

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
November 15, 2022

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: Minutes of the November 15, 2022, meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education held in person at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 2-025, Chicago, in person at the Illinois Board of Higher Education, 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 333, Springfield, and online via WebEx 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 November 15, 2022, Board meeting.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
November 15, 2022**

A meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) was called to order at 1:00 p.m. at the James R. Thompson Center, 100 West Randolph Street, Suite 2-025, Chicago, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 333, Springfield, and online via WebEx as permitted by Public Act 101-0640 enacted June 12, 2020.

The following Board members were present in Chicago: John Atkinson, Chair, Andrea Evans, Veronica Herrero, Pranav Kothari, Kenneth Shaw, and Eric Zarnikow.

The following Board members were present in Springfield: Isaiah Overton and Clarence Wyatt.

The following Board members were present via WebEx: John Atkinson, Chair, Jennifer Delaney, Jennifer Garrison and Sylvia Jenkins.

The following Board member was absent: Veronica Gloria.

Others present in Chicago: Ms. Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Teresa Garate; Mr. Jose Garcia, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Gloria Gibson, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Mr. John Lynch, Illinois Board of Higher Education; and Ms. Ja'Neane Minor, Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Others present in Springfield: Mr. David Tretter, Federation of Illinois Independent Colleges and Universities; 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. Jaimee Ray, Illinois Board of Higher Education; and Ms. Tracy Rembusch, Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Others present via WebEx: Ms. Samiha Syed; Dr. Lisa Freeman, Northern Illinois University; Dr. David Glassman, Eastern Illinois University; Dr. Cheryl Green, Governors State University; Dr. Terri Kinzy, Illinois State University; Dr. Zaldwaynaka Scott, Chicago State University; Dr. Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board; Mr. Jeremy Oberfeld, Proprietary Advisory Committee; Dr. David Sam, Community College Presidents; Dr. Shawn Schumacher, Faculty Advisory Council; Ms. Angela Szczepanik-Sanchez, Disability Advisory Committee.

The hybrid 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 John Atkinson stated that the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted life as we knew it, students at college campuses across our state are experiencing a relatively “normal” Fall semester. We have begun to move to in-person meetings, even though we are in two locations—here in Chicago and in Springfield, with a few of us still remote.

Chair Atkinson welcomed new colleagues to the Board. First, Sylvia Jenkins as the ICCB representative to the Board. Dr. Jenkins currently serves as president of Moraine Valley Community College, a post she’s held since 2012 after serving in other roles at Moraine Valley. Dr. Jenkins is also a member of the Illinois Community College Board.

Next, he welcomed our new student board members, both of whom will serve a one-year term. Emmanuel Segbedzi is an international student from Ghana. He is a senior at McKendree University majoring in Computer Science and minoring in Biology. Isaiah Overton is a senior at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale studying Electrical and Computer Engineering with a specialization in Biomedical Engineering.

Chair Atkinson reported that IBHE hosted its annual Trustee Leadership Conference where we engaged in meaningful discussions with university trustees around addressing inequities in our state’s institutions. This year’s conference was especially significant because we are at a juncture where we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to rebuild our systems for a post-pandemic world where all are offered equitable opportunities.

Chair Atkinson stated that he stressed to the trustees the importance of working to keep our students in Illinois and diversifying our workforce by encouraging high school graduates to enroll in our higher education system. With initiatives like AIM HIGH and the Common App, we can make strides in creating a diverse talent pipeline for businesses across the state.

He noted that we will hear from a panel on the Illinois Tutoring Initiative – a high-impact tutoring program to combat the toll the pandemic had on students’ learning and part of our strategic work to close equity gaps. Illinois Assessment of Readiness data recently released by the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) show that 20 percent fewer Illinois students met or exceeded grade level standards in reading and math in 2022 compared to 2019. These declines were expected as the pandemic forced school buildings to close and school districts struggled to engage students remotely. No one could have imagined the havoc the pandemic would put us through, but we are confident that the Illinois Tutoring Initiative will help close some of the equity gaps widened by the pandemic.

Whereupon Board Member Emmanuel Segbedzi entered the meeting at the Chicago location.

B. Resolutions and Recognition – Action Items

1. Consideration and Approval of Resolution Honoring Board Members

Chair Atkinson read a Resolution honoring retiring Board Member Teresa Garate. Dr. Garate stated it had been an honor to serve on this Board and she really enjoyed her time.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Ms. Veronica Herrero and seconded by Dr. Sylvia Jenkins, unanimously approved the Resolution honoring Board Member Teresa Garate. The roll call vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garrison, Herrero, Jenkins, Kothari, Overton, Segbedzi, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: none

Chair Atkinson read Resolutions honoring retiring student Board Members Cody Castle and Samiha Syed whose one-year terms ended. Ms. Syed thanked everyone and added that it was an honor to serve on the Board.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Clarence Wyatt and seconded by Dr. Jennifer Delaney, unanimously approved the Resolutions honoring retiring Board Member Cody Castle and retiring Board Member Samiha Syed. The roll call vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garrison, Herrero, Jenkins, Kothari, Overton, Segbedzi, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: none

