

**State of Indiana  
Commission for Higher Education**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Thursday, June 11, 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 Al Hubbard presiding.

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

*Members Present:* Mike Alley, Dennis Bland, Jon Costas, Trent Engbers, Jud Fisher, Al Hubbard, Chris LaMothe, Chris Murphy, Dan Peterson, Beverley Pitts, John Popp and Alfonso Vidal

*Members Absent:* Coleen Gabhart

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

As you know, we had to change our original plans of being on Indiana State University's campus in Terre Haute 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 Curtis and her staff for their willingness to host us this month despite our need to change plans. We look forward to our next visit to Indiana State's campus.

As you all know, we have two key members of our board departing this month. Coleen's term as our student member concludes at the end of June. She had arranged for an internship based in New York City – that has since been changed to a virtual experience amidst COVID-19, and her duties prevented her from being with us today. However, she wanted to share that she misses us all and was extremely grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Commission. Alfonso's wife Daniela was recently named the Ivy Tech Community College Evansville Campus Chancellor. He and his family are all extremely excited for her, but this means an end to his service on the Commission.

Alfonso and Coleen have both been tremendous contributors to the Commission generally and as members of the Student Success Committee, among many other contributions. We have a resolution honoring Coleen and Alfonso.

**R-20-06.1 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Resolution Honoring Coleen Gabhart and Resolution Honoring Alfonso Vidal. (Motion – Murphy, second – Engbers, unanimously approved)

These positions as well as our 4<sup>th</sup> district position have yet to be appointed by the Governor's Office, but we hope to have an update on this in the coming weeks.

## COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lubbers began her report stating a new decade always seems like a time for beginnings and changes – but we got more than we bargained for this year. At the Commission – like everywhere else – we're adjusting to these changes on multiple levels – Zoom calls, remote working, budget cuts, cancelled events and, of course, not getting to meet face-to-face with you on campuses. In spite of these challenges, our productivity is strong and our spirit of innovation causing us to rethink our work in new ways.

We'll spend the majority of today's meeting providing updates on COVID-19 related work. I'll also provide an overview later of the Rapid Recovery for a Better Future work that is underway. So for my report today, I'll highlight other activities and work.

As the current chair of the National Council on State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements (NC-SARA) – the organization whose mission is to ensure quality, affordable, distance education across state borders – we just completed a new strategic plan. The backbone of NC-SARA is the states', and by extension, the four regional higher education compacts. Forty nine of the 50 states are members, California is the only outlier. Its work is more important than ever; a study in February of this year – prior to the full impact of COVID-19 – showed a continued growing demand for postsecondary distance education opportunities. According to the report, nearly 1.3 million students were enrolled exclusively in distance programs at NC-SARA participating institutions – a five percent increase. The total number of students enrolled in programs (including full online and hybrid models) exceeded 2.8 million students. Obviously, these numbers would be higher now, and it will be important to follow the trends and ensure quality offerings.

I've been having regular calls with my colleagues at State Higher Education Executive Officers (SHEEO,) the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) and National Governor's Association (NGA) as we work through issues related to enrollments, budgets, remote learning, and re-opening plans. It's clear to me that while we're all challenged, Indiana is uniquely positioned to move forward because of the Governor's Workforce Cabinet and the strong, collegial leadership at our institutions – public and private.

I cite one good example of this spirit of collaboration as evidence. In the recent announcement between Ivy Tech and Indiana University that was effective June 1st, Ivy Tech associate-level graduates are guaranteed admission in many programs at IU regional campuses and IUPUI via a Guaranteed Admission Agreement. This means there are guaranteed admissions agreements with five IU regionals, IUPUI, Ball State, Purdue and Indiana State. These agreements eliminate the loss of credits while minimizing cost to students and ensuring they can complete their bachelor's degree on time.

Last week, I joined Secretary of Career Connections and Talent Blair Milo and leaders from Indianapolis' eastside (including the CEO of the Boner Neighborhood Center) for the announcement that they would receive the official designation as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Talent Region – bringing this to the 6<sup>th</sup> state designation. While, of course, we were required to hold the announcement virtually, there was no shortage of enthusiasm from the partners that came together – employers, community leaders, education leaders and faith-based leaders. While I have appreciated other similar events, as someone who grew up on

Indianapolis' eastside and who recognizes the need for revitalization of its economy, I was especially honored to join in this designation.

