

APPROVED

JANUARY 10, 2022

Item #E-1
January 10, 2022

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
December 14, 2021**

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: Minutes of the December 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.

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

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
December 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 following Board members were present: John Atkinson, Chair, Jennifer Delaney, Jennifer Garrison, Veronica Herrero, Pranav Kothari, Kenneth Shaw, Samiha Syed, and Eric Zarnikow.

Others present: Ms. Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. David Glassman, Eastern Illinois University; Dr. Gloria Gibson, Northeastern Illinois University; Dr. Cheryl Green, Governors State University; Dr. Terri Kinzy, Illinois State University; Dr. Austin Lane, Southern Illinois Carbondale; Dr. Dan Mahony, Southern Illinois University; Ms. Zaldwaynaka Scott, Esq., Chicago State University; Dr. Josh Bullock, Community College Presidents; Dr. Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board; Mr. Jeremy Oberfeld, Proprietary Advisory Committee; Dr. Shawn Schumacher, Faculty Advisory Council; Ms. Angela Szczepanik-Sanchez, Disabilities Advisory Committee; Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit, Illinois Board of Higher Education (present in person at IBHE offices); Dr. Sophia Gehlhausen-Anderson, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Eric Lichtenberger, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Ja'Neane Minor, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Mr. Joe Sanders, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Arthur Sutton, 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.

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

- **Call Meeting to Order, 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 introduced IBHE's new General Counsel, Joe Sanders. Mr. Sanders was previously employed at the Attorney General's Office as a Student Loan Ombudsman and a Supervising Attorney in the Consumer Protection Division. Mr. Sanders thanked Chair Atkinson and stated he is excited to join the IBHE staff.

Chair Atkinson also introduced Ja'Neane Minor as the IBHE Chief of Staff, who joins from Advance Illinois. In addition to Ja'Neane's policy work, she has a strong background in project management. The Chair welcomed her to the team.

Chair Atkinson stated that COVID is still with us and now the new variant, omicron, is emerging and spreading. Chair Atkinson encouraged everyone to get vaccinated and get a booster. He thanked the institutional leaders, faculty, and staff for safely bringing students back to campus ensuring they continue on their path to postsecondary success during the pandemic.

He stated it has been six months since the Board approved the strategic plan, *A Thriving Illinois*. He noted that IBHE has brought together champions and built more champions for closing higher education equity gaps. He thanked Board members and others who worked to develop the strategic plan and those who continue to work to achieve its goals.

- **Remarks by Executive Director Ginger Ostro**

Executive Director Ginger Ostro reported on the implementation of the strategic plan, *A Thriving Illinois*. We are working to close the equity gaps for those students left behind, build a stronger financial future for individuals as well as institutions, and increase talent to increase economic growth. She noted that our focus is to create sustainable and equitable paths to a prosperous future for every learner and leader.

Executive Director Ostro focused on four areas where work is underway: The Illinois Commission on Equitable Public University Funding; the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity; the Transfer BOOST program; and the Common App.

Ms. Ostro stated the co-chairs for the Commission on Equitable Public University Funding are Chair Atkinson, Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford, Representative Carol Ammons, and Deputy Governor for Education Martin Torres. The Commission will develop a new funding system for public universities that is equitable, adequate, and stable, as outlined in the legislation. The new formula must also fulfill principles of the new strategic plan; it must be guided by the recommendations of Chicago State University's Equity Working Group on Black Student Access and Success.

A few of the funding principles for *A Thriving Illinois* include providing equitable funding so students can receive the best educational experience and succeed at all institutions; supporting a postsecondary system that enriches the State and its residents; funding institutions to achieve student, institutional, and state goals; ensuring affordability for all students; and encouraging partnerships outside higher education.

Ms. Ostro stated that the Early Childhood (EC) Consortium is supported by Illinois Community College Board (ICCB), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), and IBHE. She noted there are barriers to increasing degree completion some of which include requirements leading to students repeating courses, confusing pathways that discourage students, and courses not offered consistently or at times accessible to students.

The vision for the Consortium is to streamline, coordinate, and improve accessibility of degree completion pathways; allow students to take coursework at multiple institutions; transfer

community college degrees in their entirety to a participating four-year school; and establish seamless processes for students to navigate multiple institutions. Ms. Ostro provided information on the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship Program and added there are supports in place for working adult students. This information can also be found on the IBHE, ISAC and EC Consortium websites.

A YouTube message for using the Common App was shown. Ms. Ostro shared data on the Illinois public university applications received through Common App.

