

APPROVED
AUGUST 11, 2015

Item #V-10
August 11, 2015

AD HOC ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Submitted for: Action

Summary: This item establishes an ad hoc Academic Affairs Committee to consider Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) oversight of postsecondary institutions in an era of diminishing State resources that support the regulatory and other critical functions of the Academic Affairs division of the IBHE. Periodically, administrative rules need reconsideration as the environment changes. Currently, some institutions are assessed fees in some cases. Alternative fee structures and other elements of regulatory rules will be considered. Academic Affairs staff are prepared to review five sets of administrative rules. This committee will provide Board member insights, will engage critical stakeholders, and will guide staff in the preparation of any revisions that are determined to be necessary. It is expected the committee will complete its review by August 2016.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education establish the Ad Hoc Academic Affairs Committee, to be appointed by the Chair of the Board, and charge the committee to examine and address the issues outlined in this item.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

AD HOC ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

This item establishes an ad hoc Academic Affairs Committee to consider Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) oversight of postsecondary institutions in an era of diminishing State resources that support the regulatory and other critical functions of the Academic Affairs division of the IBHE. Periodically, administrative rules need reconsideration as the environment changes. Currently, some institutions are assessed fees in some cases. Alternative fee structures and other elements of regulatory rules will be considered. Academic Affairs staff are prepared to review five sets of administrative rules. This committee will provide Board member insights, will engage critical stakeholders, and will guide staff in the preparation of any revisions that are determined to be necessary. It is expected the committee will complete its review by August 2016.

Purpose

The committee will review 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1095 with staff members charged with administration of the Private Business and Vocational Schools (PBVS) Act of 2012 (105 ILCS 426). Carrying out oversight of this postsecondary education sector has meant the plowing of very new ground for IBHE staff, who previously worked most intensively with degree-granting colleges and universities. Rules for implementation of the Act were written without practical experience with schools that comprise this non-degree sector. Staff believe the rules are strong and very high quality but have learned many lessons through the building of the PBVS unit and have extensive suggestions for rules revisions based on several years of practical experience. This committee will provide guidance in the revision and implementation of this first set of rules.

The committee will review with staff members who manage the work associated with degree-granting institutions the paired sets of administrative rules that dictate procedures for regulation in this sector. The rules are 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1030 for program review of private and out-of-state colleges and universities in administration of the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205/9.05), the Private College Act (110 ILCS 1005/14.5 and 14.10), and the Academic Degree Act (110 ILCS 1010/10.5 and 10.10) and 23 Ill. Admin. Code 1050 for approval of new units of instruction, research and public service at public institutions in administration of the Board of Higher Education Act (110 ILCS 205/7 and 9.05). These two sets of rules were reviewed and revised in a years-long process that culminated with the approval of revisions at the April 2012 meeting of the Board. Staff do not believe that extensive revision is required now, but recommend that this committee review implementation of the revisions that went into effect in 2012 and consider whether minor adjustments to the rules, based on the experience of working with the 2012 revisions, might be warranted. Additionally, examination of the current fees structure is warranted in light of diminishing State funding to the agency. This committee will provide guidance in the revision and implementation of this second and third set of rules.

In addition, IBHE is currently implementing two new sets of rules. This committee will review plans for implementation of both.

On July 31, 2015, Illinois was approved to participate in the national State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA). This was made possible by the passage of the Higher Education Distance Learning Act (Public Act 98-792). The Board has approved and the General Assembly's Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR) has reviewed the rules for Higher Education Distance Learning and Interstate Reciprocity (23 Ill. Admin. Code 1033). As staff launch Illinois SARA participation, this committee will provide guidance in the implementation of this fourth set of rules.

In 2009, the General Assembly passed the Dual Credit Quality Act (110 ILCS 27), which charges the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the IBHE to ensure that institutions of higher education that offer college credit opportunities to Illinois high school students meet the standards expected of postsecondary education. Because the predominance of this work was previously done by public community colleges, ICCB has long had administrative rules in place. However, recent changes in the education landscape have resulted in a need for IBHE to also regulate this work, and, as a result, administrative rules (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1009) were prepared and are now nearing final approval by JCAR. This committee will provide guidance as staff implement this fifth and final set of rules in accordance with the Act.

Staff recommends that the Chair appoint members to the committee and that an organizational meeting of the committee be held in October 2015 to review the charge, outline a work plan, and establish a timeline for completing all objectives by August 2016.

Staff recommends adoption of the following resolution:

The Board of Higher Education hereby establishes the Ad Hoc Academic Affairs Committee to be appointed by the Chair of the Board and charges the committee to examine and address the issues outlined in this item.