

APPROVED

DECEMBER 8, 2020

Item #G-3
December 8, 2020

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
September 15, 2020

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: Minutes of the September 15, 2020 meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education held via telephone and video conference as permitted by Public Act 101-0640 enacted June 12, 2020 and the Illinois Governor’s Disaster Proclamation dated August 21, 2020.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the minutes of the September 15, 2020 Board meeting.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
September 15, 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 Public Act 101-0640 enacted June 12, 2020 and the Illinois Governor's Disaster Proclamation dated August 21, 2020.

The following Board members were present via video conference: John Atkinson, Chair, Max Coffey, Jennifer Delaney, Derek Douglas, Andrea Evans, Jennifer Garrison, Veronica Gloria, Veronica Herrero, Alice Marie Jacobs, Pranav Kothari, Mackenzi Matthews, Kenneth Shaw, Clarence Wyatt, and Eric Zarnikow.

Others present via video conference: Mark S. Jamil, Burke, Burns & Pinelli, LTD.; Ms. Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Martin Abraham, Western 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. Austin Lane, Southern Illinois University Carbondale; Dr. Dan Mahoney, Southern Illinois University; Dr. Zaldwaynaka Scott, Chicago State University; Dr. Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board; Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, Community College Presidents; Dr. Shawn Schumacher, Faculty Advisory Council; Mr. Dave Tretter, Federation of Independent Illinois Universities; Dr. Tonya Troka, Propriety Advisory Committee; Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit, Illinois Board of Higher Education (present in person at IBHE offices); 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.

The meeting was conducted by video conference as allowed by Public Act 101-0640 and roll call votes were recorded for each matter acted upon. The IBHE's Executive Deputy Director was physically present at the IBHE offices. The audio of the meeting was recorded and may be requested on the IBHE website.

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 welcomed Mackenzi Matthews as the new Traditional Student Board Member. Mackenzi was recently elected to serve in this position by the Student Advisory Council. She is a senior at the University of Illinois Springfield.

Chair Atkinson stated the number one priority for the Board is equity and provided framing remarks about the imperative to close equity gaps in postsecondary education. He introduced the public education campaign, “Stay the Course,” and a slide presentation was shared. The purpose of the “Stay the Course” campaign is to provide clear messaging and information to current and prospective college students about how they can get assistance in staying on track to earn their degrees. He reported that we have had more than 6,300 students who have clicked on our ads to learn more information directly from the landing page. He thanked Kivvit for their work on this public information campaign and A Better Chicago for their support.

Chair Atkinson announced that in our Strategic Plan meeting this morning, Board Members were given an overview of the process and engaged in a robust conversation around preliminary themes and priorities emerging from early engagement with stakeholders.

Chair Atkinson informed the group that the 2020 Trustee Leadership Conference will be held on October 20, 2020. The planned agenda will focus on the trustee role in working with university leaders to close equity gaps. The annual trustee leadership conference will provide another opportunity to build on the work and conversations undertaken by this Board.

Chair Atkinson congratulated the University of Illinois for their development of the rapid saliva COVID test. He acknowledged this signal achievement as clear evidence of the important role our universities play in advancing research and knowledge for the common good.

Chair Atkinson asked Executive Director Ginger Ostro to offer her report.

- **Remarks by Executive Director Ginger Ostro**

Executive Director Ostro asked to defer because of timing and would like to go straight to her PowerPoint presentation on equity.

Chair Atkinson reminded the Board of the Executive Director’s equity report presented at the August meeting. He stated that today we are continuing this conversation by examining evidence about equity gaps related to income levels and gender. He welcomed Dr. Kim Hunter Reed, Commissioner, Louisiana Commission of Higher Education. She will be presenting on her work to lead statewide higher education planning in two states – Colorado and Louisiana. Mr. Eric Zarnikow will be giving a presentation on the Monetary Award Program (MAP).

B. Presentation and Discussion

- **Assessing Equity in Illinois, Part 2 by Executive Director Ginger Ostro**

Executive Director Ostro stated the Board discussed the strategic plan this morning, focusing on what will become the North Star or vision for the planning work going forward. This vision includes a focus on equity and postsecondary attainment looking at the State’s progress toward our 60x25 goal. As work with stakeholders, an advisory group, and design work groups continues, the plan will address strategies to increase postsecondary attainment to meet the State’s workforce

and economic needs and to close equity gaps so that individuals, families and communities can thrive.

