

**APPROVED**  
**JUNE 13, 2017**

Item #VII-10  
June 13, 2017

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING**  
**March 14, 2017**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** Minutes of the March 14, 2017, meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education held at Aurora University, Aurora, Illinois.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the open and closed session minutes of the March 14, 2017, Board meeting and keep the closed session minutes closed as the need for confidentiality exists due to personnel matters.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**MINUTES - BOARD MEETING**  
**March 14, 2017**

A meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education was called to order at 1:00 p.m. in the University Banquet Hall, at Aurora University, Aurora, Illinois, on March 14, 2017.

Tom Cross, Chair, presided.  
Cindy Deitsch was Secretary for the meeting.

The following Board members were present: Tom Cross, Chair, Jay Bergman, Sherry Eagle, Teresa Garate, Jane Hays, Kevin Huber, Alice Marie Jacobs, Cherilyn Murer, Darlene Ruscitti, Jack Thomas, Justin Provo and Stephanie Torres

Others present: Mark S. Jamil, Burke, Burns & Pinelli, LTD.; Eric Zarnikow, Illinois Student Assistant Commission; Jeff Brownfield, State Universities Civil Service System; Dr. Jose Torres, Illinois Math & Science Academy; Dr. Marie Donovan, Faculty Advisory Council; Dr. Ann Rondeau, Community College Presidents; Dr. D. Ronald Kimberling, Proprietary Advisory Committee; Mr. Daniel Heylin, Student Advisory Committee; Dr. Daniel Cullen, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Eric Lichtenberger, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Arthur Sutton, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Karen Helland, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Candace Mueller, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Jaimee Ray, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Brook Stewart, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Mr. Eric Hiatt, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze; Ms. Amanda Winters, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Mr. Mike Mann, Northern Illinois University; Ms. Jan Murphy, Illinois State University; Ms. Tyler Kearney, University of Illinois; Ms. Angela Henderson, Chicago State University; Mr. Paul Schlag, Western Illinois University; Ms. Kim Lambert-Thomas, Governors State University; and Dr. Daniel Geiter, Elijah Glenn Ward Family Foundation, Inc.

## **I. Call to Order**

- **Call Meeting to Order, Chair Tom Cross**

Chair Cross welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Aurora University for hosting.

Chair Tom Cross called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

Chair Cross said “Board members Christine Wiseman and Santos Rivera are unable to attend the Board meeting in person due to employment obligations, but will be joining by telephone. Is there a motion to allow the foregoing Board members to participate in this meeting by phone?”

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education, on motion made by Ms. Jane Hays and seconded by Mr. Jay Bergman, unanimously approved Board Members Christine Wiseman and Santos Rivera to participate via conference call.*

## **II. Welcome and Remarks**

- **Welcome by President Rebecca Sherrick, Aurora University**

President Rebecca Sherrick welcomed everyone to Aurora University.

- **Welcome and remarks by Chair Tom Cross**

Chair Cross thanked the student advisory committee for joining the Board as their luncheon guests and welcomed the students to the meeting. Mr. Daniel Heylin is the current president of that group and would be presenting a report to the Board later in the meeting.

Governor Rauner has spent a lot of time and care on higher education by appointing good people to the university boards and to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). The IBHE has three newly appointed board members: Sherry Eagle, Executive Director for the Institute of Collaboration, Aurora University; Cheryl Murer, former Northern Illinois University trustee; and Darlene Ruscitti, Superintendent, DuPage Regional Office of Education. Jane Hays and Jay Bergman were reappointed to the Board. Board members then introduced themselves.

The role of the IBHE has been made harder by the lack of a budget. Everyone kept thinking a budget would be passed and Monetary Award Program (MAP) grant funding would be approved. To the credit of the university presidents, it has been amazing to watch what is going on at each university, whether it is the presidents, the faculty, the administrators or the students. Everyone has done such a great job. The public does not fully understand the gravity of the situation. There have been layoffs, cuts and changes to programs.

