

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, September 10, 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, Al Hubbard, Chris LaMothe, Pepper Mulherin, Chris Murphy, Dan Peterson, Beverley Pitts, and John Popp

CHAIR'S REPORT

As you know, we had to change our original plans of being on Indiana University's campus in Bloomington 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 McRobbie for his willingness to host us this month despite our need to change plans. We look forward to our next visit to Indiana University's campus. Even though we cannot be on campus today, I would like to invite President McRobbie to say a few words.

President McRobbie offered his remarks.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lubbers began her report by stating, Commissioner Lubbers began her report by stating, I not only want to thank President McRobbie for his warm welcome, but also take the opportunity to express the Commission's gratitude – and my personal appreciation – for your service and leadership. There will be many opportunities to highlight the impact of your presidency, but I didn't want to miss this one to thank you for your partnership with the Commission. We look forward to continuing this partnership as together we navigate through tough challenges and new opportunities.

Speaking of new challenges – there are many. I'm sure the presidents who present their budget requests today will highlight many of them. While we were facing enrollment challenges prior to COVID-19, it's clear that these challenges have been exacerbated. While our final numbers will be reported next month, we know that all but two of our public campuses have seen enrollment declines this fall, ranging from double digit declines to less than 1%. Together with a smaller number of recent high school graduates enrolling in college (down to 61%), it speaks to the need to ensure that more Hoosiers understand why higher education is more important than ever and our need to show in tangible ways the value proposition of higher education.

As institutions have dealt with COVID-19, the costs incurred for ensuring student and faculty/staff safety have been in the millions. The federal CARES dollars (around \$235 million to Indiana colleges and universities) have helped, but the costs keep escalating. It is believed that additional federal funding will be allocated to the institutions, but those negotiations are still underway.

To assist in the movement toward e-learning, Governor Holcomb announced last month that \$61 million in federal grants would be allocated to K-12 schools and higher education to improve connectivity and increase devices. Twelve higher education institutions will receive more than \$11 million to fund specialized training and provide targeted professional development. These resource will be made available at no cost to Indiana K-12 teachers.

A promising COVID related announcement was made last week by Indiana University. The IU School of Medicine was selected as a site for COVID-19 vaccine clinical trial. President McRobbie will likely provide more details.

The last item I want to highlight today is the work of the Attainment Academy, a multi-state, multi-year effort to increase postsecondary attainment. As you well know, our current strategic plan is focused on the 2025 goal of increasing our state’s attainment to 60% by that year. While we have made significant improvements from the 33% number of 2008 to our current 48.5% number, we know that getting to our goal will require doubling down on our efforts. Indiana was one of seven states selected for the attainment academy. Our five strategies are outlined in the document you’re seeing on the screen – ranging from high school to college transition.

1. Increase the number of postsecondary quality credentials awarded to high school students.
2. Increase FAFSA filing statewide.
3. Increase the number of postsecondary credential awarded by two- and four-year institutions.
4. Increase the number of adult workers pursuing and earning a postsecondary credential through targeted outreach.
5. Ensure equitable and quality offerings for online teaching instruction.

There are multiple other efforts underway, but know that today’s agenda is full so that completes my report.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING

R-20-09.1 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the August, 2020 regular meeting. (Motion – Murphy, second – Fisher, unanimously approved)

II. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. 2021-2023 Indiana Postsecondary Institution Budget Presentations

1. Indiana University
2. Indiana State University
3. University of Southern Indiana
4. Ivy Tech Community College

By statute, (Indiana Code 21-18-6), the Commission for Higher Education must review the legislative budget requests for all state postsecondary educational institutions and make recommendations concerning appropriations and bonding authorizations. As part of this review, the Commission has requested that the following institutions present their 2021-2023 budget submission during the September 2020 Commission meeting and be prepared to answer questions that will assist the Commission in its review: Indiana University, Indiana State University, University of Southern Indiana and Ivy Tech Community College.

B. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

1. Bachelor of Science in Data Science to be offered by Indiana University Northwest
2. Master of Science in Occupational Therapy to be offered by Indiana University South Bend

R-20-09.2 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 – LaMothe, second – Murphy, unanimously approved)

C. Capital Projects for Expedited Action

1. Purdue University-Fort Wayne and Northwest – Deferred Maintenance Repair and Rehabilitation

R-20-09.3 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 – 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 2:57P.M.

Beverley Pitts, Chair

Jud Fisher, Secretary