Ms. Ostro then spoke about an initiative to improve equity in transfer student outcomes: the Transfer Bachelor's Opportunity—Options that are Straightforward and Transparent (Transfer BOOST). She noted that Illinois is one of three states selected as a pilot. The project is a partnership with the ICCB, and Chicago State University, Governors State University, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Olive-Harvey College, South Suburban College, Moraine Valley Community College, John A. Logan College, and Shawnee Community College.

Ms. Ostro discussed the future for the strategic plan including a detailed implementation plan, accountability system, institutional equity plans and practices, business/employer advisory committees, and learning renewal.

Whereupon Board Member Clarence Wyatt entered the meeting.

B. Presentation - Community College Economic Impact Study (Dr. Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board)

Dr. Brian Durham stated a high-level environmental scan demonstrates the need for and the value of community colleges as a key component to state and regional initiatives. An economic fiscal analysis shows the importance of community colleges as employment hubs and economic engines in their host communities. Dr. Durham reported many ICCB data systems were utilized as well as outside data from American Community Student and Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) workforce and economic information. Collaborators were ICCB, Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies and the Illinois Community College System Economic Impact Study Advisory Committee.

Dr. Durham shared findings from the Impact Study including \$3.5 billion in economic output with over 43,000 jobs, Illinois community college education increases earnings, graduates obtain stable employment upon completion, and community colleges meet the needs of business and industry. Community college graduates can expect to earn almost \$600,000 more than high school graduates and the education is an investment for students that yields an average annual rate of return of nearly 27 percent.

Dr. Durham noted that 2009 community college graduates with an associate of applied science earned \$54,516 ten years after graduating which represents an average annual growth rate of 21.2 percent. He added that earnings growth is most significant in the first few years after graduation with an immediate increase of 39.5 percent for the first year after graduation. Dr. Durham stated that architecture and construction graduates had the highest earnings at \$60,522 and health sciences graduates realized the greatest earning gains increasing by 253 percent from a year prior to graduation to five years after.

Dr. Durham stated that earnings one year prior to completion to three years after, African Americans students increased earnings by 88 percent and Latinx students increased earnings 119 percent. He added that graduates with an associate degree have an employment rate of 85 percent after five years and an increase to 92 percent ten years after graduation.

He stated that community college graduates are in demand by business and industry with more than 84 percent of students with a long-term certificate or an associate in applied science are employed in their chosen field within a year of graduation. Dr. Durham shared data on completion by race and ethnicity with white at 85.2 percent; African Americans at 78.7 percent; Asian at 82.9 percent; Latinx at 84.8 percent; and other at 83.8 percent.

Dr. Durham expressed that community colleges support local workforce and economic development services through employer and business engagement. He shared that during the 2020 academic year, they worked with nearly 9,800 employers.

Dr. Durham added that information on the Impact Study can be found on their website.

C. Resolutions and Recognition – Action Item

1. Consideration and Approval of Resolution Honoring Board Member Alice Marie Jacobs

Chair Atkinson read a Resolution honoring Board Member Alice Marie Jacobs.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Jennifer Delaney and seconded by Mr. Pranav Kothari, unanimously approved the Resolution honoring Board Member Alice Marie Jacobs. The vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Garrison, Herrero, Kothari, Shaw, Syed, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: None

D. Reports and Updates

- Advisory Committee Report – Community Colleges (Dr. Josh Bullock).

Dr. Bullock spoke about priorities for the Community College system, including finding financial support for students seeking short-term credentials, to help those making transitions in the workforce. He also highlighted the community college marketing collaborative to help encourage students to stay on track for their degrees and credentials. Dr. Bullock spoke about the collaboration with the public university presidents and the joint efforts they can undertake.

- Advisory Committee Report – Public Universities (President Zaldwaynaka Scott, Esq.)

President Scott offered highlights of the work the public universities have done to navigate safely through the pandemic to date. She indicated that institutions brought students back safely for in-person learning. President Scott also highlighted the joint meeting and collaboration with the community college presidents, including efforts on joint marketing and shared purchasing. President Scott concluded by highlighting a number of the public universities' efforts to close equity gaps.

E. Public Comment

Mr. Gerson Ramirez from Advance Illinois requested to speak on the FY23 budget. Mr. Ramirez encouraged IBHE to consider recommending funding for the Minority Teacher Scholarship program at \$4.2M; adding \$50 million for Monetary Award Program (MAP) funding; an equitable increase in institutional appropriations, with a focus on Pell students, to center on students most impacted by COVID.