C. Presentation

- **Illinois Tutoring Initiative: Higher Education and School District Partnership to Support Student Learning (Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit, IBHE; Dr. Christy Borders, Illinois Tutoring Initiative, Illinois State University; Dr. Natasha Flowers, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; Ms. Antionette Johnson, East St. Louis School District)**

Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit began the presentation by explaining the Illinois Tutoring Initiative's (ITI) background. A *Thriving Illinois*, the State's higher education strategic plan, and the P-20 Council advocate learning renewal and tutoring. ITI partners include IBHE, the Illinois Community College Board, the Illinois State Board of Education, Illinois State University (ISU), Northern Illinois University (NIU), Governors State University (GSU), Southern Illinois University Carbondale (SIUC), Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE), Illinois Central College, and Southeastern Illinois College. The Initiative has three coordinating parts: the state agency team; central coordination, provided by Illinois State University; and the institutional partners.

Bernoteit outlined evidence from the National Student Support Accelerator that informed Illinois model, including frequency, group size, consistency, monitoring, alignment, and training. She also explained the difference between homework help and high-impact tutoring. Dr. Christy Borders shared a story of a student and an ITI tutor in southern Illinois.

All ITI tutors must complete and pass assessment of several training modules and clear a background check. Early implementation began in summer 2022 with four regions, 49 tutors, and 119 students. fall 2022 expanded to eight regions, 421 tutors, and 1,209 students. Students range in age from third to eight grades with math, reading, and other challenges. Tutors are a diverse

group, with a variety of races, ages, languages, and educational experiences. Bernoteit shared testimony from a tutor and a teacher sharing their experience and their students' progress.

Bernoteit turned the panel: Dr. Christy Borders, Director of the Illinois Tutoring Initiative, Illinois State University; Dr. Natasha Flowers, Assistant Dean for Anti-racism, Equity, and Inclusion, School of Education, Southern Illinois University Edwardsville; Ms. Antionette Johnson, Director of Curriculum, East St. Louis School District 189; and Mr. Kenndell Smith, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction, Prairie Hills School District 144. Each panelist spoke of their decision to be part of ITI. Dr. Borders spoke about tutoring as a component of teacher education. Ms. Johnson and Mr. Smith spoke about meeting student needs. Dr. Flowers spoke about university/school partnerships and the collaborative nature of education.

Mr. Smith discussed his district's partnership with GSU and praised the tutors' flexibility and commitment. Ms. Johnson shared similar experiences working with SIUE. She also discussed how ITI supports her district's strategic plan and ongoing changes to math instruction. Mr. Smith linked ITI to students' social-emotional learning. He relayed an anecdote in which a student asked their principal, "Is my tutor coming today?" The students, Mr. Smith said, are developing relationships with their tutors and feeling confident at school.

Dr. Flowers and Dr. Borders discussed how ITI supports their universities' teacher education. Teacher candidates working with ITI reinforce the idea that teachers are part of a team and a community. Also, Dr. Flowers said working with ITI introduces teacher candidates to school districts, teachers, and students with whom they may one day work. Dr. Borders shared that getting to work with students on a smaller environment is a helpful transition from learning in a textbook to teaching an entire class.

Dr. Bernoteit asked the panel about challenges and technical problems. Ms. Johnson said access and transportation has been a struggle. Dr. Borders said ISU is fortunate to have a research team that is working to measure the effects of high-impact tutoring.

The panel invited questions from the Board. Dr. Shaw praised the work. Mr. Atkinson thanked Dr. Bernoteit and the panel for their hard work.

D. Reports and Updates

- **Advisory Committee Report – Community Colleges (Dr. David Sam)**

Dr. David Sam reported that enrollment across the state is up about 1.5 percent from last year. He feels this is in part due to the fact we no longer have to social distance which means programs can grow a bit more. He stated that dual credit is growing on most college campuses and that allows them to work closely with high schools to allow students to transition well.

Dr. Sam said that there is a decline in the number of people who took online classes compared to last year which is a good sign for the community colleges. He added that students normally do their best in the in-person environment.

Dr. Sam stated several community colleges had recently attended a conference where they focused on the equity requirements that is part of the State legislation. They are also working with four-year universities to show a smoother transition from community college to the university. He

discussed the partnership with Elgin Community College (ECC) and Northern Illinois University to offer a bachelor's degree at ECC.

He noted that they continue to work with high schools to encourage students to stay in Illinois and to help graduates see the community colleges as an option.

