

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, October 8, 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 Purdue University's campus in West Lafayette 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 Daniels for his willingness to host us this month despite our need to change plans. We look forward to our next visit to Purdue University's campus. Even though we cannot be on campus today, I would like to invite President Daniels to say a few words.

President Daniels offered his remarks.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lubbers began her report by stating, like everyone – both professionally and personally – CHE employees are adapting to changes and new ways of working. While we miss the collegiality of being together, we are striving to ensure that our productivity remains high and that our service to students and the state is accessible and meets our ongoing high standards. We have continued to work with the State Personnel Department to adapt our work schedules. In order to maintain social distancing while working to get our employees back to the office, our agency has moved to a staggered work schedule through December 31st. Our building has increased the frequency of cleaning/disinfecting the office suites and is working to install Ionic Air Purifiers in the elevators. We continue to wear masks while walking around the office and hold most of our meetings virtually.

Rajinder Heir joined the Commission as our new Chief Technology Officer as of Monday, September 28th. This is a key role in our office as it directly impacts all divisions and the students we serve. She comes to us with cross-sector experience in: insurance, high tech start-ups, nonprofit, consulting and the public sector. Her prior government role was as Deputy CIO for the City of Indianapolis. She holds a bachelor's degree in computer technology from Purdue and has also served on several nonprofits including Girls Inc. and

Women & Hi Tech. Rajinder has lived in Indiana with her family for many years and was born in the UK. She has already hit the ground running and is a valued member of the team.

Last week our Indiana team joined six other states for the final meeting of the SHEEO/ESG Attainment Academy. This was an 18-month project where states engaged in cross-sector strategic planning to develop a set of priorities and action steps to increase educational attainment – with an eye toward the 2025 60% goal. Our team included diverse representation from K-12, postsecondary, workforce development and the legislature. The academy helped us think through the barriers to completing a postsecondary credential. You received our five priorities in the email that Liz sent you yesterday. There should be no surprises that many of the strategies align with our strategic plan Reaching Higher in a State of Change and the strategic plan of the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet. Our next step is to share the action plan with the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet for approval at its December meeting and begin or continue implementation in January.

Our partnerships through the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet continue to allow us to focus on the needs of unemployed/underemployed Hoosiers and those who see the need to increase their education or skills in a changing economy. I joined the Governor’s weekly press conference in late September to highlight our efforts and results. Since June alone – with the infusion of federal CARES funding – over 5,500 Hoosiers have used the Workforce Ready Grant to enroll in classes or training. Nearly 3,000 Hoosiers have completed high demand certificate programs during this three-month period. And we know that Hoosiers who complete a WRG see results. Since the creation of the program in 2017, over 16,000 people have completed a WRG certificate program with a median annual wage gain of \$6,400. Nearly 32,000 are currently enrolled, and with new marketing and eligibility outreach between Ivy Tech and DWD, we saw 4,544 applications submitted in a little over a week. The largest number of these certificates is in healthcare, followed by business and information technology (advanced manufacturing, transportation & logistics, building and construction). Likewise, we see successful results from the Employer Training Grant with over 7,300 employees trained with the grant since June – with over 3,000 new hires. Since 2017, over 1,500 employers have used the grant to train nearly 19,000 people.

These numbers are impressive. But what really matters is the people whose lives are better because of these opportunities. I wanted to highlight one of these stories in a video we are using in our digital and marketing campaigns. We will continue to gather stories like this to inspire others to take advantage of these opportunities.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER, 2020 COMMISSION MEETING

R-20-10.1 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the September, 2020 regular meeting. (Motion – Murphy, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

II. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. 2021-2023 Indiana Postsecondary Institution Budget Presentations

1. Purdue University
2. Vincennes University
3. Ball State University

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 October 2020 Commission meeting and be prepared to answer questions that will assist the Commission in its review: Purdue University, Vincennes University and Ball State University.

B. 2020 Fall Enrollment Update

Each fall, in the context of the Commission for Higher Education Data Submission System (CHEDSS) collection cycle, Indiana public higher education institutions submit fall enrollment data to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. The data collection details current-term aggregate enrollment statistics for each institution, including headcount and full-time equivalency (FTE) enrollment. Institutions snapshot characteristics of the student population as of institutional census date. Some characteristics include student residency, student-level (graduate/undergraduate), degree-seeking status, and full-time/part-time enrollment intensity.

While fall enrollment trends vary by institution, of special concern this fall are how the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn might affect enrollment. Though no definitive conclusions can be drawn at this point, it is likely that these twin crises influenced students' enrollment decisions in ways both expected and unexpected. Enrollment trends at Indiana's public postsecondary institutions only account for a portion of the complexities surrounding Indiana's educational attainment rate, meriting future research into the factors that influence the state's attainment level.

Sean Tierney provided this update.

C. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

1. Master of Arts for Teachers in French to be offered by Indiana University East and IUPUI
2. Master of Science in Quantum Information Science to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington
3. Master of International Affairs to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington
4. Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Biostatistics to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington
5. Bachelor of Science in Accounting to be offered by Indiana University East

R-20-10.2 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 – 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 3:54 P.M.

Beverley Pitts, Chair

Jud Fisher, Secretary