Board member Christine Wiseman will lead a small committee to evaluate where the Board is headed and what needs to be done to be impactful, strong and helpful. The committee will report back to the board at the June meeting. There may not be a light at the end of the tunnel. Funding needs to be restored and funding for MAP needs to be restored and needs to be closer to a billion dollars if every student is to be taken care of. The board needs to be very strong and an active player. The dynamics have changed and the board needs to be aggressive.

Chair Cross thanked the board members for their commitment.

### **III. Resolutions**

#### **1. Resolution Honoring Paul Langer**

Board Member Ms. Jane Hays read the Board Resolution:

*We, the Members of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, express our gratitude to Paul L. Langer for his service to Illinois college students, the higher education community, and the citizens of Illinois.*

*Through his career as legal counsel and service as an elected school board member, Paul has made astute and timely contributions to the Board, since becoming a member in September 2012. His professional experiences and legal background brought valuable perspective to the Board and its efforts, and his voice often served as an essential decision maker on the business of the Board.*

*We note with respect Paul's impressive career and his many years of experience in providing counsel to a broad range of clients in federal and state courts across the country. He serves his law firm as a Managing Partner, with leadership roles in the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Practice as well as the Insurance Coverage Litigation Practice. Paul earned his law degree at Loyola University Chicago School of Law, and he is a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.*

*We thank Paul for his service to the Board contributing to the Illinois higher education system. We wish him well in his future endeavors.*

*Approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education  
March 14, 2017*

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education, on motion made by Ms. Jane Hays and seconded by Mr. Jay Bergman, unanimously approved the Resolution Honoring Paul Langer.*

#### **2. Resolution Honoring Northern Illinois University for Hosting NCAA Gold Finals**

Chair Tom Cross read the Board Resolution:

***WHEREAS**, the 2017 National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Women's and Men's Golf Championships will be held at the 'Home of the Huskies' at Rich Harvest Farms in Sugar Grove, May 19-31, marking the first time Northern Illinois University (NIU) has hosted a Division I national championship event; and*

***WHEREAS**, Rich Harvest Farms Golf Course is designed, built and owned by NIU alumnus Jerry Rich and is ranked by Golf Digest magazine as one of America's 100 Greatest Golf Courses; and*

***WHEREAS**, the NCAA Golf Championships will attract thousands of fans, alumni and visitors from across the country to the greater Chicagoland area to attend this elite collegiate sporting event; and*

*WHEREAS, hundreds of volunteers will be filling 2,200 shifts in a variety of roles during the course of the 12-day tournament to assist competitors, teams, coaches and fans from across the nation who will be attending the Championships;*

***THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,***

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education extends its congratulations to Northern Illinois University for being chosen for this opportunity to host an event that will generate tremendous positive media coverage and tourism for the State, showcases their home course at Rich Harvest Farms, and focuses a spotlight on the University and its loyal supporters as host to this national collegiate event.*

*Approved by the Illinois Board of Higher Education  
March 14, 2017*

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education, on motion made by Ms. Stephanie Torres and seconded by Ms. Cherilyn Murer, unanimously approved the Resolution Honoring Northern Illinois University for Hosting NCAA Finals.*

**IV. Reports and Updates**

• **Advisory Committee Report – Daniel Heylin, Student Advisory Committee**

Mr. Daniel Heylin is the president of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC). He is a senior at Illinois State University and is currently student teaching high school students. Mr. Heylin thanked the Board and Aurora University for hosting the luncheon. The lunch was a great time to interact on a personal level with the board members. Mr. Heylin thanked the board for their leadership.

Mr. Heylin's student teaching experience has impacted his view of the SAC by not just looking at the present situations but to be looking at the future situations so that juniors and seniors in high school have a strong and stable higher education system that they can call home in Illinois.

The SAC strives to represent all of the interests of the college students in Illinois. At the beginning of the year their executive committee formulated three overarching goals: (1) to be more data driven in research and advocacy; (2) create stronger partnerships with other organizations in the state; and (3) do a rebranding of the SAC to drive membership. They are well on their way to accomplishing the objectives that they set forth at the beginning of the year.

