

APPROVED
DECEMBER 14, 2021

Item #G-3
December 14, 2021

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
September 14, 2021

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: Minutes of the September 14, 2021, 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, the Illinois Governor’s Disaster Proclamation dated August 20, 2021, and Executive Order 2021-19.

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the minutes of the September 14, 2021, Board meeting.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
September 14, 2021

A meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) was called to order at 1:00 p.m. via telephone and video conference as permitted by Public Act 101-0640 enacted June 12, 2020, the Illinois Governor's Disaster Proclamation dated August 20, 2021, and Executive Order 2021-19.

The following Board members were present: Veronica Herrero, Vice-Chair, Cody Castle, Jennifer Delaney, Derek Douglas, Andrea Evans, Jennifer Garrison, Veronica Gloria, Pranav Kothari, Kenneth Shaw, Clarence Wyatt, and Eric Zarnikow.

Others present: Mr. Mark S. Jamil, Burke, Burns & Pinelli, LTD.; Ms. Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Lisa Freeman, Northern Illinois University; Dr. David Glassman, Eastern Illinois University; Dr. Guiyou Huang, Western Illinois University; Dr. Terri Kinzy, Illinois State University; Dr. Dan Mahony, Southern Illinois University; Ms. Zaldwaynaka Scott, Esq., Chicago State University; Mr. Jeremy Oberfeld, Proprietary Advisory Committee; Ms. Angela Szczepanik-Sanchez, Disabilities Advisory Committee; Mr. Dave Tretter, Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities; Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit, Illinois Board of Higher Education (present in person at IBHE offices); Dr. Eric Lichtenberger, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Ja'Neane Minor, 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. 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, Vice-Chair Veronica Herrero**

Vice-Chair Veronica Herrero called the meeting to order. Board Secretary Rembusch took roll call. A quorum was present.

- **Welcome and Remarks by Vice-Chair Veronica Herrero**

Vice-Chair Herrero welcomed the two new Board members who were recently elected by the Student Advisory Committee to serve on this body. Mr. Cody Castle represents non-traditional students. He is a student at Wilbur Wright College in the Engineering Pathways Program and serves as President of the Student Government Association. He also leads a team of peers fostering student advocacy, engagement, and success. In response to the introduction, Mr. Castle stated that serving the students of Illinois is a true honor and humbling privilege. He looks forward to working with fellow Board members and learning from them.

Ms. Samiha Syed represents traditional students and is a student at Benedictine University. She is pursuing a bachelor's degree in Health Science and a minor in Sociology. Ms. Syed has served as a trustee on the College of DuPage Board of Trustees, an officer to the Illinois Community College Board Student Advisory Council, and on a committee for the higher education strategic plan. Vice-Chair Herrero noted that Ms. Syed is attending class but will join the Board meeting a bit later.

Vice-Chair Herrero acknowledged the pending retirement of IBHE staff member, Mr. Nyle Robinson, who will be leaving IBHE at the end of September after 41 years of public service. Mr. Robinson served as Deputy Director of Fiscal Affairs and Budgeting and as Interim Executive Director in 2019 through early 2020. Vice-Chair Herrero thanked Nyle and extended best wishes in his retirement. Dr. Jennifer Delaney added her appreciation for the work Nyle has done on budgeting for higher education. Mr. Robinson expressed his thanks for everyone's help and support during his tenure with the agency. He also wished the Board and stakeholders success in implementing the new higher education strategic plan.

Vice-Chair Herrero thanked leaders, faculty, and staff of our public and private institutions for the incredible work they have done to prepare for the new academic year and supporting our students to "Stay the Course." One of the keys to making this possible is to continue to encourage everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. By September 19, 2021, all higher education personnel and students must have, at a minimum, the first dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine series or a single-dose vaccine. She reported that IBHE and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), with the Illinois Department of Public Health, released new guidance for all postsecondary institutions in the state to implement this order.

