

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING**  
**June 9, 2020**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** Minutes of the June 9, 2020, meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education held via telephone and video conference as permitted by Illinois Governor Executive Order Number 2020-39, dated May 29, 2020.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the minutes of the June 9, 2020 Board meeting.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING**  
**June 9, 2020**

A meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) was called to order at 1 p.m. via telephone and video conference as permitted by Illinois Governor Executive Order Number 2020-39, dated May 29, 2020.

The following Board members were present: John Atkinson, Chair, Jennifer Delaney, Andrea Evans, Teresa Garate, Jennifer Garrison, Veronica Gloria, Veronica Herrero, Alice Marie Jacobs, Pranav Kothari, David Santafe-Zambrano, Kenneth Shaw, Clarence Wyatt, and Eric Zarnikow.

Others present: Mark S. Jamil, Burke, Burns & Pinelli, LTD.; Ms. Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. James Allen, Southern Illinois University; Dr. Larry Dietz, Illinois State University; Dr. Lisa Freeman, Northern Illinois University; Dr. Gloria Gibson, Northeastern Illinois University; Dr. David Glassman, Eastern Illinois University; Dr. Cheryl Green, Governors State University; Dr. Dan Mahoney, Southern Illinois University; Dr. Elaine Maimon, Governors State University; Dr. Z Scott, Chicago State University; Dr. Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board; Dr. Marie Donovan, Faculty Advisory Council; Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, Community College Presidents; Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Eric Lichtenberger, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Mr. Nyle Robinson, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Arthur Sutton, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Melissa Hahn, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Karen Helland, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Jaimee Ray, Illinois Board of Higher Education; and Ms. Tracy Rembusch, Illinois Board of Higher Education.

**A. Call to Order/Roll Call**

- **Call Meeting to Order, Chair John Atkinson**

Chair John Atkinson called the meeting to order. Interim Secretary Rembusch took roll call, a quorum was present.

- **Welcome and remarks by Chair John Atkinson**

Chair Atkinson reflected on current events happening across the nation. He stated it is important that those of us serving the public need to come together and reaffirm our shared values and core mission and most importantly to act on these values. He emphasized that the Board was appointed less than a year ago, by a Governor with a clear commitment to equity in higher education--and that the Board has begun the important work to drive better educational outcomes for Black, Brown and rural students. He highlighted the alarming statistics showing public college graduation rates for students of color at just half the rate for whites. Low-income students, students of color and rural students are all at risk of falling behind.

Chair Atkinson reported that we have engaged on a public education campaign to help communicate the importance of staying in school during these challenging times. He stated it is our job to reassure students that we will survive these trying times together and come through them stronger, smarter, and better prepared. He discussed the development of the new strategic plan and that its focus will be driven by equity success.

Dr. Andrea Evans reminded everyone it has been 30 years since the Rodney King incident and based on the current situation we are facing is wondering what we've been doing on this issue. She stated this is not how we want our children to grow up and encourages our students to advocate, learn to be an activist and help our country make a change.

Chair Atkinson introduced and welcomed Dr. Cheryl Green as the new President at Governors State University. Dr. Green thanked Chair for his comments.

- **Remarks by Executive Director Ginger Ostro**

Executive Director Ginger Ostro described how Board meetings going forward would have more of a focus on higher education policy discussion. She stated she is trying to evolve and restructure what we are doing in Board meetings to elevate the issues and to provide more opportunities for engagement.

Ms. Ostro indicated that today's meeting would be the start of that, with two panel discussions. One panel of students will discuss what college means to them and why they are "staying the course" and planning to enroll in the fall, whether coursework is online, in person, or both. The other panel will be university and community college presidents discussing what they are doing to support students who are at particular risk of not entering or returning to school because of the pandemic.

Ms. Ostro reported on the Fall Opening Committee. The Committee included presidents of public and private universities and community colleges, faculty, staff, and public health experts. She reported they did amazing work in an incredibly short period of time to identify all the different areas of campus life and operations and what that will look like in the fall. She stated the guidance was under review by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

Executive Director Ostro updated the Board on the budget passed by the General Assembly. She stated that the budget shows a strong commitment to higher education despite the revenue shortfalls. Fiscal year 2021 is held at the same as fiscal year 2020, which is an incredible statement of investment in higher education in the state of Illinois. She reported that we will also be receiving \$50 million of the \$108 million in federal funds from the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund, another statement of the Governor's commitment to our higher education system.

