

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, August 13, 2020

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 1:00 p.m. virtually via Microsoft Teams videoconferencing, with Beverley Pitts presiding.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Members Present: Mike Alley, Dennis Bland, Anne Bowen, Trent Engbers, Jud Fisher, Al Hubbard, Pepper Mulherin, Chris Murphy, Dan Peterson, Beverley Pitts, John Popp

Members Absent: Jon Costas, Chris LaMothe

CHAIR'S REPORT

As you know, we had to change our original plans of being on Ball State University's campus in Muncie today. We certainly miss the opportunity to see the campus and interact with your great staff. On behalf of the Commission, I would like to thank President Mearns and his staff for their willingness to host us this month despite our need to change plans. We look forward to our next visit to Ball State's campus.

Each year in August the Commission elects a new slate of officers. As my final act as Chair, I would like to propose this year's officer slate. This slate was created by a nominating committee consisting of one member per class. The 2019-2020 Office Slate includes:

- Beverley Pitts, Chair
- Mike Alley, Vice Chair
- Jud Fisher, Secretary

R-20-08.1 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the New Officer Slate. (Motion – Murphy, second – Engbers, unanimously approved)

Al Hubbard passed the virtual gavel to Dr. Beverley Pitts, who proceeded to chair the meeting. I am pleased to welcome our two new members, Pepper Mulherin and Anne Bowen. It is my understanding that both had orientation with the Commission staff, but we hope to get a chance to know them a little bit better, so I want to invite them both to introduce themselves. Ms. Mulherin and Ms. Bowen introduced themselves. I would also like to announce that Pepper and Anne will both serve on the Student Success and Completion Committee.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lubbers began her report stating thank you, Bev, for your commitment to our work and for your willingness to serve as our new chair. No one could be better prepared than you.

Of course, my thanks to you also comes with my thanks to Al Hubbard for serving in this role at a time of change and challenge. Al's unwavering support for economic opportunities for all Hoosiers has framed many of our most impactful programs, especially the 21st Century Scholars Program and the Workforce Ready Grant. We're grateful your involvement will continue as we face new challenges and implement *Reaching Higher in a State of Change*.

On behalf of the staff, I want to add my thanks to our reappointed board members, Dennis Bland and Dan Peterson, for continuing your service on the Commission. Each of you as members and past chairs support our work and make it so much better. And we're delighted to welcome Pepper Mulherin and Anne Bowen as commission members. We were able to "meet" with them for orientation and have no doubt that they will continue the high standards of current and past commission members. One of the things we will be talking about this next year as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Commission for Higher Education in 2021, is the history of the Commission. I believe there have been five commissioners in 50 years. We have current commission members who have served long tenures. That has allowed us continuity to really implement our strategic plan with fidelity to what we have been really focused on. I appreciate their willingness to continue to serve as well.

I would like to mention one of our challenges is that we recruit really great people to serve on this staff. We become the farm team for others who see the quality of the people we have and the experience they gain here. It is a great thing, as most of those folks go on and continue a career in higher education. We have former staff members who are located on campus staffs throughout the state. They understand the work we do so it's helpful, but also hard for us when they do leave because they have been such good employees.

Today I have to announce Colby Shank, who has been with us for many years, has taken the position of assistant vice president for student financial aid at Ivy Tech Community College. At the end of this month, we will also be losing Michael Hawryluk, who is our Chief Technology Officer. These are both key roles and make us a bit vulnerable to be completely honest with you. I just wrote a note I will share with the strategic hiring committee for the State about adjustments that we are going to need to make. Whenever possible, I try to promote from within to give people more opportunities here at the Commission. We probably will not post for the associate commissioner role for a while and will instead divide that between Josh Garrison and Alexa Deaton. They will be picking up some of those responsibilities as we try to bring in the right person. My thanks to both Colby and Michael. Colby has "professionally grown up" at the Commission for Higher Education, and it is because he has done such a great job at everything that he has taken on. I will be sharing that information with the staff today. It has not been a well-kept secret so there will be no surprises. I wanted to make sure you knew about these personnel changes that are front and center for us.

Today's meeting will focus on many of these changes and new realities. Similar to June, we will provide COVID-related updates. Because much of our work at CHE aligns with the work of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, specifically our efforts around Rapid Recovery for a Better Future, I thought it might be helpful to provide a high level overview of the work that is underway. I'm encouraged by the way in which this partnership has developed and is working – between state agencies (especially the Department of Workforce Development), employers, schools – both K-12 and higher education, and local and community leaders. In my tenure, this is the most collaborative set of leaders and aligned priorities that I've ever seen.

Highlighted activities:

- \$50 million of federal CARES dollars were approved by the state's Economic Recovery Group to scale our current workforce programs – ones designed to get Hoosiers back to work or skilled for new jobs quickly (\$22 million Workforce Ready Grants, \$15 million Employer Training Grants, and the rest divided between direct career navigation and marketing efforts).
- In addition, GWC received a \$2.2 million grant from Strada to provide infrastructure support for state initiatives/programs (CAEL, EMSI).
- GWC is also in the process of applying for up to \$20 million from USDOE under a new grant opportunity called Reimagining the Workforce – which would allow us to scale work around apprenticeships/work-based learning, adult education and a state income share agreement program.