Ms. Ostro stated that today's presentation is part two of our equity discussion in higher education, building from the August Board meeting during which she shared evidence of equity gaps between Black, Latinx, and White students. In the August presentation, we saw wide variation in the postsecondary attainment rates for Illinois adults over the age of 25 – 47% of White adults have a postsecondary degree as compared to 29% of African Americans and 20% of Latinx adults. Today's presentation features a closer look at how males and females experience the education system differently and across race and ethnicity. Data shows that on nearly every measure, females outperform males across race and ethnicity groups with a few exceptions. There are clear equity gaps by gender with African American and Latinx males not being well served by institutions of higher education. When we examine earnings outcomes after college, males outperform females on earnings post-college.

She stated that half of the students that are in our K-12 public system come from low-income families; the definition of low income, which the State Board of Education uses, is eligibility for the federal free and reduced lunch program. About 41 percent of recent high school graduates were low-income yet only 31 percent of students enrolled in dual credit were low-income. This is a challenge because research shows that students who have access to early college experience into AP and dual credit are more likely to enroll and complete college.

Data about low-income students in college is based on the definition of low-income in terms of MAP and Pell eligibility. Low-income students are more likely to be placed in developmental education, to be retained at lower rates, and advanced in class status at lower rates than non-low-income students. Consequently, low-income students complete college degrees at lower rates than non-low-income students.

Executive Director Ostro noted that race and ethnicity and low-income status are different. She stated data has been presented over the last two meetings which shows different experiences for low-income and non-low-income students all pointing to the urgency of closing equity gaps. We will be examining what it will take to close equity gaps along all of these fronts through the strategic planning process.

Chair Atkinson thanked Executive Director Ostro for her presentation and welcomed Dr. Kim Hunter Reed.

- **State and National Perspectives by Dr. Kim Hunter Reed**

Dr. Kim Hunter Reed began by congratulating the Board on having equity at the center of the Strategic Plan, noting that Boards do make a difference. She said they set the agenda and the policy conversation that matters.

Dr. Reed stated we need to begin addressing gaps and opportunity. She stated when we talk about America, we know that your zip code tells us a lot about the likelihood of being successful and this is something that needs to change, whether it is low-income or minority students. She stated that more people need access to a credential than ever before because the economy punishes those who do not have that credential.

Dr. Reed believes the pandemic has accelerated the jobs that have gone away but new jobs will come back and there will be a focus on technology in jobs.

Dr. Reed discussed the equity gaps in different states and how to erase those gaps and increase access to opportunity. She stated again how important Boards are. Dr. Reed discussed the plan of action for Louisiana to reach its goal of 60 percent postsecondary attainment by 2030. She stated it was about a six-month process for their Board to set the goal and then an additional six months to complete the strategic planning exercise. She reported they are on their one-year mark and have seen a three percent increase in postsecondary attainment from last year, but the nation has increased as well. They continue to see Louisiana as a lagging state, so they know they need more credentials. They want to make sure more high school students are going to college and more college students are finishing what they start. They are also working to make sure more adults have access to educational opportunities. Dr. Reed shared that out of 100 ninth graders in Louisiana, 78 of those graduate from high school; only 45 go to college immediately after, and only 18 will earn a two-year or four-year degree.

Dr. Reed stated as we think about our “Stay the Course” message it is important to have messages about equity gaps so that people understand the significance of the talent we could be losing when it comes to human development. When they talked about increasing educational attainment, they think about every student, whether it is single parents, returning adults, veterans, incarcerated, and formerly incarcerated individuals, as well as the traditional pipeline.

Dr. Reed stated to increase attainment the State should 1) expand access to and success in completing postsecondary education; 2) eliminate persistent and damaging equity gaps; and 3) significantly increase the education level for adults. She stated it is important to have a big state goal and a state plan and to have institutional ownership in the work.