Being more data driven has lead them to embrace Complete College America and all the great initiatives, research and data that they provide to college students and college advocacy groups. The SAC has taken serious steps to make stronger partnerships with the Illinois Community College Board Student Advisory Committee to provide a unified voice for students in Illinois no matter if they are at a community college or a four-year institution. The SAC has launched new and improved websites and social media platforms that they hope will convert into long term resources for the students of Illinois as well as advocacy efforts. They are trying to make their website into a resource for college students as well as editing and publishing new member videos to get the name of the SAC out there.

The SAC has been doing lobbying efforts this year. They launched "Call your Legislator Day" where they worked with student government associations across the state to have one day

prior to veto session for students to have call banks on their campuses to call their legislators and advocate for higher education and MAP funding. The SAC has drafted MAP grant resolutions and communications in support of higher education and have sent them to leaders in the House, the Senate and the Governor's office reaffirming their support for MAP grants and acknowledging the importance of having strong higher education committees. The SAC will be launching Lobby Day on April 5 where students all across the state will be heading to Springfield to interact with their legislators, get the students involved in the policy making process and give legislators more of the student view and perspective. Another advocacy effort was creating MAP grant videos. MAP grant recipients have created informational videos of why the grants are important to them. These videos will be on the SAC's social media websites soon.

The SAC has four subcommittees: (1) the outreach committee; (2) a non-academic committee; (3) an academic committee; and (4) a budget and access committee. The outreach committee drove the efforts to produce the videos. The non-academic committee has been working with different student leaders to help provide resources to take back to their universities to strengthen the shared governance processes on their campuses. The academic subcommittee is researching how universities can support students more academically, emotionally and financially to make sure they are meeting their graduation requirements and finishing their degrees. All the data shows that it is in the best interest of the states and universities that students complete their degrees and not drop out.

The SAC meets five times throughout the years. There are a lot of dedicated student leaders that are doing work on behalf of all students across Illinois and they have two tremendous advisors from IBHE that help them stay on course.

Chair Cross thanked Mr. Heylin.

- **Action Team Reports**

**Advocacy for Quality Higher Education** – Ms. Jane Hays gave the report. The team discussed Christine Wiseman's questions of how in an environment of a budget crisis can the Board and staff be effective, what should they be doing and what priorities should be. The board will be discussing this in greater length in the taskforce that Christine Wiseman is going to chair. The staff updated the team on the budget discussions and the Governor's proposal that was announced in February. IBHE proposed a 30 percent increase in MAP funding for the fiscal year, however the Governor's budget proposed a ten percent increase for MAP funding. The Governor has recommended the same amount that IBHE recommended for the IBHE operational budget, about \$3.1 million which is the same amount from Fiscal Year 2015. The Governor's proposal of \$2.5 million for grants is only about half of the amount IBHE recommended. For the overall higher education appropriation IBHE recommended 100 percent of the final Fiscal Year 2015 amount with .5 percent to performance funding as a foundational level of support. The Governor's proposal is for 85 percent of the Fiscal Year 2015 amount with a five percent allocation to performance funding pool to be allocated according to IBHE's formula.

Upcoming legislative budget proposal hearings are March 16 for the House and March 30 for the Senate. Chair Cross will be present at both of the hearings to represent IBHE, advocate for as much funding as possible including the maximum MAP funding and to address any of the other issues involving grants. Staff presented reports and asked for input from the action team members on the legislative initiatives. Two initiatives that IBHE has taken positions in support of are Senate Bill 1401 and House Bill 3689 which would provide procurement relief to the public universities. They appear to have bipartisan support and with an amendment or two are likely to be passed.

These bills are in response to a six month to one year process where in presidents meetings this issue continued to be brought up. The procurement process has become very cumbersome for the public universities. IBHE staff, IBHE legal counsel Mark Jamil and the universities drafted the procurement bill. There is a bill that is part of the grand bargain and then there is this separate bill. Bills that IBHE oppose are Senate Bill 888 which is where community colleges are asking to offer a bachelor's of nursing degrees and House Bill 240 which is a proposal that would require all public universities to accept students who graduate in the top ten percent of their class. The members of the action team support IBHE's option to both of those bills.

