  - i. Students can save on average \$22,000 in tuition costs as a full year of general education credits.
  - ii. This can allow students to pursue other degrees or graduate early.
3. Data show that students pursue college at a much higher rate if they earn the Indiana College Core
  - i. 92% of Indiana College Core earners go on to enroll in college compared to the state average of 53%.

### **2024-25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) Updates**

1. Indiana ranks 1st in change compared to last year for low-income high schools at +0.5%.
  - i. National average is -10.1%.
  - ii. Indiana is the only state to see an increase in this area.
2. Indiana ranks 4th in change compared to last year for high-minority high schools at +0.5%.
  - i. National average is -10.1%.

### **Indiana Pre-admissions**

1. 2023: First year of the initiative
  - i. Sent to nearly 57,000 senior high school students
  - ii. 327 Indiana high schools participated
  - iii. 38 public and private Indiana institutions participated
2. 2024: Second year of the initiative
  - i. Initial letters sent to over 67,000 senior high school students
  - ii. 390 Indiana high schools are participating (63 new schools - nearly 20% increase)
  - iii. 39 public and private Indiana institutions are participating.

### **21st Century Scholars**

1. Prior to autoenrollment, cohorts were typically 16,000-19,000 students
2. 2023: First year of autoenrollment
  - i. 2027 cohort
  - ii. Over 46,000 students were automatically enrolled
3. 2024: Second year of autoenrollment
  - i. 2028 cohort
  - ii. Over 50,000 students were initially automatically enrolled

4. Note: automatically enrolled students still need to create a ScholarTrack account and complete all requirements of the program to maintain eligibility.

### CHE New Staff

#### **CHE Staff Updates**

1. Recent Hires
  - i. Postsecondary Transitions Manager
    1. Victoria Phair
  - ii. Outreach Coordinator (West Region)
    1. Morgan Kurtz
2. Recent Shift
  - i. Senior Advisor to the Commissioner
    1. Dr. Ken Sauer

## **II. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING MINUTES**

- R-24-5.1 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the July 2024 regular meeting. (Motion – Fisher, second – Saunders, unanimously approved)

## **III. STUDENT SUCCESS AND COMPLETION COMMITTEE**

### **A. Indiana University Presentation**

Dr. Julie Payne-Kirchmeier, Vice President for Student Success, and Dr. Kathy Adams Riester, Senior Associate Vice Provost for Student Life and Dean of Student Life, presented this item.

## **IV. K-12 AND POSTSECONDARY TRANSITIONS UPDATE**

### **A. Presentation**

Angel McAllister, Caitlin Mahoney, and Jessica Barrett presented this item.

## **V. HEART+MIND STRATEGIES**

### **A. Higher Education in Indiana: Perceptions and Realities**

Jennifer Airey, Kris Dabadie, Dr. Jill Kramer, and Dr. Demetrees Hutchins presented this item.

## **VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

### **A. Academic Programs for Expedited Action\***

**R-24-5.2 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Masters of Geographic Information Sciences to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Fisher, second – Mulherin, unanimously approved)

**R-24-5.3 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Science in Music Business to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Fisher, second – Fleischaker, unanimously approved)

## **VII. BUDGET ITEMS**

### **A. Resolution to Outline Employee Retirement Benefits\***

Seth Hinshaw presented this item.

**R-24-5.4 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Resolution to Outline Employee Retirement Benefits. (Motion – Mulherin, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

### **B. Fiscal Year 2025 Spending Plan\***

Seth Hinshaw presented this item.

**R-24-5.5 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Fiscal Year 2025 Spending Plan. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Saunders, unanimously approved)

### **C. 2025-2027 Outcomes Based Performance Funding Goals\***

Seth Hinshaw presented this item.

**R-24-5.6 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the 2025-2027 Outcomes Based Performance Funding Goals. (Motion – Hanna, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

### **D. Capital Projects for Full Discussion\***

Catherine Golden (Purdue University) presented this item. Seth Hinshaw provided the staff recommendation.

**R-24-5.7 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Purdue University Indianapolis – 501 Indiana Avenue Lease. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Lochmiller, unanimously approved)

Catherine Golden (Purdue University) presented this item. Seth Hinshaw provided the staff recommendation.

- R-24-5.8 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Purdue University Fort Wayne – 5100 Saint Joe Road Lease. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Kitchell, unanimously approved)

Catherine Golden (Purdue University) presented this item. Seth Hinshaw provided the staff recommendation.

- R-24-5.9 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Purdue University West Lafayette – Mathematical Sciences Building Data Center Renovation. (Motion – Kitchell, second – Fleischaker, unanimously approved)

Catherine Golden (Purdue University) presented this item. Seth Hinshaw provided the staff recommendation.

- R-24-5.10 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Purdue University West Lafayette – Biochemistry Building Office of the State Chemist Lab Renovation. (Motion – Mulherin, second – Kitchell, unanimously approved)

**E. Capital Projects for Expedited Action\***

- R-24-5.11 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Purdue University – Fitness & Recreation Center Roof Replacement. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Bland, unanimously approved)

- R-24-5.12 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Purdue University – Stewart Center & Purdue Memorial Union Courtyard. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Bland, unanimously approved)

- R-24-5.13 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Purdue University – Wetherill Lab Drain & Supply Line. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Bland, unanimously approved)

- R-24-5.14 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Purdue University – Reed Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Bland, unanimously approved)

**VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action
- B. Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff
- C. Media Coverage

**IX. OLD BUSINESS  
NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:21 P.M. ET.

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Dan Peterson, Chair

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Chad Lochmiller, Secretary