

**State of Indiana  
Commission for Higher Education**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Thursday, May 13, 2021**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 1:00 p.m. in-person at the Commission's offices with a virtual option 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, Jon Costas, Trent Engbers, Jud Fisher, Al Hubbard, Chris LaMothe, Pepper Mulherin, Chris Murphy, Dan Peterson, Beverley Pitts, and John Popp

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

I am delighted to welcome you all back to our first, in-person Commission meeting in over a year. It is great to see all of you.

We recently learned that Stephanie Sample has taken a position in Washington DC with "Common App," a standardized college admission application for over 900 colleges and universities in all 50 states and abroad. Stephanie has assumed the role of Director of Executive Office where she will provide strategic direction for the team to ensure a smooth admissions process for students across the country.

Commissioner Lubbers recommends promoting Charlee Beasor to Associate Commissioner for Communications and Outreach, which requires Commission approval per our bylaws.

**R-21-03.1 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the employment of Associate Commissioner Charlee Beasor (Motion – Hubbard, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

Congratulations, Charlee, and to all staff who have shifted into new roles to take over for Stephanie's responsibilities.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Commissioner Lubbers began her report by stating, it's great to see those of you who could join us in person – we're looking forward to returning to campuses for our meetings next month. While we've adapted to necessary changes during the last year, we have missed our opportunities to meet with each other on the campuses. Likewise, our staff is returning and should be completely back on site by early June.

Many of you were able to join us for the Weldon Conference last month. Since we cancelled last year's conference, we used this opportunity to focus on our strategic plan with the theme "Higher Education's Opportunities in a State of Change." We also highlighted the GPS work that was led by Mark Muro of Brookings and Ryan Streeter of American Enterprise Institute. Mark called out the need to increase digital competency at both the educational and employer levels as a way to improve Indiana's economic readiness. Ryan focused on the social and civic aspects of Indiana's economy. One of the more sobering statistics is that more Hoosiers believe that a high school diploma is adequate for economic mobility than the Midwest of nation (25% of Hoosiers, 18% of the Midwest, 17% the nation). Creating a culture that values educational pathways is one of our key challenges and drives our work, in conjunction with the GWC and our higher education partners, to more clearly advocate for education's value proposition.

GWC has received additional federal funding to support the Workforce Ready Grant, as well as efforts to increase work and learn experiences. We also received funding to support the creation of a cross sector dashboard which will be used to align predictors of success with our student success strategies. More to come on this front.

To address the need for learning loss issues attributed to the COVID impact, the Commission will partner with the Department of Education with two summer initiatives that support stronger transitions from high school to postsecondary pathways. One effort will help an estimated 6,000 students to use the summer months to complete the "last mile" toward earning the Indiana College Core of a Technical Certificate or other CTE credential. The second initiative targets helping about 3,500 students who need help catching up or staying on track to achieve their postsecondary aspirations, using a statewide virtual summer program and mentors.

Later in the meeting we'll highlight legislative issues that will impact our work – and there are many – as well as our recently released college readiness report. Again, there are some concerning numbers in the readiness report. The positive story continues to be the performance of our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars.

One of our strategies outlined in our strategic plan focused on the educator pipeline, including the recruitment and retention of a more diverse teaching corps. Yesterday, I joined Sec. Jenner, President Ellspermann, Marian University President Dan Elsner and the dean of their teacher's college, Dr. LaTonya Turner, for the announcement of an exciting, new partnership between Ivy Tech and Marian University. The schools have partnered to offer a dual-admissions program aimed at recruiting and preparing more teachers with diverse backgrounds at a lower cost option. The partnership will develop a low to no-cost innovative program. While still in high school, students will begin by earning an associate degree at Ivy Tech, before transitioning to the Klipsch Educators College where they can earn a bachelor's degree. Then they will pursue a master's degree at no cost while completing a one-year paid clinical residency in an Indiana classroom. The goal is that at least 50% of the participants be students of color. Students who complete the program will earn three degrees – associate, bachelor's and master's degree for a total of \$45,000, not including financial aid. The pilot class will begin this fall.

I had the opportunity to meet briefly with Indiana University's new president, Pamela Whitten, who was named as the university's 19<sup>th</sup> president in mid-April and will begin her new role July 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Whitten was described as a leader who has a student-centered approach and a collaborative style of leadership. Most recently, she served as president of Kennesaw State University in Georgia. We look forward to commission members having the opportunity to meet Dr. Whitten in the near future.