**Improving Affordability** – Ms. Christine Wiseman gave the report. The action team considered and distilled a number of reports with respect to two vulnerable Illinois populations of students, then considered next steps with regard to each. (1) College-eligible students who want to attend college and do not have independent resources to do so. That population is represented by MAP students. (2) College-eligible students who are attending college outside of Illinois. These students represent our most vulnerable talent. Their situation is analyzed in a series of outmigration studies by IBHE staff.

Mr. Eric Zarnikow provided a detailed analysis and report on the MAP funding situation. The report was filed with the General Assembly. Last year, first semester MAP funding was paid out to institutions of higher education in April. Stop-gap funding provided a second allocation to cover the second semester in May and June. The money allocated was made from Fiscal Year 2017 revenues. There is no money at present to pay for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2017 MAP grants. Fifty to sixty percent of MAP eligible students have an estimated family contribution of \$0 and no resources to pay for education. Fifty percent of those are first generation students. Yet, those students do as well academically as non-MAP students, have the same retention rate and match the six-year graduation rates of non-MAP students. Without a budget MAP vouchers for 2017 cannot be paid. MAP filings are down because students no longer feel they can rely on the process.

Dr. Eric Lichtenberger and Mr. Eric Hiatt presented reports on migration patterns of freshmen students and Illinois tuition trends. Based on 2014 information, Illinois lost roughly 16,500 students to other states. The greatest numbers going to Missouri, Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and Ohio. Forty-five percent of the 2015 Illinois high school graduating class enrolled at out-of-state colleges. Which was prior to the present budget impasse. With the exception of Missouri, it is in fact cheaper for an Illinois student to attend these out-of-state institutions. Tuition in Illinois public institutions has remained relatively constant over the past five years, increasing only about 15 percent during that time. There are plans to do a new study in the next several months on why these students leave Illinois if is not for tuition breaks.

Next steps might include asking public institutions if the affordability white paper should be updated to reflect new priorities in view of the budget impasse and declining state support.

**Increasing Non-Traditional and Adult Completions Aligned with Economic Needs** – Mr. Justin Provo gave the report. The team talked about different projects that will help ensure adult students have the appropriate credentials and help them to meet some of the developmental needs that they face as they try to return to college. There is research that the IBHE staff did to make sure that the pathways are lined up and college is more accessible for adult learners to return and finish their degree. Twenty percent of the workforce are adults who never received a college degree but have some credits. IBHE wants to make sure they are making their full earning potential by giving them the opportunity to return to college. The project the team is working on should be completed by June and they will have a final report for the Board at that time.



**Reducing Attainment Gaps** – Ms. Stephanie Torres gave the report. The team had two guests join the group for their morning meeting: Jane Angelis and Kathy Johnson. The team is working to see how the University of Illinois and other public universities can more effectively address the issues with student achievement for the underrepresented student population. The idea is to share these best practices that are related to the underrepresented population. Moving forward Ms. Johnson and Dr. Arthur Sutton will continue to work together to report back at the next meeting on what the best course of action is. This is in lieu of trying to put together a statewide meeting or conference that they have not been able to do. The action team did not want to delay further. At the next meeting they hope to share the Underrepresented Groups Report that Dr. Sutton is completing.

- **Executive Committee Report**

No report was given.

## **V. Program Reviews**

Dr. Daniel Cullen reviewed the pending academic programs and authorization proposals, stating “we have included in the memo a listing of all pending academic programs and authorization proposals submitted to the Board through February 17, 2017. Since then, one additional proposal has been received. As of March 8, 2017, there was one new requests for program modifications in addition to the 17 reported in the memo and four applications have been withdrawn or returned since the last board meeting.”