Vice-Chair Herrero indicated that as we think about all the preparations that have gone into helping students "Stay the Course", the meeting agenda includes a presentation from President Zaldwaynaka Scott from Chicago State University. In the wake of a dramatic enrollment drop of Black students in Illinois' higher education system since 2013, President Scott led a working group on Black student access and success in higher education. The 2020-2021 working group included leaders from many sectors including business, higher education, government, and private philanthropy. Vice-Chair Herrero reported that Chair John Atkinson was among the four co-chairs of the Equity Working Group and that the resulting report informed our higher education strategic plan – *A Thriving Illinois*.

- **Remarks by Executive Director Ginger Ostro**

Executive Director Ginger Ostro began her remarks by noting staff members who have joined IBHE or taken on new roles—Heidi Farris, who was on staff as an analyst in the Private Business and Vocational schools department, is now our human resource assistant manager; Ja'Neane Minor joined the agency in mid-September as Chief of Staff; and Sai Kanu started in May as assistant budget officer. She also thanked Deputy Director Nyle Robinson for his service.

Ms. Ostro welcomed the two new Student Board members. She reported that she has met with both, and they bring tremendous assets to the Board. She thanked them for taking on this role in addition to all the other leadership activities they have.

Executive Director Ostro stated that in the spring of 2020, IBHE led a cross agency effort to quickly launch an interactive tool to provide displaced students and teachers with information on available drive-up Wi-Fi hotspots at schools, colleges, extension sites, and libraries. After being contacted by other states interested in launching their own tools, it was decided to freely share what the IBHE collaboratively developed with other Illinois agencies. This resulted in similar tools being efficiently launched in other states such as Texas and Michigan. She reported that the Interactive Wi-Fi Hotspot Map was recently nominated by the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology (Dolt) and subsequently selected as a finalist for the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) State IT Recognition Awards. Ms. Ostro congratulated Dr. Eric Lichtenberger for his leadership on the project.

Ms. Ostro gave an overview of the new Strategic Plan page on the IBHE website. This will be used to highlight the plan and our progress over time in meeting the goals. She thanked IBHE staff members for their work to complete this project.

Executive Director Ostro shared that there are two informational items in the Board packet which relate to the nursing school grants and the nurse educator fellow program. Both grants have been in existence for several years, but this year and the criteria have been updated to include an equity lens. Additional consideration in the scoring was given for the proportion of nursing students who are African Americans, Latinx, low-income, first-generation students, rural students, and working adults or students with disabilities. In the future, consideration will be given for an institution's success in reducing equity gaps in nursing student enrollment and graduation.

B. Presentation - Equity Working Group for Black Student Access and Success (Ms. Zaldwaynaka Scott, Esq., President, Chicago State University)

Vice Chair Herrero introduced President Zaldwaynaka (“Z”) Scott, the 12th president of Chicago State University (CSU), to provide highlights from a recent CSU report on Black Student Access and Success. President Scott described the origins of the CSU equity working group was formed in 2020. Data showed that Black student enrollment in higher education had dropped 29 percent from 2013 to 2018 with more recent data released in 2019 showing the number is now 34 percent. These downward trends were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chicago State University convened an equity working group of approximately 45 individuals comprised of leaders from many sectors including business, higher education, government, and private philanthropy. IBHE Chair John Atkinson was among the four co-chairs of the Equity Working Group. They were tasked with studying data and making multi-industry recommendations to improve the outcomes for Black students and their families. Ms. Scott reported that after a six-month convening, an action plan was

released which outlines both long-term and short-term specific directives as well as indicators of success.

The action plan focuses on the student journey from preparations for and enrollment in college to completion and connection to careers. There are four focus areas:

- Access & Affordability – Make higher education accessible and affordable for all Illinois Black students
- Institutional Preparedness & Support – Foster Black students' academic success by providing robust institutional supports
- Enrollment & Program Choice – Support Black students to enroll and progress
- Student Well-Being – Prioritize Black students' holistic well-being
- Connection to Career – Build strong bridges into the workplace for Black students and graduates

President Scott reported that the plan has actionable solutions for each of the focus areas. She provided several examples. First, there is a directive that outlines the importance of growing faculty and personnel of color and auditing hiring practices such as recruitment and starting salaries, which based on data, are not equitable. In another example from the plan, there is also a need to collect institutional data on additional student's needs outside of tuition, fees, and room and board. This will allow a more robust view of the student's needs such as food, housing, transportation, and other life needs which will enable success in the classroom.

