

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, January 11, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 9:00 a.m. ET at Ivy Tech Community Automotive Technology Center, 4751 Century Plaza, Indianapolis, Indiana 46254.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Members Present: Mike Alley, Dennis Bland, Anne Bowen, Jud Fisher, Bill Hanna, Nancy Jordan, Chris LaMothe, Dr. Chad Lochmiller, Pepper Mulherin, Dan Peterson, Tom Saunders

Members Absent: Al Hubbard, Erika Steuterman

CHAIR'S REPORT

As we look ahead, I believe that 2024 holds tremendous promise for the state of higher education in Indiana. More than ever before, systems in the state of Indiana are aligning: early childhood, K-12, workforce, and post-secondary systems are speaking the same language and working together. While there's always more work to be done, I am encouraged by what I see. I am also struck by the spirit of entrepreneurship and innovation that I see as I travel the state and meet with college and university presidents. Indiana is a state that was built on entrepreneurship and innovation—and this spirit is alive and well. Earlier this week, I had the chance to introduce Major General Lyles of the Indiana National Guard to Ball State and Anderson University personnel who are building out incredible cybersecurity programs that are placing students in cutting-edge cybersecurity jobs right here in Indiana.

Finally, I am encouraged by the ways that I see universities (both public and private) across the state embracing the communities in which they are located. Lilly Endowment recently awarded its first round of "College and Community Collaboration" grants totaling \$145M. And many universities—I suspect—will engage in the READI 2.0 process with their regions in collaboration with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation. Universities and colleges across the state are building literal—and figurative—connections with their home communities.

All of this is a win for higher education and a win for Indiana. I'm proud to be a member of the Commission and look forward to the year ahead.

I will now turn it over to Dr. Stacy Atkinson, Chancellor of Ivy Tech-Indianapolis, to address the group.

Dr. Stacy Atkinson, Chancellor of Ivy Tech-Indianapolis, addresses the group.

Thank you, Dr. Atkinson. I will turn it over to Commissioner Lowery for his report.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lowery thanked all Commission members and welcomed Dr. Atkinson.

Commissioner Lowery reported on the following topics:

Philanthropic Support to Higher Education

Overview

1. This year CHE saw a significant increase in philanthropic support.
 - a. Funders approached the agency, proving a **trust** in the agency to carry out this crucial work.
 - b. In 2023, CHE received over **\$2,000,000** in philanthropic funding.
2. Many philanthropic organizations have **stepped up** in different ways to support the work being done:
 - a. Thought leadership; invitation to submit proposals; grant funding.

Strada Education Foundation

1. Repurposed 2020 grant originally provided to the GWC.
2. CHE entered an MOU with GWC to repurpose **\$375K** for the development of a statewide **Credit for Prior Learning** strategy. DWD will use their remaining \$375K to refresh the Indiana IN Demand Flames methodology.
3. Currently partnering with Tomas P. Miller and Associates to manage the statewide listening tour, policy development, and documentation.

Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation

1. **\$363K grant**
2. Driving college enrollment and FAFSA filing in Marion County youth.
3. CHE is hosting two county-wide convenings (one completed this fall, second later this month), hiring second Marion County Outreach Coordinator, expanding Padres Estrellas in Marion County.

Lilly Endowment Inc.

1. **\$1M grant**
2. 1 year grant ends August 31, 2024.
3. CHE issued RFP to hire a 3rd party research group to study the causes of college enrollment decline in Indiana to inform future CHE policies, programs, and procedures to reverse the trend.
 - i. Research structure will include interviews, focus groups, and surveys on the value of higher education.

National Governors Association

1. **\$150K demonstration project subgrant**
2. The grant is intended to provide support to the piloting of the **Indiana Achievement Wallet**, a digital wallet designed to assist with skill-based hiring.
3. The pilot includes Ivy Tech and Purdue Global.
4. Partners: various state agencies, WGU, Credential Engine, Parchment, and IQ4.

Reach University

1. **\$200K grant**
2. Newest grant
3. Further development and pilot of Indiana’s digital wallet (**Indiana Achievement Wallet**) for credentials, with a focus on veterans and cybersecurity.
4. Through SHEEO, the pilot will inform other states of the work Indiana is doing.
5. Generous support from Walmart distributed through Reach University.