F. 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 Ms. Veronica Herrero hereby grants authority to College of DuPage to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Web 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. The vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Garrison, Herrero, Kothari, Shaw, Syed, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: None

And, hereby grants authority to the Harry S. Truman College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Barbering and Associate of Applied Science in Cosmetology 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 Associate of Applied Science in Electric Vehicle Technology and Associate of Applied Science in Trades 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 the Illinois Valley Community College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in in Dental Assisting 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 Kennedy-King College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Networking Systems and Technologies 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 Networking Systems and Technologies 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 Richard J. Daley College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in in Industrial Supervision Engineering Technology and the Associate of Applied Science in Mechatronics Engineering 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

Questions regarding operations and finances were asked by Chair Atkinson. Chief Financial Officer, Kevin Delano, was available to provide this information.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Jennifer Garrison and seconded by Dr. Kenneth Shaw hereby grants authorization to Rasmussen University, under the ownership structure of American Public Education, Inc. to continue to operate in the Chicago, Fox Valley, and South Metro Regions and to continue to grant the Medical Assisting Diploma, Associate of Applied Science Health Sciences, Associate of Science in Professional Nursing, and Associate of Applied Science Surgical Technologist in the Fox Valley and South Metro Regions subject to the institution's implementation and maintenance of the conditions that were presented in its application and that form the basis upon which this authorization is granted. The vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Garrison, Herrero, Kothari, Shaw, Syed, 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 Mr. Pranav Kothari and seconded by Dr. Jennifer Garrison hereby grants the University of Illinois Chicago authorization to grant the Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Global Asian Studies 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, Delaney, Garrison, Herrero, Kothari, Shaw, Syed, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: None

And, hereby grants the University of Illinois Chicago authorization to grant the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering 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 the University of Illinois Chicago authorization to grant the Bachelor of Science in Real Estate 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 the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign authorization to grant the Bachelor of Science in Accountancy + Data Science, Bachelor of Science in Finance + Data Science, Bachelor of Science in Information Sciences + Data Science, and Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Astronomy + Data Science 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 the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign authorization to grant the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science + Education 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 the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign authorization to grant the Bachelor of Science in Liberal Arts and Sciences in Astrophysics 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 the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign authorization to grant the Master of Science in CyberGIS and Geospatial Data Science 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 the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign authorization to grant the Master of Science in Predictive Analytics and Risk Management 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 the Western Illinois University authorization to grant the Master of Music Therapy 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

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Clarence Wyatt and seconded by Dr. Jennifer Delaney unanimously approved Item Nos G-1 through G-5. The vote was:
Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Garrison, Herrero, Kothari, Shaw, Syed, Wyatt, Zarnikow
Nays: None*

1. Consideration and Approval of 2022 Board Dates

The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the 2022 Board Dates.

2. Consideration and Approval of Non-Instructional Capital Projects for Fiscal Year 2022

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

3. Consideration and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2021

The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Minutes of the Board Meeting of September 14, 2021.

4. Consideration and Approval of Executive Session Minutes – June 8, 2021

The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Minutes of the Executive Session Minutes of June 8, 2021.

5. Consideration and Approval of Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Report as of 9-30-21

The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2021 Financial Report as of 9-30-21.

H. Informational Item Not Requiring Board Action (Written Reports)

Chair Atkinson noted there is a written report in the Board materials on the Early Childhood Grants.

I. Executive Session

Chair Atkinson asked that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel issues pursuant to 2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act.

*Dr. Kenneth Shaw made the motion to move the Illinois Board of Higher Education into executive session. Mr. Pranav Kothari seconded the motion. The vote was:
Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Garrison, Herrero, Kothari, Shaw, Syed, Wyatt, Zarnikow
Nays: None*

The Board moved into executive session.

Reconvene in Open Session at 3:05 p.m.

J. Action Item

1. Consideration and Approval of Semi-Annual Review of Minutes of All Closed Meetings

On motion by Mr. Pranav Kothari and seconded by Ms. Veronica Herrero resolved that the Illinois Board of Higher Education finds that the need for confidentiality still exists for the minutes of the closed session of: (a) the Board Meeting held on January 13, 2021, and (b) and that such minutes remain confidential.

*And, resolved that the Illinois Board of Higher Education finds that the need for confidentiality no longer exists for the minutes of the closed session of: (a) the Board Meeting held on June 8, 2021, and (b) and that such minutes be made available for public inspection. The vote was:
Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Garrison, Herrero, Kothari, Shaw, Syed, Wyatt, Zarnikow
Nays: None*

K. Other Business

The next Board meeting will be held Monday, January 10, 2022. Additional details about the meeting location and agenda will be posted on the IBHE website.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Mr. Eric Zarnikow second by Ms. Veronica Herrero, and by unanimous vote the meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rembusch, Secretary to the Board.