*Whereupon Board Member Max Coffey entered the meeting.*

## **B. Panel Presentations**

Chair Atkinson introduced each panelist and invited Board Members to ask questions at the end of the presentations.

The student panel included Tina Scott from Chicago State University, Sophie Whitten a 2020 graduate of Vandalia High School who will be attending SIU, and Kaya de Castro from University of Illinois at Springfield. Each panelist shared their background and their thoughts on various topics including COVID-19, inequity, affordability and e-learning.

Sophie stated that education is a great foundation to build careers and the more you educate yourself the firmer that foundation will be. She plans to major in education and inspire others the way her teachers have inspired her to continue her education, especially during this pandemic.

Tina spoke about the issues happening now and the need to embrace race diversity. She encouraged us to begin the process of making a difference. She also feels it is important to build a bond between higher education and high school students—to let them see the bigger picture outside of high school. We need to make sure low-income students know about grants and scholarships. She feels if we are truly looking to impact lives, we need to make education accessible to everyone.

Kaya plans to study global science or political science in the fall. She feels it is important to process change together but thinks colleges should continue with e-learning if the health crisis continues. She believes it would be better to process these challenging times with others rather than alone.

The President panel included Dr. Gloria Gibson, President of Northeastern Illinois University; Dr. David Glassman, President of Eastern Illinois University; Dr. Sheila Quirk-Bailey, President of Illinois Central College; and Dr. Gene Crume, President of Judson University and chairman of the board for the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities. They discussed how they handled COVID-19, their plans for re-opening in the fall, affordability, student success rates, and inequity. Each president is working on plans to make sure their students receive the best education possible during these challenging times with a special emphasis on at-risk students.

Dr. Gibson has been focused on providing access and opportunity for students and described the array of supports available at NEIU. She feels it is extremely important to invite students into our universities and provide support, academically and beyond.

Dr. Glassman discussed accessibility and affordability as barriers that can impact students from all racial and ethnic backgrounds. He stated that students of color are disproportionately impacted by these barriers. Eastern continually works to understand, recognize and implement the necessary supports that will allow low income, first generation, and minority students to flourish. He also discussed the financial restraints some students face and a new program that helps students with small outstanding University balances pay those off so that the student can stay in school.

Dr. Quirk-Bailey told the story of one of their students who had become homeless. They gave her opportunity by awarding her a scholarship. She discussed problems faced by students of color and low-income students. Dr. Quirk-Bailey provided information on high school pathways and dual credit offerings. It is their goal to have students take their first college math and English courses while in high school so they realize they are college ready and can succeed. They have also been working to redesign developmental education. She stated they are the lead college in the workforce equity initiative.

Dr. Crume reported he was privileged to have served on the reopening education committee. He stated that every year Judson University has a variety of different programs and policies to help with safety protocols. He feels confident that issues can be addressed so our students can return in the fall.

Board members engaged with the panelists on ways to be supportive of all students and universities/colleges.

*Whereupon Chair Atkinson briefly recessed the meeting at 3 p.m. and later reconvened the meeting at 3:10 p.m.*

### **C. Reports and Updates**

- **Advisory Committee Report – Faculty Advisory Council**  
Dr. Marie Donovan provided a PowerPoint on the Faculty Advisory Committee. Dr. Donovan gave a background of the FAC. She discussed various things the Council is working on including teacher shortage, teacher licensing structure and racial inequity. Dr. Donovan announced that a new slate of officers will start July 1.
- **Advisory Committee Report – Disability Advisory Committee**  
Dr. Sarah Weaver updated the Board on the work of the Disability Advisory Committee. She reported they have three subcommittees, including Episodic Conditions, Caseloads, and Online Content and look forward to bringing more information to the Board in future reports.
- **Advisory Committee Report – Student Advisory Committee**  
Mr. Marcus Towns gave an update on the Student Advisory Committee and discussed recent events such as COVID-19 and student concerns. He stated a big concern for them now is race relations as well as the current situation of remote learning.
- **Update – Diversifying Faculty Initiative**  
Dr. Arthur Sutton gave an overview of Diversify Higher Education Faculty Initiative (DFI). He then introduced Dr. Shondra Clay, who is an assistant professor at Northern Illinois University. Dr. Clay discussed her experience and involvement with the program. She stated how she was awarded a DFI fellowship and that the Initiative is very important. Dr. Clay emphasized how essential the financial support is for some students.