Ms. Scott discussed the need to think innovatively about dual enrollment. Black students are the least likely to have access to college-going experiences while in high school. This can also influence a student's selection of college as a choice. She talked about lessons the pandemic has taught us with one being a digital infrastructure to support higher education. Ms. Scott noted we can use digital infrastructure to assist high school students who cannot access the college experience because of transportation and other obstacles. Finally, President Scott spoke about the biases in standardized tests and the importance of the new Illinois law requiring all public institutions to allow students to elect whether they will submit test scores as part of the application process.

President Scott highlighted the importance of hearing directly from students in developing the plan. Members of the equity working group learned from students about their experiences, needs, and what it takes for them to be successful on campuses. One of many things students shared is that they want their faculty to look like them. Institutions of higher education need to be more intentional about what success looks like with minority faculty training, recruitment, and retention. President Scott emphasized the importance of continuing to hear and learn from students. A traditional campus climate survey is one way to assess a student's experience, but institutions can also implement quick micro surveys that students can access on a mobile device.

Full details about the CSU equity working group action plan are available on Chicago State University's website. As a next step, CSU has announced the creation of the Illinois Center for Education Equity with an executive director and an advisory council that will help guide the work for Illinois. The advisory council will hold its first meeting in November of 2021, and they hope to have the director in place by December of 2021. President Scott said they also hope to see and receive from colleges and universities across the State early actions that include data collection and analysis of policies and practices that they have put in place. Ms. Scott encouraged everyone to read the full action plan.

Board Members Andrea Evans, Kenneth Shaw, and Veronica Gloria discussed the data on Black students' exodus from Illinois during 2013 to 2018; tracking how many of our students started attending out-of-state schools during this period; and the need to spread the word on this work and prioritize what needs to be done. They congratulated Ms. Scott and everyone involved in this work. Dr. Derek Douglas added this is going to be a challenge, and it will take everyone to work collaboratively on this. Mr. Eric Zarnikow thanked President Scott for all the hard work and noted that the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) was pleased to be part of the task force. He added they would be happy to be involved in the advisory council going forward.

Board Member Jennifer Delaney asked how the new Illinois Center for Education Equity is structured and how it will be funded. President Scott noted they are looking for funding sources and have raised some funding that will support the retention of the executive director. They need additional funds to support data analysis and ongoing work and have applied for a grant.

C. Reports and Updates

- **Advisory Committee Report – Proprietary Advisory Committee (Mr. Jeremy Oberfeld)**

Mr. Jeremy Oberfeld informed the Board that the Proprietary Advisory Committee consists of 11 institutions with four institutions moving out of Illinois. They include degree granting institutions, non-degree granting institutions, out-of-state institutions and boot camp/short-term training institutions. Mr. Oberfeld added that proprietary institutions have been serving students in Illinois since 1902 and providing a valuable choice for academic education and vocational training to adult learners as well as minority students.

He provided data on proprietary institutions which will align with our new Strategic Plan. This included enrollment information as well as graduation rates. Mr. Oberfeld reviewed steps taken by the proprietary institutions during the pandemic and things they continue working on in the best interest of their students. He introduced Shakira Abuali and Andre Johnson who discussed their experiences and accomplishments as graduate students at DeVry University.

Dr. Andrea Evans discussed the data shared by Mr. Oberfeld with the context of Ms. Scott's presentation in relation to Black students. She commented that Black students are not staying in Illinois. Vice-Chair Herrero asked about graduation and completion rates and if the numbers are aggregated by race and gender. Mr. Oberfeld remarked they do have that data, and it can be provided.

Whereupon Board Member Samiha Syed entered the meeting.

Ms. Syed remarked she is very excited to be here and looks forward to working with everyone.