### **3. New Units of Instruction at Public Community Colleges**

Dr. Cullen briefly outlined the contents of this item. No discussion was held.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Ms. Jane Hays and seconded by Mr. Justin Provo, unanimously hereby grants authority to McHenry County College to offer the Associate in Applied Science in Mobile Design and Development subject to the institution’s implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*And grants authority to Parkland College to offer the Associate in Applied Science in Massage Therapy subject to the institution’s implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*And grants authority to Sauk Valley Community College to offer the Associate in Applied Science in Agriculture subject to the institution’s implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

**4. New Operating and/or Degree-Granting Authority for Independent Institutions**

Dr. Cullen briefly outlined the contents of this item. No discussion was held.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Ms. Cheryl Murer and seconded by Ms. Jane Hays, unanimously hereby grants to CAAN Academy of Nursing Authorization to Operate in the South Metro Region, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*And grants to Indiana University Authorization to Operate in the West Suburban Region subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*And grants to Robert Morris University-Illinois Authorization to Grant the Bachelor of Science in Exercise, Nutrition, and Health Science in the Central and South Metro Regions subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*And grants to Les Roches International School of Hotel Management Authorization to Operate and Grant the Bachelor of Business Administration in International Hotel Management in the Chicago Region subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its applications and that form the basis upon which these authorizations are granted.*

*And grants to Midwestern Career College Authorization to Operate and Grant the Associate of Applied Science in Magnetic Resonance Imaging in the Chicago Region, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its applications and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

**5. New Units of Instruction for Public Service, and Research at Public Universities**

Dr. Cullen briefly outlined the contents of this item. No discussion was held.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Ms. Jane Hays and seconded by Dr. Darlene Ruscitti, unanimously hereby grants to Eastern Illinois University authorization to establish the Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice and the Bachelor of Science in Health Communication in the Prairie Region, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*And grants to Illinois State University authorization to establish the Bachelor of Arts in European Studies in the Central Region, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*And grants to Northern Illinois University authorization to establish the Master of Science in Athletic Training in the Fox Valley Region, subject to the institution's implementation and*

*maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its applications and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*And grants to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign authorization to establish the Doctor of Medicine in the Prairie Region, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

*And grants to Western Illinois University authorization to establish the Department of Liberal Arts and Sciences in the Western Region, subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted.*

## **6. Denial of New Degree Granting Institution**

Dr. Cullen outlined the contents of this item.

*Board Member Christine Wiseman disclosed to Chair Tom Cross and the Board that she had a possible conflict of interest with respect to certain of the principals affiliated with the Elijah Glenn Ward Family Foundation, Inc. Whereupon Ms. Wiseman recused herself from any discussion on this item and further stated that as a result of such possible conflict, she would abstain from voting on the recommendation pertaining to this matter.*

### **Dr. Geiter's Rebuttal:**

Dr. Daniel Geiter appeared on behalf of Elijah Glenn Ward Family Foundation, Inc. (Ward or Ward College) to provide comment on the IBHE staff's recommendation to deny Ward College the certificate of approval and authorization to operate in the Chicago Region. . Dr. Geiter stated that Ward College is planned to be an associate liberal arts degree granting institution on the south side of Chicago primarily serving individuals that are convicted felons. Ward seeks operating authority to provide associate degrees for students on the south side of Chicago but also for individuals residing in the Illinois Department of Corrections and the Cook County Department of Corrections. The present application is the third application submitted by Ward and the first to reach the Board. Dr. Geiter thanked the Board for hearing their application.

Dr. Geiter stated that the application submitted to the Board was submitted under the U.S. Department of Education's (ED) Educational Quality through Innovation Partnerships (Equip) Program that would provide institutions like Ward College with provisional accreditation to provide programs and services to disparate communities across the United States for low performing individuals. Geiter further indicated that Ward collaborated with the ED, City Colleges of Chicago (City Colleges), DePaul University (DePaul) and Benedictine University (Benedictine) and that their application was eight months of work between the Mayor of Chicago, the County of Cook, City Colleges, DePaul and Benedictine. Geiter further stated that when President Trump took office the Executive Order establishing the Equip program was withdrawn and Ward's application was denied. Dr. Geiter stated that Ward College believes it had a great program that was built to address the specific needs of the Englewood community on the south side of Chicago and that this is a major disappointment for Ward College but they still feel they have the ability to be a sustainable liberal arts degree granting institution. Dr. Geiter asserted that there are several ways that an institution can receive financial support for its students without being accredited. For

example, workforce development from state and county municipality organizations that provide funding for the program.

