

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, February 11, 2021

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, Chris LaMothe, Pepper Mulherin, Chris Murphy, Dan Peterson, Beverley Pitts, and John Popp

Members Absent: Jon Costas

CHAIR'S REPORT

As you know, we had to change our original plans of being on IUPUI campus today. We certainly miss the opportunity to see the campus and interact with your great staff. Even though we cannot be on campus today, I would like to invite Chancellor Paydar to say a few words.

Chancellor Paydar offered his remarks.

Thank you, Chancellor Paydar, for joining us and for your welcoming comments. I want to remind everyone of two upcoming Commission events:

- The Faculty Leadership Conference will be held virtually next Friday, February 19 and is now hosted by our very own Dr. Trent Engbers. Indiana faculty and academic leaders will be discussing adult education – registration will be open through next week, and those interested are still encouraged to register.
- The H. Kent Weldon Conference for Higher Education will be held on Friday, April 9. It also will be hosted virtually. Please save this date and more details are coming soon.

I also want to share that, unfortunately, Trent's term as our faculty member will end this June. Applications for the faculty position will be available on the Commission's website by the end of this month. A committee of institutional representatives will review those applications and make recommendations to the Governor for appointment. Trent, we are sorry to see you go. Any questions about these events or the faculty nomination process can be directed to Liz Walker.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lubbers began her report by stating, we are nearly halfway through the legislative session and, as usual and right, education policies and funding are front and center. It provides the opportunity for us to highlight the higher education value proposition in our budget recommendations, our support for strong financial aid, and our focus on our attainment goal and strategic plan. Our weekly legislative updates provide the most up to date information but, as you know, much happens in a week at the General Assembly. At this point, we're encouraged by the response to CHE bills and our budget recommendations.

Among the issues that have been exposed throughout 2020/COVID has been the learning loss that has taken place – both with K-12 students and those transitioning to higher education. We're pleased to see that the legislature and the Governor have highlighted this problem and are committed to funding strategies, including summer bridge programs, mentoring and student supports. These losses, like so many other things, have resulted in greater disparities by income and race. Our progress in closing achievement gaps has stalled at a minimal, and we have to accelerate our efforts with the additional funding.

On February 2, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce held the first Advisory Committee meeting for their new Institute for Workforce Excellence. "The Institute is dedicated to helping Indiana attract, develop and retain the Hoosier talent needed to drive a highly skilled and equitable workforce." Indiana INTERNnet, which is our partner for our Earn program that provides funding for internships, is now called Work and Learn Indiana and is housed in the Institute. We look forward to new ways to partner with the Institute and the Chamber in talent development, education and training.

Another structural change that impacts our work is the move for Blair Milo, the Secretary for Career Connections and Talent, and her team to the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. The goal is to align business recruitment with talent development, providing another opportunity for us to align our work and the work of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet.

This work at the GWC continues to be recognized nationally for the vision and results of the Next Level Jobs program, including the completion of over 20,000 high demand certificates, with another 40,000 enrollments. Our goal is to double the number of completions this year.

Finally, I wanted to bring to your attention that 2021 is the 50th anniversary of the statutory creation of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education – with operations beginning on July 1, 1971. Until that time no formal, legally established system of coordination existed. The question of coordination had occurred in 1967 at the urging of Governor Branigan; the legislature established the State Policy Commission on Post High School Education to make recommendations to the 1969 session. This Commission actually brought in a proposal to establish a Board of Regents with strong governing powers to preside over the existing trustees. This recommendation obviously did not pass. Instead, the 1969 General Assembly established another study committee which proposed one piece of legislation which passed in 1971 – the creation of our Commission as a coordinating board. No institution could offer a new degree, establish a new school or college, or open a new campus without Commission

approval. Other powers included making recommendations on legislative appropriations and carrying out studies to support the recommendations. The Commission was to be composed of non-educators and to have a professional staff. Later this changed, and I'll highlight that and other changes and milestones throughout this year. Dr. James Kessler served as the first executive officer of the Commission. Previously, he was assistant to Governor Whitcomb who was governor when the Commission was created. Dr. Kessler had been a political science professor at Indiana University and was awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash by five different governors. He died in 2009 and left an impressive legacy of public service and higher education leadership.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING

R-21-1.1 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the December, 2020 regular meeting. (Motion – Hubbard, second – LaMothe, unanimously approved)

II. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Indiana Youth Institute 2021 KIDS COUNT® Data Book

Published annually, the Data Book is designed to be the go-to source for the latest research and information on child well-being in Indiana. IYI's 2021 KIDS COUNT® Data Book examines the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and continuation of racial and ethnic disparities in outcomes across all four domains – Family and Community, Economic Well-Being, Education, and Health.

The Commission was joined by Alicia Kielmovitch, Vice President of Data, Analytics and Research, and Sarah Mihich, Data and Research Director, to discuss the 2021 Data Book.

B. *Reaching Higher in a State of Change* 2021 Implementation

As part of its enabling statute, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education is responsible for developing and implementing a long-range plan for postsecondary education. In December 2020, the Commission adopted its fourth strategic plan, *Reaching Higher in a State of Change*, which builds on the state's commitment to establish one of the best and most student-focused higher education systems in the nation with clear goals and aligned metrics reflecting new realities in our changing higher education system.

In advancing this plan, the Commission will work closely with higher education institutions to realize the 60 percent goal and track progress toward implementing the plan's objectives. As the second year of the plan begins, the Commission will discuss the 2021 implementation plan.

C. Federal and Legislative Update

The legislation and program implantation team delivers a legislative update for the 2021 session and an overview of the federal higher education changes in the Consolidated Appropriations Act.

D. 2021 Early College Credit Report

Indiana’s 2021 Early College Credit Report, released in January, provides a look at students who earn dual credit and Advance Placement credit in high school. The data show nearly two-thirds of Hoosiers earn some college credit before they even graduate high school. This can help students graduate faster. As a result, dual credit can represent a significant savings in tuition and fees. For the class of 2018 alone, dual credit saved students, their families, and taxpayers up to \$160 million.

Despite growth in dual credit, gaps remain across the state. While 65 percent of White students earn dual credit, only 38 percent of Black students and 50 percent of Hispanic/Latino students earn dual credit. Differences in dual credit vary by county. The report includes recommendations for increasing availability of and access to dual credit.

E. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

1. Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management to be offered by Purdue University Global
2. Master of Science in Data Analytics to be offered by Purdue University Global
3. Bachelor of Science in Organizational and Business Psychology to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington

R-21-1.2 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 – Alley, second – Engbers, unanimously approved)

F. Capital Projects for Expedited Action

1. Ball State University – Grand Lawn Amphitheater
2. Purdue University West Lafayette – Armstrong Hall Roof Repair

R-21-1.3 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following capital projects, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – LaMothe, second – Fisher, 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 3:59 P.M.

Beverley Pitts, Chair

Jud Fisher, Secretary