- **Advisory Committee Report – Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities (Mr. Dave Tretter)**

Mr. Tretter stated that the Federation Executive Committee met this morning and asked that he convey their appreciation to the work of the Board and staff during this challenging year. Mr. Tretter congratulated the Board on the Strategic Plan and believes it will help unite the community colleges, public universities, and the independent colleges in the state. He added that we are

blessed to have a strong public and private higher education system and it is in the best interest of the students we serve. Mr. Tretter remarked our universities are doing their best to follow state coded COVID-19 guidelines and requirements. He also appreciated President Scott's presentation on the equity working group for Black student access and success.

Mr. Tretter noted that as Board Member Douglas mentioned, independent colleges and universities in our state enroll almost identical numbers both in percentages and aggregate numbers of students of color and first-generation students. He added that he looks forward to working hand in hand with community colleges and the public university counterparts to prioritize our students.

D. Public Comment

No one registered for public comment.

E. Action Items

1. Consideration and Approval of New Operating and/or Degree Granting Authority for Independent Institutions

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Mr. Pranav Kothari and seconded by Mr. Derek Douglas hereby grants authorization to grant a Doctor of Philosophy in Behavior Analysis 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: Herrero, Castle, Delaney, Douglas, Evans, Garrison, Gloria, Kothari, Shaw, Syed, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: None

2. Consideration and Approval of New Units of Instruction, Public Service, and Research at Public Universities

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Ms. Veronica Gloria and seconded by Dr. Kenneth Shaw hereby grants to Illinois State University authorization to grant the Master of Arts and Master of Science in English Education 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.

The vote was:

Yeas: Herrero, Castle, Delaney, Douglas, Evans, Garrison, Gloria, Kothari, Shaw, Syed, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: None

And, hereby grants to University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign authorization to grant the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Neuroscience and the Master of Science in Environmental Geology 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.

3. Consideration and Approval of Allocations for the Early Childhood Credential Completion Cohort (EC4) Grant

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Andrea Evans and seconded by Mr. Cody Castle hereby authorizes the Executive Director to allocate additional FY22 funds from the Preschool Development Grant Birth Through Five Initiative as to implement the Early Childhood Credential Completion Cohort (EC4) Grant. The Board authorizes the Executive Director to:

- 1) Amend agreements with institutional grant recipients for Fiscal Year 2022 as enumerated in Attachment A.

The vote was:

Yeas: Herrero, Castle, Delaney, Douglas, Evans, Garrison, Gloria, Kothari, Shaw, Syed, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: None

ATTACHMENT A: Early Childhood Credential Completion Cohort (EC4) Grant Requests and Allocations

	FY22 – August Amendment	FY22 – September Amendment	Total
Joliet Junior College	\$360,000	\$149,400	\$509,400
Lewis University	\$639,520	\$78,000	\$717,520
National Louis University	\$522,400	\$402,950	\$925,350
Quincy University	\$398,080	\$202,400	\$600,480
Western Illinois University	\$225,582	\$18,205	\$243,787
IBHE oversight	\$129,418	\$0	\$129,418
Total	\$2,275,000	\$850,955	\$3,125,955

F. Consent Agenda Action Items

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Mr. Eric Zarnikow and seconded by Dr. Jennifer Garrison unanimously approved Item Nos F-1 and F-2.

The vote was:

Yeas: Herrero, Castle, Delaney, Douglas, Evans, Garrison, Gloria, Kothari, Shaw, Syed, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: None

1. Consideration and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2021

The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Minutes of the Board Meeting of August 10, 2021.

2. Consideration and Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Report as of 6-30-21.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Report as of 6-30-21.

G. Informational Items Not Requiring Board Action (Written Reports)

Vice-Chair Herrero noted there are written reports in the Board materials on the Fiscal Year 2022 Nurse Educator Fellowships and the Nursing School Grant programs.

H. Other Business

The next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, December 14, 2021. Additional details about the meeting location and agenda will be posted on the IBHE website.

I. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Dr. Jennifer Delaney, second by Mr. Pranav Kothari, and by unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rembusch, Secretary to the Board.