Dr. Geiter stated that Ward College believes they followed the requirements of IBHE over the past three years in submitting the application and that IBHE staff must provide a recommendation to the Board based on certain principles such as governance, sustainability and measureable outcomes. Dr. Geiter stated that Ward believes they have proven that they have met these criteria though IBHE staff deemed they have not. Dr. Geiter believes Ward's application submitted and approved by ED proves they are sustainable, the collaborations they have built are sustainable and that governance is in place.

Dr. Geiter requested that the Board not reject Ward College's application and instead to defer discussion to the next board meeting to allow Ward the opportunity to regroup and resubmit a proposal to the professional staff that does not include the Equip application, includes the collaborators they have that support their program, and includes a specific path for students as they leave Ward College to a four-year or to another program as a transfer student.

Chair Cross summarized the IBHE staff's denial recommendations as provided in Item V-6:

- No evidence that the Elijah Glenn Ward Family Foundation, Inc., has the capacity to deliver its educational plans.
- No evidence of financial stability. Total current assets of \$6,061 (\$141 in cash and \$5,920 in prepared insurance) is not sufficient to operate a school.
- Institution has unrealistic timeline and expectation for accreditation. No evidence that the institution has the capacity to meet regional accreditation standards of the Higher Learning Commission.
- No evidence that the institution has the capacity to develop and support a postsecondary degree level program.
- Partnership agreements for library use and educational program plans not submitted.
- No evidence of capacity to hire qualified faculty and staff to support the program. No faculty has been hired.

#### **Questions from the Board:**

**Board Member Provo:** In Ward College's financial documents submitted with its application, Ward indicates that total expenditures will exceed the total revenue within the first three years showing that the first year of expenditures is \$3.2 million. How do you plan to get that much money in time for this to be a viable option?

**Dr. Geiter:** Under the initial application the assumption was that Ward College would get the Equip authorization, would receive Title IV authorization and would be able to proceed with about 700 students. Since Equip is no longer authorized under USDOE Ward College is not sustainable under the plan as submitted to IBHE. In response to technical questions from IBHE Ward College indicated that the proposal was no longer tenable under the Executive Order as issued and they would only admit 15 students at XYZ tuition. It was all amended at the last minute. Under the current system for every 100 students that apply for City Colleges only four will graduate. St. Xavier only has a 30 percent success rate and Chicago State is only 19 percent successful. All other colleges in the Chicago metro area other than Northwestern and the University of Chicago are below 30 percent. Ward College could do better than four percent. Even if Ward College was granted operating authority today they would not be ready to accept their first student until January 2018. They are not ready to rush into anything.

**Chair Cross:** The question before the Board is based on the recommendation and on the data provided as to whether they will approve or not approve. The main question is how does Ward plan to get the money.

**Dr. Geiter:** Ward College can provide the first two years of college for a flat fee of \$5999 for tuition, books, fees, and everything. The students they are targeting would come to Ward College with 15 to 20 credit hours. They would progress through their system and articulate to a four-year system that would accept them as transfer students.

**Board Member Torres:** What is the possibility of entertaining the idea to hold this item for the next board meeting?

**Dr. Cullen:** IBHE staff has reviewed applications for the third time as this is Ward College's third application. As Dr. Geiter stated the entire foundation of the application has been pulled out from under them and they have a completely different plan now. Whenever an applicant comes to IBHE and says that they need to take all the pieces of the application out and replace them with completely different plans, IBHE would recommend that the institution withdraw the non-valid application and submit a new one. IBHE has recommended that course of action to Dr. Geiter and he chose not to do that and insisted that he be heard by the Board.

**Board Member Eagle:** It appears that the strength of your proposal was your collaborative when you applied to the federal government. Now you are applying to the Board as a single entity. You need to go back and find your logical partners and resubmit.