In keeping with our celebration of the Commission's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I want to briefly recognize the service of CHE's second commissioner, Dr. Richard Gibb, who was appointed in March 1974 and served in that role for three years – the shortest period for any of our six commissioners. Dr. Gibb grew up in the Midwest and attended the University of Illinois. Following service as a US Army Special Services officer, Dr. Gibb began a life-long career in higher education in South Dakota, Indiana and Idaho. After he left the commission, he served as president of the University of Idaho for the remainder of his career from 1977-1989. A tidbit of information – when he was commissioner, our office was at 143 W. Market Street.

### **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH, 2021 COMMISSION MEETING**

**R-21-3.2 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the March, 2021 regular meeting. (Motion – Alley, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

## **II. BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **A. Non-Binding Tuition and Mandatory Fee Targets**

By statute (I.C. 21-14-2-12.5), the Indiana Commission for Higher Education is charged with recommending “non-binding tuition and mandatory fee increase targets for each state educational institution.” The Commission shall make recommendations no later than 30 days after the enactment of a state budget.

State educational institutions must set tuition and fee rates no later than 60 days after the enactment of the state budget. Institutions must hold a public hearing no later than 30 days after the Commission sets non-binding tuition and fee targets. In addition, institutions must submit to the State Budget Committee a report outlining the financial and budgetary factors considered by the board of trustees in determining the amount of the increase. Tuition and fee rates are to be set by the institutions for the next two academic years.

The State Budget Committee, upon review of the Commission's non-binding tuition and fee targets and reports submitted by the state educational institutions regarding tuition and fee rates, may request that an institution appear at a public meeting of the State Budget Committee concerning the report.

**R-21-3.3 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Non-Binding Tuition and Mandatory Fee Targets. (Motion – Hubbard, second – Mulherin, unanimously approved)

**B. 2021 Legislative Session Recap**

The legislation and program implementation team provided a recap of the 2021 legislative session and discussed the Commission’s charges and implementation plan for the upcoming year.

**C. 2021-2022 Frank O’Bannon Schedule of Awards**

IC 21-12-1.7-3(a) requires the Commission to annually adopt a schedule of award amounts for the Higher Education Award (HEA) and Freedom of Choice Award (FOCA) – together known as the Frank O’Bannon Grant. The schedule must provide award amounts on the basis of the student’s Expected Family Contribution (EFC) and the type of institution the student is attending. Per IC 21-12-1.7-3(c), when renewing HEA or FOCA, a student earning at least 30 credit hours or the equivalent in the year the student last used aid must receive a larger award. This larger award is referred to as the “On-Time” amount. First-time recipients are initially eligible for the larger award. Students earning less than 30 credit hours, but more than 24 credit hours, are eligible for a reduced amount. The reduced award is referred to as the “Full-Time” amount.

**R-21-3.4 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the 2021-2022 Frank O’Bannon Schedule of Awards (Motion – Hubbard, second – Peterson, unanimously approved)

**D. 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 highlight successes in college readiness and access and work collectively to tackle remaining challenges to ensure Hoosier students are prepared for the rigors of higher learning.

The 2021 Indiana College Readiness Reports show a decline over several years in the statewide college-going rate, with 59 percent of high school graduates enrolling in college within a year of graduation in 2019 (the year the new report data is focused on), compared to 65 percent in 2015.

Though more students are graduating high school than ever before, more are also earning graduation waivers. Students with waivers are less likely to enroll in college and more likely to need remediation. More than 12 percent of 2019 high school graduates received a waiver. The statewide version of the report includes a special breakout on graduation waivers.

Among high school graduates who go straight to college, 76 percent return for a second year. Gaps can be seen in college-going rates, first year GPA and other metrics among Black and Hispanic/Latino and low-income Hoosiers.

The 2021 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.

**E. Academic Degree Programs for Full Discussion**

1. Associate of Applied Science in Smart Manufacturing and Digital Integration to be offered by Ivy Tech Community College

Andrea Schwartz and Bryce Eaton with Ivy Tech’s School of Advanced Manufacturing, Engineering & Applied Science to present the program. Dr. Sauer provided the staff recommendation.

- R-21-3.5 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following academic degree program, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Hubbard, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

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

1. Bachelor of Science in Digital Media and Storytelling – Indiana University East, IUPUI, Kokomo, Northwest and Southeast
2. Bachelor of Science in Environmental Geoscience – Indiana University Bloomington
3. Bachelor of Science in Data Analytics – Ball State University
4. Bachelor of Arts in Music – Purdue University West Lafayette

- R-21-3.6 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 – Peterson, second – Hubbard, 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 3:13 P.M.

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Beverley Pitts, Chair

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Jud Fisher, Secretary