In late July, I had the opportunity to highlight the Commission's equity focus for Indiana Black Expo's opening day events. In particular, I focused on our strategic plan (focus on equity): a sneak preview of this year's equity report, update on the success of the 21st Century Scholars Program, efforts to recruit and retain more teachers of color and ways we use financial aid and performance funding to close equity gaps.

As you know, our College Readiness report shows the positive impact of dual credit and Early College High School models on college success and affordability. I had the opportunity to congratulate five new early college high schools in late July at CELL's event. This brings the number of early college high schools to 35. The related issue of ensuring quality instruction always brings up the issue of the Higher Learning Commission's requirements for dual credit teachers. We appealed to HLC to delay the requirements an additional year and received word that our request had been approved – which brings the dates of 2023 instead of 2022. To help us meet these requirements, the State Budget Committee approved a grant of \$3 million from INvestED to prepare liberal arts dual credit teachers – a companion funding source to the STEM Teacher Recruitment funds. Obviously, many of the discussions around higher education are focused on fall enrollments and reopening plans. We'll spend most of our committee report out time providing information and giving you an opportunity to express thoughts and ask questions.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING

R-20-08.2 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the

Minutes of the June, 2020 regular meeting. (Motion – Alley, second – Fisher, unanimously approved)

II. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. ScholarTrack Graduation Plan

Indiana students are required to begin a graduation plan during their 6th grade year and continue updating it throughout their secondary career. The Commission staff propose converting the current graduation plan into ScholarTrack.

As we experience a shift in Indiana’s graduation requirements to graduation pathways and see a shift to online education, it will be beneficial to students to have their graduation plan become a virtual living document. The current plan is paper-pencil format, making it not easily transferrable nor accessible. The plan is outdated, making it complicated for students.

ScholarTrack has the ability to house a statewide graduation plan for students to utilize. By creating this online graduation plan tool we will be creating a more streamlined, user friendly and accessible plan.

Josh Garrison facilitated this discussion.

B. 2020 Indiana College Completion Report

The Commission for Higher Education’s annual College Completion Report provides a comprehensive picture of college completion in order to advance Indiana’s efforts to reach our goal of at least 60 percent of Hoosiers with a quality degree or credential beyond a high school diploma by 2025.

The Commission’s annual Completion Report measures the proportion of learners who complete their degree or certificate by campus, providing trends for each public institution, and highlights progress and challenges as we continue to increase college completion in Indiana.

The state measures college completion in two ways: on-time completion (students graduate within two years for an associate degree or four years for a bachelor’s degree) and extended-time completion (students graduate within six years of beginning any degree program). New data reveals upward trends for both on-time and extended-time completion rates for two- and four-year campuses in Indiana.

The 2020 Indiana College Completion Report shows over 42 percent of all Hoosier college students graduated on time in 2019, while nearly two-thirds (62 percent) of all students graduate within six years. The data shows increases in both metrics over the previous year and with five-year gains of more than 13 percentage points in on-time graduation and almost six percentage points in extended-time completion.

Sean Tierney facilitated this discussion.

C. Commission for Higher Education Fiscal Year 2021 Spending Plan

Article VIII Section 1 of the Commission for Higher Education’s Bylaws requires the Commissioner to present a recommended budget showing anticipated revenues from all sources and expenditures for the next fiscal year no later than the first month of each fiscal year. The Commissioner has delegated this responsibility to Finance staff. Staff have developed a spending plan that reflects appropriations made by the Indiana General Assembly in addition to other sources of revenue. The annual operating budget is functionally characterized by program: administration, outreach, student financial aid, private grants and federal grants. The Budget & Productivity Committee reviewed this spending plan on July 30, 2020. Staff request authorization to work with the State Budget Agency to implement necessary management reserves and other budget policies for Fiscal Year 2021.

Alexa Deaton and Jasmine Williams provided an overview of the spending plan.

R-20-08.3 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Commission for Higher Education Fiscal Year 2021 Spending Plan. (Motion – Murphy, second – Popp, unanimously approved)

D. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

1. Master of Arts in Criminal Justice to be offered by University of Southern Indiana
2. Bachelor of Science in Art Education to be offered by Indiana University Southeast
3. Master of Arts in Food Studies to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington
4. Education Specialist in Educational Leadership to be offered by IUPUI and the Five IU Regional Campuses (East, Kokomo, Northwest, South Bend, and Southeast)
5. Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Engineering to be offered by Purdue University at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

R-20-08.4 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following academic degree programs, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Fisher, second – Murphy, unanimously approved)

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

**IV. OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 P.M.

Beverley Pitts, Chair

Jud Fisher, Secretary