

APPROVED

MARCH 15, 2022

Item #F-2
March 15, 2022

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
January 10, 2022

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: Minutes of the January 10, 2022, 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 January 10, 2022, Board meeting.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
January 10, 2022

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. Chair Atkinson determined that a fully in-person meeting is not practical nor prudent due to the disaster.

The following Board members were present: John Atkinson, Chair, Jennifer Delaney, Derek Douglas, Andrea Evans, Jennifer Garrison, Veronica Gloria, Veronica Herrero, Pranav Kothari, Kenneth Shaw, and Eric Zarnikow.

Others present: Ms. Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Lisa Freeman, Northern Illinois University; 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. Dan Mahony, Southern Illinois University; Ms. Zaldwaynaka Scott, Esq., Chicago State University; Dr. Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board; Mr. Jeremy Oberfeld, Proprietary Advisory Committee; Dr. Shawn Schumacher, Faculty Advisory Council; Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit, Illinois Board of Higher Education; 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 audio of the meeting was recorded and may be requested on the IBHE website.

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 welcomed everyone for the first meeting of 2022. He recognized the dedication of all faculty, staff, and students who have managed to keep focused on teaching and learning through these challenging times.

Whereupon Board Member Samiha Syed and Board Member Cody Castle entered the meeting.

Chair Atkinson noted that we have changed our calendar of meetings to better align the timing with the key decisions our Board must make. He added that today we will take a step to advance *A Thriving Illinois* through the Board's budget recommendations. He stated that the recommendations discussed today will move Illinois closer to the strategic plan goals.

He stated these recommendations will directly support and invest in the strategies outlined in *A Thriving Illinois*. Chair Atkinson expressed that we have the opportunity to demonstrate how aligned and strategic investment of the State's funds can lead to a strong higher education system for *A Thriving Illinois*.

B. Presentation – Fiscal Year 2023 Higher Education Budget Recommendations: Operations, Grants and Capital Improvements (Ms. Ginger Ostro, Executive Director)

Executive Director Ostro discussed the strategies for *A Thriving Illinois* and said the budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2023 are making investments for these strategies. The top-level request is for an additional \$139 million in general funds to support *A Thriving Illinois*, a \$17 million increase for funding for the state universities retirement system and reappropriation of funding for the *Rebuild Illinois* program.

Ms. Ostro reported that one of the specific strategies we are proposing funding for is sustainability to invest more in public higher education and a system that is equitable, adequate and stable. The Illinois Commission on Equitable Public University Funding commission was recently launched and for Fiscal Year 2023 an increase of \$58 million in funding for public universities was requested. Also included is a \$15.8 million increase in community college funding, adult education, and career and technical education.

The next strategy is to increase the Monetary Award Program (MAP) by \$50 million so that it would be funded at approximately \$530 million. This is needed to increase access for our low-income students and to make sure they have sufficient funds to both go to school and cover the costs of attending college. Ms. Ostro said the budget also recommends adding \$10 million to the current \$20 million that is appropriated to the *College Illinois!* program.

Ms. Ostro next focused on equity strategies with the first being learning renewal and student support. Recommendations include \$25 million for the Illinois Tutoring Initiative and \$80 million for the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER). She stated we are also requesting \$525,000 to the Diversifying Faculty in Illinois program to serve 35 more fellows. This is a key component of the strategy to create a more diverse talent pool by not turning away qualified candidates. The final equity strategy is to provide \$5 million in state funds to expand college access and support models.

Executive Director Ostro discussed the budget investments that will support the growth strategy. We are requesting the funding for the AIM HIGH scholarships remain at \$35 million. She said we have established a consortium to better serve our early childhood workforce and have requested to continue the \$200 million federal investment to support the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) program.

Ms. Ostro reported that we are recommending expansion of two programs specifically focused on serving minority students and low-income students. The first is the teacher loan repayment

program and the other is expanding minority teacher scholarships. The requested amount in the budget is \$2.8 million.

Executive Director Ostro remarked that she had provided a highlight of our budget recommendations and the full budget is available on our website.

A discussed followed by Board members expressing their gratitude for the demanding work as well as a few questions and remarks on the recommendations.

C. Public Comment

Emily Goldman from Partnership for College Completion stated they support the budget recommendations and specifically the \$50 million increase to MAP. She stated it is more important than ever that budget makers make equitable and data informed decisions and by doing so reinforce higher education as a gateway to financial stability and set the state up for a more equitable and complete recovery.

D. Action Items

1. Consideration and Approval of Fiscal Year 2023 Higher Education Budget Recommendations: Operations, Grants and Capital Improvements

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Mr. Pranav Kothari and seconded by Ms. Veronica Gloria unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2023 Higher Education Budget Recommendations: Operations, Grants and Capital Improvements. The vote was:

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

Nays: None

E. Consent Agenda Action Items

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Mr. Derek Douglas and seconded by Dr. Kenneth Shaw unanimously approved Item No E-1. The vote was:

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

Nays: None

1. Consideration and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – December 14, 2021

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

F. Other Business

The next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, March 15, 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 made by Dr. Andrea Evans and seconded by Mr. Eric Zarnikow unanimously voted the meeting adjourned at approximately 2:05 p.m. The vote was:

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

Nays: None

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rembusch, Secretary to the Board.