Dr. Reed spoke about the importance of who owns the work and who believes in the vision. The strategic plan should be a State goal not a higher education goal. Participating in their plan was the governor, the secretary of children and family services, the secretary of corrections, healthcare, because of the Medicaid population, economic development, and others. She said it is also important to look to the future to show the investment to the state. She stated that people need to know what the investment has to be for a successful outcome. In their state, Moody’s Investor Services did an independent report on the plan and said it would be credit positive to the State of Louisiana. The Board did not ask for the review by Moody’s but continues to leverage this report in their ongoing work.

Dr. Reed told the Board how important this work is and is happy we are taking on the strategic planning with equity at the center.

Dr. Jennifer Delaney asked about the fiscal side of both Colorado and Louisiana. She asked how to address the equity gaps in terms of funding. Dr. Reed discussed the merit-based and need-based programs in their state and noted they are aligning their policy and pocketbooks in a way to move the numbers forward. She said to get the work done and to accelerate the work, a state needs a robust need-based program and adult financial aid programs as well. She said some states are offering free community college programs.

Mr. Eric Zarnikow and Ms. Veronica Gloria asked Dr. Reed how her state was able to get the governor and others to the table and how funding would help support higher education. Dr.

Reed said they had reached out to the governor and the governor's education policy advisors from the beginning, and they were very appreciative of being included. She said it is not siloed but a big tent approach. Dr. Reed said they all came together first and then had various sub-groups such as data, finance, etc.

Dr. Andrea Evans asked Dr. Reed for her perspective on institution ownership of the plan and how Colorado and Louisiana were different in terms of one being legislated and the other not. Dr. Reed stated that she found with the legislative approach, institutions pushed back because they did not want to miss a goal. She worked with presidents, deans of students, and provosts to include them and give them a chance to make a difference. They have all made the commitment to the strategic plan.

Chair Atkinson asked about the Board of Regents which he said looks similar to our coordinating Board. He talked about the holistic approach around the benefits of higher education, the value of an informed citizenry, and the workforce development perspective. He said driving them is talent development and asked Dr. Reed to talk about how that takes center stage in terms of the conversation around higher education. Dr. Reed stated as we focus on the workforce, we are building great citizens who not only fill great jobs but create great jobs. She feels this is a framing approach that is important to the work.

Chair Atkinson thanked Dr. Reed for joining today and asked Mr. Eric Zarnikow for the next presentation on the Monetary Award Program.

- **MAP 101 by Mr. Eric Zarnikow**

Mr. Eric Zarnikow began his presentation on how Illinois financially supports low-income students in seeking postsecondary education. The cost of a public university attendance in 2002 was \$13,246 and in 2020 is it \$29,828. Some need is met with Pell and MAP grants, but 66 percent of Illinois graduates have an average \$29,855 in student loan debt. The cost for an independent student going to a community college in 2003 was \$10,238 and in 2020 is \$16,681. Community college students do struggle but the affordability gap is significantly bigger at our public universities.

Mr. Zarnikow stated that MAP is one of the largest need-based state college grant programs in the United States; however, there is still not enough money. All MAP recipients are basically equally needy so unless we receive more money in the next fiscal year, making changes would be taking away from one student to give to another. He stated that one quarter of Illinois undergraduates receive the MAP grant and low-income families have relied on this for more than 50 years.

Mr. Zarnikow shared how MAP compared to other state financial aid programs. Some other programs are linked to the high school graduation date or full-time enrollment. He said the MAP program generally reflects best practices in that it is available to students who attend part-time, not only full-time students.

Mr. Zarnikow stated that all students should complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or, beginning this year, the alternative application for Illinois financial aid, which allows qualifying undocumented students and certain transgender students who are not otherwise eligible for financial aid. If you complete the FAFSA, you are automatically considered

for MAP in that there is not a separate MAP application. He shared the eligibility formula which is college costs minus students' resources equals MAP eligibility. A few of the most critical criteria is to be an Illinois resident, have documented financial need, and be enrolled for at least three hours at an approved college.