Strategic Management Process

HOPE Agenda Strategy and Plan Summary 2024

1. Vision
 - i. Indiana will be a top 10 state in the nation by 2030 in (a) measurable distinction in economic and social mobility and prosperity outcomes, and (b) as the recognized state for growing or starting a business, based upon the strength of human capital.
2. Strategic Objectives
 - i. Going Rate: Youth & Adults
 - ii. Attainment: Veterans, Individuals with Disabilities, & Justice-Involved
 - iii. Credit for Prior Learning
 - iv. Completion
 - v. Graduate Retention
3. Strategic Initiatives
 - i. 21st Century Scholars; Outcomes-Based Performance Funding (OBPF); Indiana College Core; Indiana Pre-Admissions; FAFSA; Career & Technical Education (CTE); Career Discovery Meetings; Career Scholarship Accounts (CSAs); State Financial Aid; Transfer Single Articulation Pathways (TSAPs); e-Transcript; Career Coaching and Navigation
 1. Responsible Commission Staff: Dr. Michelle Ashcraft, Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief of Programs and Seth Hinshaw, Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Financial Officer
 2. Current Metrics: Youth (31st), Adult (21st)
 - ii. FAFSA; Second Change Pell; Workforce Ready Grant; Career and Technical Education; Collegiate Purple Star
 1. Responsible Commission Staff: Josh Garrison, Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief of Staff and Dr. Ken Sauer, Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer

2. Current Metrics: Veterans (47th), Disabilities (45th), Justice (43rd)
- iii. AP Credit; IB Credit; CLEP Credit; Core Transfer Library; Indiana Credential Registry; Learning and Employment Records (LERs); CPL Clearinghouse 2.0
 1. Responsible Commission Staff: Dr. Ken Sauer, Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer and Josh Garrison, Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief of Staff
 2. Current Metrics: 7 states with CPL strategy; become the 8th.
- iv. CTE; CSAs; Crossing the Finish Line; TSAPs; Academic Performance Incentive Grants; Credential Completion Grants; e-Transcript; FAFSA; State Financial Aid; Career Discovery Meetings; Indiana Credential Registry; OBPF; College Success Grants; Teach Dual Credit Indiana (TDCI); STEM Teach; State Authorization Reciprocity Agreements; Board for Proprietary Education
 1. Responsible Commission Staff: Dr. Michelle Ashcraft, Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief of Programs and Josh Garrison, Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief of Staff
 2. Current Metrics: 13th (6-year graduation rate) from fall 2016 cohort
- v. OBPF; Degree Program Reviews; Graduate Medical Education Board; LERs; Reciprocity; STEM Teach; TDCI; Next Generation Hoosier Educators Scholarships; EARN Indiana
 1. Responsible Commission Staff: Seth Hinshaw, Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Financial Officer and Dr. Ken Sauer, Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer
 2. Current Metrics: 36th (age 25-35 w/associate degree or higher)
4. HOPE Agenda Strategic Planning Timeline
 - i. January 1, 2024—December 31, 2030

HOPE Goal Projections

2024 HOPE Goal Dashboard – Summary and Timeline

1. The Commission’s Business Intelligence Team will launch a **public, interactive** HOPE Agenda dashboard by **September 2024** as the first step in measuring existing and future HOPE goal progress.
 - a. This will lay the foundation for the Commission’s work to proactively identify changes to strategy or adjustments in execution.
 - i. The initial launch will include HOPE Goals 1-5.

2024 HOPE Goal Levers and Forecasting

1. The Commission’s Business Intelligence Team will commence 3 internal research projects during the 2024 calendar year focused on:
 - a. Understanding key financial aid program levers/indicators influencing college going rates,
 - b. Designing a proactive educational attainment forecasting model, and
 - c. Understanding key levers/indicators impacting talent retention in Indiana.

2024 Legislative Priorities

Higher Education Priorities

1. SB 8 – Education Matters
2. Author: Senator Leising
3. Governor’s and CHE Agenda Bill
4. SB 8 has four provisions focusing on college affordability, acceleration, and postsecondary attainment.
 - i. **1) Accelerate Learning** – Indiana College Core Requirement
 - ii. **2) Accelerate Learning** – Offer More 3-Year Bachelor’s Degree Options
 - iii. **3) Accelerate Attainment** – Optimize Indiana’s ‘reverse transfer’ process
 - iv. **4) Accelerate Attainment** – Examine the Feasibility and Advisability of 4-Year Campuses Offering Associate Degrees

Indiana College Core

1. The Indiana College Core is a key lever to increase Indiana’s college-going rate.
2. 90% of Indiana College Core earners go to college (statewide average 53%) and experience higher rates of college success.
3. However, only 44% of high schools offer the Indiana College Core.
4. **Solution:** SB 8 will require high schools to offer the Indiana College Core by the 2025-26 academic year or submit an implementation plan to CHE by September 1, 2025, and each subsequent year until the Indiana College Core is offered.