I want to conclude my report by offering my deep thanks and appreciation to Alfonso and Coleen for their service to the Commission. One of the best parts of my role is serving along such talented, committed people. One of the hard parts is wishing them well as they leave. For both of you, I hope your service has deepened your commitment to higher education and the students we serve. Thank you. I also want to mention we have with us for the first time today our summer intern, Lauren LaMothe, who we are delighted to have with us for some of the summer months. We are not allowed to have paid interns due to budget restrictions, so Lauren is doing this for the experience and we're going to try to make it as valuable as we can for her.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING**

**R-20-06.2 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the March, 2020 regular meeting. (Motion – Pitts, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

## **II. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **A. COVID-19 & Rapid Recovery Plan**

As Indiana continues to monitor the evolving outbreak of the novel coronavirus, the Commission has prepared guidance, published frequently asked questions and engaged directly with individuals to ensure all Hoosier students and their families have the support they need to succeed.

As individuals and employers seek a path forward, higher education is uniquely positioned to play a key role in Indiana's recovery. Colleges and universities are responding with the sense of urgency that is required to improve lives and communities and the Commission will continue to work with them to stay up-to-date with changing statuses.

At the state level, the Commission is working to provide flexible policy changes to ensure the coronavirus poses no barrier to students entering or completing postsecondary education and students maintain their financial aid eligibility.

Liz Walker facilitated the discussion.

### **B. SHEEO & ESG Attainment Academy**

Education Strategy Group (ESG) and the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) announced in August 2019 an 18-month project that would bring together teams from seven states (California, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, New Jersey,

North Carolina and Tennessee) to participate in an academy focused on meaningful, industry-aligned postsecondary credential attainment.

State teams met collectively to learn from national experts, share promising practices with their peers, and engage in cross-sector strategic planning to increase their state attainment. Each state team has received tailored technical assistance from SHEEO and ESG to:

- Deepen support for attainment efforts among policymakers, institutional leadership, faculty, and other key constituents and stakeholders;
- Prioritize strategies to close equity gaps and support student success among traditionally underserved student populations;
- Strengthen alignment between higher education and workforce goals; and
- Dramatically increase postsecondary preparation, transitions, and success.

As Indiana's Attainment Academy team continues to refine its cross-sector plan to close postsecondary attainment gaps, Commission staff will share how the action plan is aligned with the goals set forth in *Reaching Higher in a State of Change*.

Commissioner Lubbers and Liz Walker provided an update on the work of Indiana's Attainment Academy.

### **C. College Readiness Report**

The Commission for Higher Education's annual College Readiness Reports provide K-12, college success coalitions and other higher education stakeholders with more information about Indiana students' college access and performance. The goal is to collectively highlight successes in college readiness and access and be able to work collectively to tackle remaining challenges to ensure Hoosier students are prepared for the rigors of higher learning.

The 2020 Indiana College Readiness Reports show a decline over several years in the statewide college-going rate, with 61 percent of high school graduates enrolling in college within a year of graduation in 2018, compared to 65 percent in 2015.

However, students are better prepared for college today, and the percentage of students requiring remediation for college-level courses is lower than in the past, with only nine percent of students needing remediation – down from 28 percent in 2014.

Data also show college freshman grade point averages are increasing, particularly for Black and Hispanic/Latino and low-income Hoosiers. Key takeaways also include the impact of diploma type and early college credit on college-going rates.

The 2020 Indiana College Readiness Reports include interactive dashboards showing trends and comparisons for counties and regions and incorporate new data elements, such as composite readiness metrics and degree completion rates.

Charlee Beasor and Jake Burns provided an overview of the new College Readiness Report.

**D. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action**

1. Master of Science/Doctor of Philosophy in Public Health to be offered by Purdue University West Lafayette
2. Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice to be offered by Purdue University Northwest
3. Bachelor of Fine Arts in Cinematic Arts to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington
4. Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

**R-20-06.3 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 – Murphy, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

**E. Capital Projects for Full Discussion**

1. Purdue University West Lafayette – Purdue Memorial Union Ground Floor Renovation  
Susan Brock Williams presented this project. Alexa Deaton provided the staff recommendation.

**R-20-06.4 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following capital project, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Murphy, second – Engbers, unanimously approved)

**F. Capital Projects for Expedited Action**

1. IUPUI – IU Innovation Center Second Floor Renovation
2. Indiana University Kokomo, Northwest, Southeast, and South Bend – Regional Campus Deferred Maintenance – Phase IV
3. Purdue University West Lafayette – Aspire at Discovery Park
4. Purdue University West Lafayette – Child Care Facility
5. Indiana State University – Demolition of Lincoln Quad Student Housing

**R-20-06.5 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following capital project, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Murphy, second – Alley, 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 3:51 P.M.

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Al Hubbard, Chair

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Mike Alley, Secretary