The Illinois Student Assistant Commission (ISAC) partners with the institutions to distribute the MAP awards. The award is sent to the institution on behalf of the student. The institution is responsible for notifying them and keeping them informed of any changes in their eligibility status. Mr. Zarnikow discussed the Fiscal Year 2020 grants and stated community college students were offered and accepted the most grants but the percentage of students who were offered and accepted grants is much higher at public universities and private non-profit schools. He stated the Governor had proposed a substantial increase which was aimed to make community college tuition-free for MAP-eligible students; however, due to the pandemic flat funding was appropriated.

Mr. Zarnikow summarized the characteristics of MAP recipients, which is a high mix of minorities, almost two-thirds women and over 50 percent is first generation. He shared that MAP really does work as most recipients graduated about the same rate as other students.

Dr. Ken Shaw asked about incarcerated students. Mr. Zarnikow stated they are not eligible for MAP while they are incarcerated. Mr. Brian Durham informed the Board there are currently 27 community college programs with the Department of Corrections, with Lakeland Community College serving the most students.

Dr. Andrea Evans discussed the idea of rationing dollars. She asked about our need and how we could meet the needs of every student. Mr. Zarnikow stated the legislators are very supportive, but the state fiscal situation is difficult. He said it is frustrating that we do not have more money to provide to eligible students but reiterated that MAP is one of the largest need-based programs in the country.

Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs asked how many students would have been awarded a grant if they had applied by the deadline. Mr. Zarnikow stated they do not have final numbers for last year but because there has been declining application volume, that unfortunately means declining enrollment. The deadline could potentially cause low-income individuals to not receive a MAP award.

Dr. Derek Douglas talked about the Strategic Plan and the critical role of MAP. He feels we need this to be part of our narrative, so we need to continue working with the legislature to make sure the resources are there.

Chair Atkinson asked about the criteria that was established for the four for-profit institutions. Mr. Zarnikow stated there is language in the statute, for example, being a degree granting accredited institution and headquartered in Illinois. The general trend for the General Assembly has been to try to remove the remaining for-profits.

Chair Atkinson spoke about tuition inflation and MAP funding. Mr. Zarnikow stated MAP funding has been declining as a share of tuition and fees. Dr. Delaney stated students are more likely to get a degree if MAP-eligible and what we do with the program really matters. Dr. Jacobs stated students who are not sure if they will attend college until the last minute may be left out of

the award due to deadlines. She feels it is important to consider changing that. Chair Atkinson stated we have a clear idea of one of the significant work streams for the strategic plan.

Ms. Mackenzi Matthews discussed the increasing cost of tuition and fees, especially considering the pandemic. She stated it is hard for some students because they may not be eligible but do need the help.

Chair Atkinson thanked Mr. Zarnikow for his presentation and encouraged the Board to review and follow up with any additional questions. He then stated the IBHE staff is undertaking a process to develop a Diversity, Equity, and inclusion plan for the agency. He asked Dr. Bernoteit for an overview.

- **Overview of Agency Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Planning by Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit**

Dr. Bernoteit stated this is an initiative of the Office of the Governor for all state agencies. Dr. Bernoteit stated that addressing equity issues is an agency-wide responsibility, and that we are in the initial phase of this work. Dr. Sutton and members of the Senior Staff are working on goals to shape our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan. These goals include both internal and outward-facing priorities. Our goals that are internal-facing are focused on building the capacity of the agency as a whole to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion. We will do this through the ways we carry out existing agency programs and initiatives with intentional outreach efforts to engage stakeholders and create opportunities for diverse voices. We will increase the diversity of our staff through the development of internship initiatives that bring persons of color into the agency and engage them in state higher education policy initiatives. Dr. Bernoteit stated we also want to be very intentional about our work with postsecondary institutions to advance the efforts to close equity gaps in higher education. The agency's plan will include objectives and strategies that will help us measure our progress toward achieving these goals. As a follow-up comment, Ms. Matthews voiced the view that the internships will be great and recommends paid internships if possible because an unpaid internship is nearly impossible for low income students to accept.

Chair Atkinson thanked Dr. Bernoteit for her presentation and asked Dr. Tonya Troka to present on the Proprietary Advisory Council.

Whereupon, Ms. Matthews left the meeting.