Expanding Degree-in-3 Options

1. Students save money by **graduating early**.
2. Some high school students consider time – four or more years – as a **detering variable** when evaluating the value proposition of a bachelor’s degree.
3. **Purdue University—West Lafayette** offers over 50 bachelor’s degrees in a 3-year accelerated schedule (‘Degree in 3’).
4. However, Degree-in-3 options are **not widely** available at 4-year public institutions.
5. **Solution:** SB 8 requires 4-year public institutions to annually review all bachelor’s degrees to determine the **feasibility** of offering them in a 3-year format. Starting July 1, 2025, institutions **must offer** at least one Degree-in-3 program.

“Reverse Transfer” Associate Degrees

1. **Reverse Transfer** is a process whereby eligible students are awarded an associate degree who transferred from Ivy Tech Community College or Vincennes University to a 4-year institution.
2. This is a current practice but is **underutilized**.
3. An estimated **7,000 students** are eligible for a reverse transfer associate degree and an additional **1,000** students become eligible each year.

4. **Solution:** SB 8 optimizes the Reverse Transfer process by establishing a statewide program under CHE to automatically identify and notify former community college students who subsequently enrolled at a 4-year institution and meet the criteria for an associate degree.

Exploring Associate Degrees at 4-Year Institutions

1. College completion continues to improve at all institution types with Indiana’s statewide extended completion rate being 67% in 2021.
 - i. Seven 4-year campuses have extended time graduation rates **below 50%**.
2. 670,000 working-age adult Hoosiers have been to college but do not have a degree.
3. There is growing consensus that Indiana must carefully consider a paradigm shift from the traditional approach of “**All or Nothing**” to “**All or Something**” for students.
4. Students are leaving an **associate degree** on the table as they pursue their bachelor’s degree.
5. **Solution:** SB 8 requires CHE and all 4-year campuses to study the advisability and feasibility of developing associate degrees for certain current and former students.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING MINUTES

- R-24-1.1 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the January 2024 regular meeting. (Motion – Mike Alley, second – Chris LaMothe, unanimously approved)

III. FAFSA UPDATE FROM INVESTED

A. Supporting Hoosier Students: The New FAFSA, & Financial Aid

Bill Wozniak (INvestEd) presented this item.

IV. BUDGET ITEMS

A. Capital Projects for Full Discussion*

Mary Jane Michalak (Ivy Tech) presented this item. Seth Hinshaw provided the staff recommendations.

- R-24-1.2 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Ivy Tech Community College – Fort Wayne Campus Restructure (Motion – Alley, second – LaMothe, approved)

Tom Morrison (Indiana University) presented this item. Seth Hinshaw provided the staff recommendations.

- R-24-1.3 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the

Indiana University Bloomington – Research Laboratory Renovation (Motion – Peterson, second – Bland, unanimously approved)

Aaron Trump (University of Southern Indiana) presented this item. Seth Hinshaw provided the staff recommendations.

R-24-1.4 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the University of Southern Indiana – Academic Renovation Phase 1 (Motion – Alley, second – Mulherin, unanimously approved)

B. Capital Projects for Expedited Action*

R-24-1.5 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Indiana University School of Medicine – Fesler Hall Renovation. (Motion – LaMothe, second – Hanna, approved)

V. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A. 2024 Legislative Update

Josh Garrison presented this item.

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

A. Indiana’s Membership in the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA)

Dr. Ken Sauer and Ross Miller presented this item.

B. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action*

R-24-1.6 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Science in Artificial Intelligence to be offered by Purdue University West Lafayette. (Motion – Peterson, second – Mulherin, unanimously approved)

R-24-1.7 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Business and Technology to be offered by Purdue University West Lafayette. (Motion – Hanna, second – LaMothe, unanimously approved)

VII. PROGRAMS

A. College Matters: A Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation Initiative

Claire Fiddian-Green and Kami Nielson (Fairbanks) presented this item.

VIII. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action

- B. Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff
- C. Media Coverage
- D. Student Success and Completion Committee Newsletter

IX. OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
There was none.

X. ADJOURNMENT
The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 P.M. ET

Jud Fisher, Chair

Anne Bowen, Secretary