**Dr. Geiter:** The partnerships still exist. They will not be able to operate with Title IV authority which is the financial aid component. Ward has sought to reduce the number of students to 15 for the first cohort and they sought to reduce the tuition to a level that they could operate as an institution.

**Board Member Garate:** The population you are attempting to serve is very important and needed. The Board appreciates your desire to work with this very challenging group of individuals. Collaboration was discussed. Is the faculty going to come from those institutions or will you have your own faculty?

**Dr. Geiter:** Ward College has about 190 masters or terminal degree holding professors that have volunteered to teach in their programs. For the first cohort of 15 students they will not have a problem with having qualified personnel that could be approved by IBHE staff.

**Board Member Garate:** Have you considered starting out as a vocational or trade school?

**Dr. Geiter:** IBHE staff would have preferred that Ward College start out as a vocational school but two years ago Dr. Geiter rejected that because he felt the degree granting authority was very important for them to begin as Ward College not Ward Vocational School. They have plans to submit a vocational application to the PBVS side of IBHE for their construction program.

**Board Member Hays:** If the Board denies the application today that does not prevent Ward College from coming back and re-applying with a new application, with new collaborators and a new plan?

**Dr. Cullen:** The decision to deny would close out the current application in the system. Dr. Geiter and/or the organization would be free to submit new applications in the future.

**Dr. Geiter:** This will delay the process by another eight months unless the Board holds the application until the next meeting. If the Board denies Ward will have to refile for a site, wait 30 days, refile the application which will take at least six months to review, and then they are back at the Board for approval in seven to nine months. The changes to their application are not fundamental and are minor.

**Board Member Thomas:** Someone stated that perhaps the application could be put on hold until the next meeting. Dr. Cullen what was your response to that earlier?

**Dr. Cullen:** When an institution submits an application and later indicates to staff that the conditions have changed, staff would recommend that the appropriate course of action would be to withdraw that application and submit a new one with all the new pieces. That is what typically happens and it is not an unheard of situation. An organization will pull the application that is not valid and submit a new one with the new materials. IBHE staff recommended that to Ward College. That has not happened in this case as Ward College elected to proceed with their latest application.

**Dr. Geiter:** The established application process is laborious. Ward College had to obtain a location, sign a lease, receive insurance, establish faculty requirements, and obtain all kinds of city and state licensing. They have been going through this process for three years and have withdrawn two previous applications for technical reasons. Ward has a volunteer board, all donations from one individual and Ward has spent thousands of dollars in resources and time. The least costly method is to defer the decision. Rather than submit a new application it would be more prudent for the Board to defer the decision for another three months to see if Ward and the professional staff can come to a common ground.

**Board Member Murer:** No one is disputing the merits, vision, sole and heart of what is put forth. This is a Board who is here for posterity. How the Board votes today is the record and will dictate how they will view other applicants. An application should stand on its own merits and not have a lot of verbalization. When the staff with great prudence makes a recommendation to a board of a denial then that recommendation has to be taken seriously by the board. The Board has to make sure it is responding on an equal basis on any application. If the decision on the application is deferred it still needs all this verbal modification. This is an institution that you want to have to exist for a long time. Whatever the process is it should be followed, that is best for the Board and the State. The best thing to do today is to withdraw the application or deny and start again with a clean one that is representative of the issues of today not the circumstances of yesterday.

**Dr. Geiter:** This is their third application but the first they have pushed to the Board for a vote.

**Board Member Garate:** Is the six to nine month application process correct?

**Dr. Cullen:** It varies by application. By Code there is a requirement that a notice of intent be filed which is a 30 day period and then the application is filed. It can take anywhere from three to four months to well over a year depending upon the conditions.

**Chair Cross:** This has all been laid out. IBHE has had conversations time and again that this was not the best time to bring this application to the Board and Dr. Geiter insisted that it come to Board for consideration.

**Dr. Cullen:** The two applications prior to this one were returned because they were incomplete with major elements missing not because there were technical issues.

