

**APPROVED**  
**JUNE 8, 2021**

June 8, 2021

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING**  
**March 9, 2021**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** Minutes of the March 9, 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 March 5, 2021, and Executive Order 2021-05.

**Action Requested:** That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the minutes of the March 9, 2021, Board meeting.

STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING**  
**March 9, 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 March 5, 2021, and Executive Order 2021-05.

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

Others present via video conference: Mr. Mark S. Jamil, Burke, Burns & Pinelli, LTD.; Ms. Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education; 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. Guiyou Huang, Western Illinois University; Dr. Dan Mahoney, Southern Illinois University; Dr. Karen Whitney, University of Illinois Springfield; Dr. Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board; Mr. Jeremy Oberfeld, Propriety Advisory Committee; Dr. Shawn Schumacher, Faculty Advisory Council; 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; 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. Board Secretary Rembusch took roll call. A quorum was present.

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

Chair Atkinson acknowledged that the Governor’s budget proposal highlighted in his address laid out a plan that maintains support for our higher education institutions and increases

funding for the Monetary Award Program (MAP). Chair Atkinson stated that the Board met in January to discuss recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2022 higher education budget. He reported that the Board focused on initial investments in the priorities of the strategic plan process: increasing attainment, closing equity gaps, and improving affordability while managing costs.

Chair Atkinson noted that the Governor's budget proposal provides additional dollars for higher education programs that will help students of color and low-income students "Stay the Course" on their college path and includes an additional \$28 million in MAP funds to expand college access through this need-based program. He said the proposal also provides \$1 million that the Board recommended to support the launch of the Common Application at all Illinois public universities. The Common Application gives senior high school students the ability to apply to all public universities in the State of Illinois with one application, which makes Illinois among one of the first two states in the nation to provide this option. Chair Atkinson stated the proposed budget also includes resources recommended by the Board to support our work in implementing the strategic plan. He expressed appreciation for the Governor's commitment to higher education.

Chair Atkinson highlighted the commitment of the Board and institutions of higher education to provide students hardest hit by the pandemic with financial supports. These include assistance to meet emergency day-to-day living needs, access to the Internet, and laptops for remote learning. This has been accomplished through the generosity of the philanthropic community, federal relief funds, and the efforts of our colleges and universities.

- **Remarks by Executive Director Ginger Ostro**

Executive Director Ginger Ostro reported on the student emergency grant program that was established last year. She reported that the IBHE, Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) worked together to create the program for students in public universities and community colleges. Nearly \$700,000 in private funds was raised and distributed. Grants were given to students in need. Most grants were approximately \$500. Recipients were diverse. About 28 percent were white, 27 percent were African American, 20 percent were Latinx, 15 percent were Asian, and nine percent were two or more races. Students used the funds for things such as housing, food, and Internet access for remote learning. Executive Director Ostro highlighted stories from a few of the recipients who expressed how these emergency aid funds helped them meet key needs and continue their studies.

Ms. Ostro stated that the Governor has signed legislation brought forward by the Black Caucus to address equity gaps in higher education. She stated that this recognizes the strategic planning process that we are undertaking now, in two ways. The legislation encourages the IBHE to review the barriers experienced by the early childhood workforce and by teachers of color in accessing higher education and identify the policies and practices that can help the incumbent workforce attain degrees. The second area notes the importance of the strategic planning process to identify principles for equitably and adequately funding higher education.

Executive Director Ostro also provided an update on legislation that replaced the dollar-for-dollar matching requirement for the AIM HIGH grant. The new provision will allow institutions with a high proportion of low-income students to match a smaller percentage of the funds. This will allow them to provide scholarships to more students.

Mr. Derek Douglas, Dr. Kenneth Shaw, and the entire Board congratulated Ms. Ostro and the IBHE team for the work done to launch the emergency grant relief fund in such a timely manner.

