

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, November 12, 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, Jon Costas, Trent Engbers, Jud Fisher, Chris LaMothe, Pepper Mulherin, Dan Peterson, Beverley Pitts, and John Popp

Members Absent: Al Hubbard and Chris Murphy

CHAIR'S REPORT

As you know, we had to change our original plans of being on University of Southern Indiana's campus in Evansville 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 President Rochon to say a few words.

President Rochon offered his remarks.

Thank you President Rochon for joining us and for your welcoming comments.

Last month the Commission staff announced that the Student Advocates Conference, supported by Strada Education Network, will be held virtually this year on Monday, December 14th through Wednesday December 16th. Sessions will be hosted in the morning hours over the three days. Registration is open and more information will be made available on the Commission's website in the coming weeks. The staff are excited to coordinate this event *virtually* this year and look forward to sharing best practices around "innovation in higher education."

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lubbers began her report by stating, today's report will be a combination of both encouraging and concerning news. Let me begin with some data that are informing our work at both the Commission and with our educational partners. The recently released national Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) Grade 12 results found that the achievement gap between high and low performing students has widened significantly in both math and reading in the United States – and these were results prior to COVID and we fully expect the gaps to widen further. The gap in reading performance between those who score at the 90th percentile and the 10th percentile is at its largest since NAEP began testing

12th graders in 1992. The most recent PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) data show a similar increase in the gap between the top and bottom 10 percent of students in reading and math.

A related but concerning study from the Center for Research on Education Outcomes (CREDO), Stanford, released last month estimates learning loss in the 2019-2020 school year in reading and math. An average student in Indiana may have lost the equivalent of one year of learning during the pandemic. The 19-state study found the average student lost between 57 to 183 days of learning in reading and from 136 to 232 days of learning in math. The learning loss in Indiana was higher than the average.

While the Commission made small grants (\$135,000 to eleven schools) to some schools to address loss, the truth is that we are not prepared to deal with the losses that occurred from one grade to the other in K-12 or for the transition from high school to college. Again, these losses vary from one school to another and seem to have impacted low-income students the most. We are partnering with Education Strategy Group to address this issue. Indiana is one of three states chosen to benefit from Joyce Foundation funding, to build on our efforts and implement new strategies.

How about some better news? In the case of the Workforce Ready Grants (tuition free certificates in high need areas), as of November 1, 38, 623 Hoosiers have enrolled in these programs at Ivy Tech, Vincennes University or through other eligible training providers. Nearly 18,000 have completed a Next Level Jobs certificate with a median annual wage gain of \$6,400.

In our strategic plan, we identified the continuing need to recruit and retain more people to teaching. The Next Generation Educator Scholarship is helping. The three-year success rate – those who are still enrolled or graduated) is 93%. We have also seen an increasing demand for the William Crawford Minority Teacher Scholarship and the Earline Rogers Student Teaching Scholarship for Minorities.

I would like to conclude my report with news worth noting. Our own, Ken Sauer, was named the recipient of the 2020 Philip Sorotkin Award by the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) on Monday. This is the most prestigious award given by MHEC and as a past chair and 13-year MHEC Commissioner, he certainly deserves it. I had a chance to honor Ken and will close by sharing the video.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING

R-20-11.1 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the October, 2020 regular meeting. (Motion – Alley, second – Mulherin, unanimously approved)

II. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. 2020 Indiana Chamber Employer Workforce Survey

Employers are taking proactive steps to solve the State's persistent workforce challenges. To better understand the actions employers are taking and the existing needs in the employer community, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and its Institute for Workforce Excellence® recently released the findings of its 13th annual Employer Workforce Survey.

The Institute for Workforce Excellence is dedicated to helping businesses attract, develop and retain skilled employees by bringing together tools and resources to assist in building a strong talent pipeline that meets employer needs.

Skillful Indiana was the lead sponsor of the survey, with support from Amatrol and WGU Indiana. There were 937 responses (during a two-week period in mid-September) across a broad range of industries. The Commission will be joined by the Chamber's Jason Bearce, vice president for education and workforce policy to discuss the 2020 survey results.

B. 2020-2023 Postsecondary Budget Recommendations

R-20-11.2 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Budget recommendation, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – LaMothe, second – Fisher, unanimously approved)

C. Ivy Tech Community College Guaranteed Admission Agreements with Public Universities

Beginning June 1, 2020, Ivy Tech Community College associate degree graduates who meet select criteria will be guaranteed admission into a related baccalaureate program at participating four-year institutions. At present, Guaranteed Admission Agreements (GAAs) have been worked out between Ivy Tech and almost all public universities. The College also has a GAA with Western Governors University Indiana.

The majority of the GAAs are based on Ivy Tech Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees that are part of the Transfer Single Articulation Pathways (TSAPs). Students who complete an associate degree in one of the 19 TSAPs offered at Ivy Tech, and who meet the stated eligibility requirements (e.g. a specified GPA), are guaranteed admission into the bachelor's degree associated with the TSAP, as well as, in some cases, additional, related bachelor's degree programs.

The Ivy Tech GAA program, which the College undertook on its own initiative and which exceeds statewide transfer mandates, enhances Indiana's already established and strong transfer culture. Currently, there are 20 different TSAP opportunities for students. Aligning the TSAPs and Statewide Transfer General Education Core with the

GAAs strengthens a student’s ability to keep their credits, reduce costs and graduate on time.

D. Academic Degree Programs for Full Discussion

1. Doctor of Philosophy in Regenerative Medicine and Technologies to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis

Dr. Jay Hess presented this item. Dr. Sauer provided the staff recommendation.

R-20-11.3 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 – Fisher, second – Costas, unanimously approved)

E. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

1. Master of Science in Graduate Studies to be offered by Purdue University West Lafayette
2. Bachelor of Science in Cybersecurity to be offered by Purdue University at Indiana University at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis
3. Bachelor of Arts in Sustainability Studies to be offered by Indiana University Northwest
4. Master of Science in Accounting with Data and Analytics to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington

R-20-11.4 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 – Alley, second – Peterson, unanimously approved)

E. Capital Projects for Expedited Action

1. Purdue University-West Lafayette – Wildlife Animal Care Building

R-20-11.5 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 – LaMothe, second – Costas, 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