

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, May 09, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 9:15 a.m. ET at University of Southern Indiana, 8600 University Blvd., Evansville, Indiana 47712.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Members Present: Mike Alley, Dennis Bland, Anne Bowen, Bill Hanna, Al Hubbard, Nancy Jordan, Chris LaMothe, Chad Lochmiller, Pepper Mulherin, Dan Peterson

Members Absent: Jud Fisher, Tom Saunders, Erika Steuterman

CHAIR'S REPORT*

Thank you all for being here. And what a pleasure it is to be at the University of Southern Indiana. I want to extend my sincerest gratitude to this institution for hosting us today and hosting us for this vital conversation around higher education here in Indiana. Today's gathering does represent the invaluable work of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and our partners. On behalf of the Commission, it is a pleasure to extend my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your dedication and efforts to support our shared mission. Thank you again to President Ron Rochon and the University of Southern Indiana. Let's make today's meeting a great gathering.

I will now ask President Ron Rochon, President of University of Southern Indiana, to address the group this morning. Thank you.

President Ronald S. Rochon, President of University of Southern Indiana, addresses the group.

Thank you, President Rochon. It is now my pleasure to turn it over to Commissioner Lowery for his report.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lowery thanked all Commission members, President Rochon, and Anne Bowen for serving as Chair for the meeting.

Commissioner Lowery invited Dr. Sudesh, Dean of the Romaine College of Business at the University of Southern Indiana, to present on the following topic:

Romaine College of Business

Online MBA Program

1. Fortune Magazine recognition as 6th in the nation for affordable online MBA programs.
2. Established in 2016 with the charge of rethinking an online program.
3. Dr. Sudesh shared a narrative from a recent graduate of the program and its impact on their life.

Commissioner Lowery reported on the following topics:

Data Updates

FAFSA Application

1. 2024-2025 FAFSA Metrics
 - i. Indiana is 1st in the nation for change compared to last year in both submissions and completions.
 - ii. Indiana is 10th in the nation for FAFSA submissions and completions.
 - iii. Indiana ended last year's cycle ranked 39th in the nation for the class of 2023.
 - iv. This work is made possible through the collaboration and efforts of community partners, educators, institutions, legislators, and philanthropic support from the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation.

Program Updates

Collegiate Purple Star of Indiana Initiative

1. Support of Military-Affiliated Hoosiers
 - i. The Commission and the Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs launched the Collegiate Purple Star of Indiana (CPSI) initiative in April 2024.
 - ii. The CPSI recognizes eligible postsecondary institutions that have demonstrated a supportive environment for its United States military-affiliated student population from application to graduation.
 - iii. Indiana is 47th in the nation in veteran postsecondary attainment.
 - iv. Senate Enrolled Act 384-2023, Indiana became a national leader in championing the relationship between military-affiliated individuals and postsecondary institutions.

Career and Technical Education

1. CTE Awards for Excellence
 - i. Highlight the outstanding achievements of CTE students, programs, partners, and career counselors around the state who exemplify the ideal qualities of Career and Technical Education.
 - ii. Award winners were recognized in the following categories: Postsecondary Career Counseling Program, Postsecondary Program, Secondary Partnerships, Secondary Career Advising and Counseling, Secondary Programs, Secondary CTE Students, Postsecondary CTE Students.

State of Higher Education Address

1. Early Indicators of Positive Outcomes
 - i. This year’s address focused on the Commission’s collaborative efforts to improve college enrollment, completion, graduate retention, and research outcomes over the past year.
 - ii. Early indicators of progress
 1. Enrollment has increased by 2%
 2. Indiana ranks 11th in the nation in college completions
 3. Outcomes Based Performance Funding (OBPF) – graduate retention plans in place and being implemented
 4. Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Policy Framework published
 5. Recommendations for veterans and those in military service are being implemented

H. Kent Weldon Conference

1. Higher Education and the Workforce
 - i. Featured sessions that support Indiana’s vision to be the recognized state for growing or starting a business based upon the strength of human capital.
 - ii. Panel discussion, *Introducing Hoosier students to the Workforce*, with: Rep. Bob Behning; Clair Fiddian-Green, Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation; De’Niece Harrison Hudson, OneAmerica; Jerome Barker, Ben Davis High School Student.
 - iii. Breakout sessions: Career Coaching, Career Scholarship Accounts, and Practical Applications of Work-Based Learning.

CHE Commission Members

Conclusion of Term

1. Recognition for service to the Commission
 - a. Anne Bowen
 - b. Allan Hubbard
 - c. Chris LaMothe
 - d. Maj. Gen. Erika Steuterman will be recognized at the July Commission meeting

CHE New Staff

CHE Staff Updates

1. Recent Hires
 - a. Manager for Academic Affairs
 - i. Rachel Martin
 - b. Director for Academic Affairs and Talent Solutions
 - i. Jordan Gusich

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING MINUTES

R-24-3.1 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the March 2024 regular meeting. (Motion – Mulherin, second – Bland, unanimously approved)

III. CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

A. CTE: Perkins State Plan Update

Tony Harl, Sam Rourke, and Laura Tucker presented this item.

R-24-3.2 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Perkins State Plan Update (Motion – Bland, second – Mulherin, unanimously approved)

IV. ADULT STRATEGY

A. Collegiate Purple Star of Indiana Update

Dr. Stacy Townsley and Steve St. John presented this item.

V. BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

A. Indiana College-Going Rate Update

Brooke Kile presented this item.

B. Commission Data Strategy

Brooke Kile and Rajinder Heir presented this item.

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

A. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

Dr. Ken Sauer presented this item.

R-24-3.3 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 – Mulherin, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

VII. BUDGET ITEMS

A. Commission Bylaws

Seth Hinshaw presented this item.

- R-24-3.4 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Commission Bylaws. (Motion – Hubbard, second – Mulherin, unanimously approved)

VIII. RESOLUTION OF COMMISSION MEMBERS

A. Student Commission Member, Anne Bowen

Mike Alley presented this item.

- R-24-3.5 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Resolution of Anne Bowen’s term as Student Commission Member. (Motion – Alley, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

B. Chris LaMothe

Dan Peterson presented this item.

- R-24-3.6 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Resolution of Chris LaMothe’s term as Commission Member. (Motion – Mulherin, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

C. Allan Hubbard

Dennis Bland presented this item.

- R-24-3.7 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Resolution of Allan Hubbard’s term as Commission Member. (Motion – Bland, second – Mulherin, unanimously approved)

IX. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A. High School Redesign

Secretary Katie Jenner presented this item.

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action
- B. Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff
- C. Media Coverage

**XI. OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:08 P.M. ET.

Dan Peterson, Chair

Chad Lochmiller, Secretary