## **B. Public Comment**

Mr. Roderic Moyer requested to provide public comment. His topic was “99 percent equals zero.” He stated that the last one percent makes a big difference and President Lisa Freeman at Northern Illinois University (NIU) is committed at 100 percent when it comes to diversity and equity. He expressed support for the hiring of Dr. Vernese Edghill-Walden to serve as the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at NIU. Mr. Moyer believes Dr. Edghill-Walden has moved the needle in about every category measurable in terms of closing the equity gaps for Black and Brown students. Mr. Moyer stated that happened because Dr. Freeman was in at 100 percent not 99 percent. He encouraged all university leaders to “take the final step and fully empower.”

## **C. Action Items**

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

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Mr. Eric Zarnikow and seconded by Dr. Jennifer Delaney hereby grants authority to Black Hawk College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Court Reporting Technology 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, Delaney, Douglas, Evans, Garate, Garrison, Herrero, Jacobs, Kothari, Matthews, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow*

*Nays: None*

*And, hereby grants authority to the City Colleges of Chicago: Kennedy King College; Harvey Washington College; Malcolm X College; Harry S. Truman College; Oliver-Harvey College; Richard J. Daley College; and Wilbur Wright College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Software 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, hereby grants authority to the Heartland Community College to offer the Associate of 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.*

*And, hereby grants authority to John A. Logan Community College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology 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 Fire Science Management 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 Parkland College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Aviation Flight Technology 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 Shawnee Community College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology 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. 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. Derek Douglas and seconded by Dr. Jennifer Garrison hereby grants authorization to Resurrection University to operate in the West Suburban Region and to grant the Bachelor of Science in Imaging Technology; Master of Science in Nursing, Family Nurse Practitioner; Master of Science in Nursing, Gerontology; Master of Science in Nursing, Nurse Educator; and Doctor of Nursing Practice 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. The vote was:*

*Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Douglas, Evans, Garate, Garrison, Herrero, Jacobs, Kothari, Matthews, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow*

*Nays: None*

## **3. 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 Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs and seconded by Dr. Kenneth Shaw hereby grants to Southern Illinois University Carbondale authorization to grant the Bachelor of Science in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics in the Southern 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, Delaney, Douglas, Evans, Garate, Garrison, Herrero, Jacobs, Kothari, Matthews, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow*

*Nays: None*

*And, hereby grants to Southern Illinois University Carbondale authorization to grant the Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences in the Southern 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 Southern Illinois University Edwardsville authorization to establish the Geospatial Mapping, Applications, and Research Center 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 Chicago authorization to grant the Doctor of Clinical Exercise Physiology (DCEP) 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.*

*And, hereby grants to University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign authorization to grant the Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling 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.*

#### **D. Consent Agenda Action Items**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Andrea Evans and seconded by Mr. Derek Douglas unanimously approved Item Nos D-1 through D-5. The vote was:*

*Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Douglas, Evans, Garate, Garrison, Herrero, Jacobs, Kothari, Matthews, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow*

*Nays: None*

##### **1. Consideration and Approval of Non-Instructional Capital Project – University of Illinois Urbana Champaign**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Public University Non-Instructional Capital Project included in this item.*

##### **2. Consideration and Approval of Appropriation Transfers for Fiscal Year 2021 – Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the following appropriation transfers as requested by the Board of Trustees of the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy.*

##### **3. Consideration and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2021**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Minutes of the Board Meeting of January 13, 2021.*

##### **4. Consideration and Approval of Amended Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – November 16, 2020 (Amended to Correct Adjournment Time)**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Amended Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of November 16, 2020.*

##### **5. Consideration and Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Report as of January 31, 2021**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Report as of January 31, 2021.*

#### **E. Other Business**

Chair Atkinson reported that the next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, March 31. This will be a Strategic Plan meeting, and guests and stakeholders were asked to check the website

for more information. Chair Atkinson stated that most people present today have been involved with the strategic planning process, and it has been an intense amount of work. He expressed appreciation for everyone's engagement.

Chair Atkinson congratulated the University of Illinois on the approval of the rapid COVID-19 test. He noted this is an amazing development and will help many institutions in Illinois as well as around the country.

**F. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Dr. Andrea Evans, second by Mr. Eric Zarnikow, and by unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rembusch, Secretary to the Board.