### **D. Resolutions and Recognition – Action Items**

1. Chair Atkinson read the Resolutions honoring outgoing student board members David Santafe-Zambrano and Marcus Wolfe.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Ms. Veronica Herrero and seconded by Mr. Eric Zarnikow, unanimously approved the Resolution honoring Student Board Members David Santafe-Zambrano and Marcus Wolfe.*

2. Chair Atkinson read the Resolution honoring Faculty Advisory Council Chair Dr. Marie Donovan.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Clarence Wyatt and seconded by Dr. Teresa Garate, unanimously approved the Resolution honoring Faculty Advisory Council Chair Dr. Marie Donovan.*

## **E. Public Comment**

Three individuals requested to have public comment.

1. Dr. Erika Hunt from the Illinois State University Center for the Study of Education Policy provided an overview of a state proposal for funding under the U.S. Department of Education's Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) Grant Program to improve the preparation of K-12 school leaders.
2. Cynthia Lund from Illinois Federal of Teachers spoke on the Grow Your Own Teacher Grant in support of expanding the definition of fiscal agent to include a school district or union.
3. Dr. Cecile Arquette from Bradley University spoke regarding the rule change for Grow Your Own Teacher Grant.

The Board asked Executive Director Ostro to follow-up with the Commenters on the Grow Your Own rule change and report back to the Board on a potential resolution.

## **F. Action Items**

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

Dr. Bernoteit presented the contents of this item.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Kenneth Shaw and seconded by Ms. Veronica Herrero hereby grants authority to Frontier Community College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Technician 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, hereby grants authority to Kennedy-King College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Cybersecurity 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, hereby grants authority to Lake Land College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Illinois Department of Corrections Automotive Mechanics 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, hereby grants authority to Olive-Harvey College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Cybersecurity 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, hereby grants authority to Olney-Central College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Unmanned Aerial Technology and the Associate of Applied Science in Welding and Fabrication 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, hereby grants authority to South Suburban College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Barbering 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.*

## **2. New Operating and/or Degree Granting Authority for Independent Institutions**

Dr. Bernoteit presented the contents of this item.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Clarence Wyatt and seconded by Dr. Kenneth Shaw hereby grants to Touro College authorization to grant a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Healthcare Cybersecurity, Master of Science in Data Analytics, Master of Science in Nursing – Family Nurse Practitioner, and Master of Science in Physician Assistant in the North 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, hereby grants to Stautzenberger College DBA Rockford Career College Authorization to Grant the Associate of Applied Science in Animal Welfare Business Management 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.*

Whereupon Board Member Marcus Wolfe entered the meeting

## **3. New Units of Instruction, Public Service, and Research at Public Universities**

Dr. Bernoteit presented the contents of this item.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs and seconded by Dr. Kenneth Shaw hereby grants to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville authorization to establish the Department of Industrial Engineering in the Southwestern 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, hereby grants to University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign authorization to establish the Humanities Research Institute 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, hereby grants to Western Illinois University authorization to grant the Master of Arts in Teaching in Alternative Teacher Licensure 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.*

## **G. Consent Agenda Action Items**

Chair Atkinson asked for a motion to table Item G-2, Confidentiality of Executive Session Minutes and Destruction of Verbatim Recordings.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Andrea Evans and Seconded by Mr. Marcus Wolfe unanimously approved to table Item G-2.*

Chair Atkinson next moved to the consent agenda.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Jennifer Delaney and seconded by Dr. Andrea Evans unanimously approved Item Nos.G-1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14.*

**1. Board Meeting Minutes – April 30, 2020**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Minutes of the Board Meeting of April 30, 2020.*

**3. Adopted Amendments to Rule for General Grants**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the amendments for General Grant Programs (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1001) as detailed in the attached document, pending no objection by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). If JCAR has an objection or proposed substantive changes to the rules adopted by IBHE, the IBHE shall re-consider this resolution.*

**4. Adopted Amendments to Rule for Grow your Own Teacher Grants**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the amendments for Grow Your Own Teacher Grants (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1085) as detailed in the attached document, pending no objection by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). If JCAR has an objection or proposed substantive changes to the rules adopted by IBHE, the IBHE shall re-consider this resolution.*