*Mr. Jay Berman moved that the Illinois Board of Higher Education, based upon the recommendation of the Illinois Board of Higher Education staff, hereby denies Elijah Glenn Ward Family Foundation, Inc. the certificate of approval and authorization to operate in the Chicago Region. Dr. Sherry Eagle seconded the motion.*

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows: Yes – Bergman, Cross, Eagle, Garate, Hays, Huber, Jacobs, Murer, Provo, Rivera, Ruscitti, Thomas, and Torres. No – none. Abstained – Wiseman.

## **VI. Non-Instructional Capital Project**

### **7. Public University Non-Instructional Capital Project – Northern Illinois University**

Ms. Karen Helland outlined the contents of this item. No discussion was held.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Mr. Justin Provo and seconded by Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs, unanimously hereby approves the non-instructional capital project, the Neptune Residential Complex Upgrade requested by Northern Illinois University, as included in the item.*

### **8. Public University Non-Instructional Capital Project – University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**

Ms. Karen Helland outlined the contents of this item. A brief discussion was held.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Ms. Jane Hays and seconded by Dr. Teresa Garate, unanimously hereby approves the non-instructional capital project, the Illinois Street Residence Dining Facility requested by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, as included in the item.*

## **VII. Consent Agenda**

Chair Cross next moved to the consent agenda.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Ms. Jane Hays and seconded by Ms. Stephanie Torres, unanimously approved Item Nos. 9, 10, 11 and 12.*

### **9. Board Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2016**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approves the Minutes of the December 13, 2016, meeting.*

**10. Board Meeting Minutes – February 6, 2017**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approves the Minutes of the Board Meeting of February 6, 2017.*

**11. Fiscal Years 2016/2017 Financial Report as of January 31, 2017**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approves the Fiscal Years 2016/2017 Financial Report as of January 31, 2017.*

**12. Repeal of Administrative Rule: Illinois Consortium for Educational Opportunity Program**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approves the proposed repeal of the rules for the Illinois Consortium for Educational Opportunity Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 2400) for publication in the Illinois Register.*

**VIII. Information Items**

- **Private Colleges and Universities Capital Distribution Formula (Written Report)**
- **Fiscal Year 2018 Governor’s Higher Education Budget Operations, Grants, and Capital Improvements**

Ms. Karen Helland outlined the contents of this item. A brief discussion was held regarding the Diversifying Faculty in Illinois grant.

- **Capital Working Group Update**

Ms. Brook Stewart outlined the contents of this item. No discussion was held.

- **Legislative Report**

Ms. Jaimee Ray outlined the contents of this item. A brief discussion was held.

**IX. Executive Session**

**Closed Session**

Chair Cross asked that the Board go into Executive Session. He noted that under the Open Meetings Act, there must be a motion in open session to authorize this executive session. A quorum must be present and a motion must be approved by a majority of the quorum with a recorded vote. The Chair observed that a quorum was present.

*Ms. Jane Hays made the motion to move the Illinois Board of Higher Education into executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters, pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act. Mr. Jay Bergman seconded the motion.*

The roll call vote on the motion was as follows: Yes – Bergman, Cross, Eagle, Garate, Hays, Huber, Jacobs, Murer, Provo, Rivera, Ruscitti, Torres and Wiseman. No – none.



The Board moved into executive session.

*See Attachment A for Executive Session Minutes.*

### **Reconvene in Open Session**

The Board reconvened in open session.

Chair Cross asked for a motion and second to come out of executive session.

*Ms. Jane Hays moved that the Board of Higher Education come out of executive session at 3:37 p.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017, and Mr. Jay Bergman seconded the motion.*

### **X. Personnel Agreement and Interagency Agreement**

- Executive Session for the purpose of discussing employment of specific employees pursuant to Section 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act.

*No action was taken.*

### **XI. Public Comment**

Dr. Marie Donovan presented an update on the Faculty Advisory Council to the Board.

### **XII. Other Matters**

The next Board meeting will be June 13, 2017, at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. The featured lunch guests will be the Faculty Advisory Council.

### **XIII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Cross adjourned the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Deitsch, Secretary to the Board.

Note: Copies of all items referred to in the minutes (i.e., letters, statements, reports, etc.) are on file with the official minutes of the March 14, 2017, meeting.