C. Reports and Updates

- Advisory Committee Report – Proprietary Advisory Council

Dr. Tonya Troka shared a presentation on the Proprietary Advisory Council (PAC), which was established in 1974 as an advisory board to the IBHE. She gave a brief background of how an institution can be on the council and reported they meet quarterly. She stated the purpose is to present the PAC's position on board items. Dr. Troka reported on the PAC's response to COVID-19. They have been meeting and discussing what their institutions have been doing to help students during this difficult time. They have made quick transitions in response to the pandemic and supported each other.

Chair Atkinson thanked Dr. Troka for her leadership and presentation.

Chair Atkinson requested a motion to reorder the agenda so that Items E-1, E-2, F-1, F-2, and F-3 could be presented before the remainder of Item C and Item G. The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Jennifer Garrison and seconded by Dr. Jennifer Delaney, approved reordering the agenda to allow for the presentation of Items E-1, E-2, F-1, F-2 and F-3 before the remainder of Item C presentations. The vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Coffey, Delaney, Evans, Garrison, Gloria, Herrero, Jacobs, Kothari, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: None

E. Action Items

1. New Units of Instruction at Public Community Colleges

Dr. Gretchen Lohman presented the contents of this item.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Ms. Veronica Gloria and seconded by Mr. Pranav Kothari hereby grants to the University of Illinois at Chicago authorization to grant the Bachelor of Science in Data Science in the Chicago 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. The vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Coffey, Delaney, Evans, Garrison, Gloria, Herrero, Jacobs, Kothari, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: None

2. Governor's Emergency Education Relief Grant Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Awards

Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit presented the contents of this item.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs and seconded by Ms. Veronica Herrero hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate \$3,000,000 in Governor's Emergency Education Relief grant funding in Fiscal Year 2021 to eligible institutions of higher education with institutional awards of up to \$500,000. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to:

- 1. Determine eligibility of postsecondary institutions, evaluate and rank application proposals, and select recipient institutions pursuant to Section 18002 of Division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Public Law No. 116-136 (March 27, 2020);*
- 2. Distribute awards to institutions of higher education; and*
- 3. Provide the Board with the list of institutions selected for funding at the next Board meeting.*

The vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Coffey, Delaney, Evans, Garrison, Gloria, Herrero, Jacobs, Kothari, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: None

F. Consent Agenda Action Items

Chair Atkinson next moved to the consent agenda.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Ms. Veronica Herrero and seconded by Mr. Eric Zarnikow unanimously approved Item Nos F-1, F-2 & F-3 below. The vote was:
Yeas: Atkinson, Coffey, Delaney, Evans, Garrison, Gloria, Herrero, Jacobs, Kothari, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow
Nays: None*

1. Board Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2020

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

2. Adopted Repeal of Rule: Graduation Incentive Grants

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the repeal of the rule for the Graduation Incentive Program (23 Ill. Adm. Code 1002), pending no objection by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules (JCAR). If JCAR has an objection to the repeal adopted by IBHE, the IBHE shall re-consider this resolution.

3. Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Report as of July 31, 2020

The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2020 Financial Report as of July 31, 2020.

C. Reports and Updates (Continued)

- Advisory Committee Report – Federation of Independent IL Universities

Mr. Dave Tretter stated that he is asked every day what enrollment looks like. He stated the challenges are pretty similar to what the public institutions are experiencing. He stated that the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities (FIICU) represents 60 nonprofit universities in Illinois. He stated member institutions are doing everything they can to keep students safe and still provide quality education. He believes enrollment will be down across the sector but hopes not as great as some of the early warnings. Mr. Tretter stated the higher education strategic plan is needed for the State and we need to work on funding and try to get back to 2002 when we were ranked first in the country. He offered the help of Federation institutions and said they want to be a part of the conversation and engaged because that is what it is going to take to get all institutions moving in the same direction.

Chair Atkinson thanked Mr. Tretter for his leadership and active participation.

D. Public Comment

No one registered for public comment.

G. Other Business

The next Board meeting will be December 8, 2020. The format for this convening has not yet been determined.

H. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Dr. Jennifer Delaney, second by Dr. Ken Shaw and by unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

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