**5. Adopted Amendments to Rule for Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the amendments for Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1015) as detailed in the attached document, pending no objection by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). If JCAR has an objection or proposed substantive changes to the rules adopted by IBHE, the IBHE shall re-consider this resolution.*

**6. Adopted Amendments to Rules for Nurse Educator Fellowship Program**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the amendments for Nurse Educator Fellowship Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1105) as detailed in the attached document, pending no objection by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). If JCAR has an objection or proposed substantive changes to the rules adopted by IBHE, the IBHE shall re-consider this resolution.*

**7. Proposed Repeal of Rule for Graduation Incentive Grants**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the proposed repeal of the rule for the Graduation Incentive Grant (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1002) for publication in the Illinois Register.*

**8. Diversifying Faculty in Illinois Program Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Allocation**



The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation for the DFI institutional grant awards (see Table 1) as specified by the statute and recommended by the DFI Program Board. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to withhold payment or adjust a grant allocation, if necessary, to conform to existing statute, rule, or available funding or to assure compliance with any previous grant agreements.

**9. General Grants Fiscal Year 2021**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to award the Fiscal Year 2021 General Grants, pending further action by the General Assembly and the Governor.

**10. Illinois Cooperative Work Study Program Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Allocation**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the anticipated Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation for the Illinois Cooperative work Study Grant as specified by statute and administrative rule. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to:

- 1) Continue to monitor and determine eligibility of institutions pursuant to the statute (110 ILCS 225 ) and the rules implementing that statute (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1015 );
- 2) To withhold payment or adjust a grant allocation, if necessary, to conform to existing statute, rule, or available funding or to assure compliance with any previous grant agreements;
- 3) Equitably distribute grant awards to eligible ICWS institutions:
  - a. Expand opportunities for students to pursue internships, clinical placement, cooperative programs with business and industry, and other work opportunities linked to a student's academic program;
  - b. Strengthen cooperation between higher education, business, industry, and government;
  - c. Encourage social and community service;
  - d. Maximize the use of matching contributions from business and industry and governmental and social agencies;
  - e. Create new opportunities for public/private partnerships;
  - f. Integrate other components of student financial aid to reduce reliance on student loans; and
  - g. Encourage students to seek permanent employment in Illinois.
- 4) Re-allocate funds between projects, fund other projects as necessary, and allocate any remaining funds at the end of the fiscal year.

**11. Nurse Educator Fellowship Program Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Allocation**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the anticipated Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation for the Nurse Educator

*Fellowship program as specified by statute and administrative rule and in consultation with the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to:*

- 1) Notify eligible institutions when a state appropriation has been made and nomination materials for the Fiscal Year 2021 Nurse Educator Fellowship program are available.*
- 2) Determine eligibility of nursing schools and nominees; evaluate, score, and rank nominees; and select nominees for funding, pursuant to statute (110 ILCS 205/9.32) and the rules implementing the statute (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1105);*
- 3) Distribute awards to nursing schools on behalf of fellows; and*
- 4) Provide the Board with the list of nurse educators selected for funding and their nominating institutions at the December Board meeting.*

## **12. Nursing School Grant Program Fiscal Year 2021 Grant Allocation**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate the anticipated Fiscal Year 2021 appropriation for the Nursing School Grants Program as specified by statute and administrative rule. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to:*

- 1) Notify eligible institutions when a state appropriation has been made and nomination materials for the Fiscal Year 2021 Nursing School Grant Program are available;*
- 2) Determine eligibility of institutions pursuant to statute (110 ILCS 205/9.31) and the rules implementing the statute (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1100);*
- 3) Evaluate, score, and rank proposals by program priorities;*
- 4) Select the proposals for funding in collaboration with the Illinois Nursing Workforce Center and adjust the awards if the total amount of the funds requested does not equal the funds appropriated;*
- 5) Distribute grant awards to eligible nursing schools; and*
- 6) Provide the Board with the details of the proposals selected for funding and the award amounts at the December Board meeting.*

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

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the following amendment to Public University Noninstructional Capital for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.*

**14. Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Report as of April 30, 2020**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Report as of April 30, 2020.*

**H. Informational Items Not Requiring Board Action**

**1. Budget (written report)**

**I. Other Business**

The next Board meeting will be August 4, 2020. The format for this convening has not yet been determined.

**J. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Atkinson adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rembusch, Interim Secretary to the Board.