- **Advisory Committee Report – Public Universities (Dr. Lisa Freeman)**

Dr. Lisa Freeman began her report by acknowledging the birthday of her late mother, a public school teacher. She outlined how work currently underway aligns with *A Thriving Illinois* strategies: GEER grant programs align with equity, Illinois Partnership to Advance Technology and Higher Education (IPATHE) efforts on shared purchasing/services align with sustainability, and Aim High aligns with growth as well as equity and sustainability.

She shared lessons learned from the GEER Programs regarding student support (financial assistance, technology, and social-emotional support) as well as institutional support (reimbursement, health and safety, technology, and enhanced student support).

IPATHE is a working group that explores opportunities to share services or purchasing to create efficiencies or reduce costs. They recently completed their first vendor agreement with Dell for bulk purchasing of laptops; a second agreement with Adobe that would make their products free to NIU students is in negotiations.

AIM HIGH continued to help students in its third year. President Freeman presented data from the Illinois Student Assistance Commission breaking down AIM HIGH recipients by race and income. She outlined the Huskie Pledge, an NIU last-dollar program that guarantees tuition and fees will be fully covered by scholarships for students whose family income is less than \$75,000 per year. Dr. Freeman provided data about the fall 2022 freshman class and said that forty percent of the class were awarded the Huskie Pledge. Of them, 42 percent were black, 39 percent were Latino, and 15 percent were white.

After Dr. Freeman invited questions from the Board, Dr. Jennifer Delany asked about shared purchasing and the Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC), which also aims to reduce costs through shared purchasing. Dr. Freeman responded that IPATHE grew out of the public universities' chief information officers' collaboration. Dr. Wyatt praised their success and said he would like to see something like IPATHE expand to the independent institutions.

E. Public Comment

State Representative Theresa Mah requested public comment to speak in support of Southwest University of Naprapathic Medicine. She chairs the legislative Healthcare Licensing Committee. Representative Mah reported there is only one institution in Illinois that is licensed for this training and there is a need for another. She urged the Board to approve this application.

Mr. David Tretter thanked the Board staff for their work on the Private Capital Investment Grant Program for Independent Colleges. He added that it takes a considerable amount of time and legal work to develop the rules. He wanted to note his appreciation for the good work of staff and Executive Director Ostro.

F. Action Items

1. Consideration and Approval of New Units of Instruction at Public Community Colleges (Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Jennifer Garrison and seconded by Mr. Eric Zarnikow hereby grants authority to the Lewis and Clark Community College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Fire Service Leadership 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 roll call vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garrison, Herrero, Jenkins, Kothari, Overton, Segbedzi, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: none

And, hereby grants authority to the Triton College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Diesel and Transportation 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 Units of Instruction, Public Service, and Research at Public Universities (Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Mr. Pranav Kothari and seconded by Dr. Kenneth Shaw hereby grants to Eastern Illinois University authorization to grant the Master of Arts in Teaching - Secondary Teaching 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. The roll call vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garrison, Herrero, Jenkins, Kothari, Overton, Segbedzi, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: none

And, hereby grants to Illinois State University authorization to grant the Master of Public Health 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.

And, hereby grants to Illinois State University authorization to grant the Master of Science in Marketing Analytics 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.

And, hereby grants to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville authorization to grant the Bachelor of Science in Surveying and Geomatics 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 Urbana-Champaign authorization to grant the Bachelor of Science in Business + 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 to University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign authorization to grant the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Engineering 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 New Operating and/or Degree Granting Authority for Independent Institutions.

Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze reviewed the application to operate submitted by Southwest University of Naprapathic Medicine. She highlighted the four main areas that serve as the basis for the negative staff recommendation: 1) not financially viable; 2) the facilities are inadequate for the purposes of operating a postsecondary institution in Illinois; 3) insufficient evidence of the need for a school of naprapathic practitioners in Illinois; and 4) lack of evidence provided that the faculty are sufficient to deliver the program planned for the institution.

Founder and President, Dr. Patrick Nuzzo, was given time to respond to the concerns presented by Dr. Onwuameze. He reported they have a school in Santa Fe, New Mexico, and they graduated their first class in 2000. They were ahead of the curve on the hybrid as 75 percent of their program is online.

Dr. Nuzzo added that naprapathic medicine is a better way to treat stress, aches, and pains without pharmaceuticals. He said it is absolutely essential that their school is established in Illinois. Dr. Nuzzo noted they have put a lot of work and time into this, and it was requested by a legislator to bring a school here.

He discussed the financial stability of their school. He stated he has spent thousands of dollars over the last three years to make the school a success. He believes the process for a proprietary school seems very prohibitive.

Dr. Nuzzo responded to the technical questions about *A Thriving Illinois* and diversity. He said a lot of the questions that were asked did not make sense to them. Dr. Nuzzo stated is passionate about this and urged the Board to consider their application as it will be a huge asset to Illinois.

Board members asked questions regarding enrollment numbers, financial statements that had been provided, management structures and accreditation, and consumer protections. Dr. Nuzzo responded to Board members and said he will do whatever it takes to get this done.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Ms. Veronica Herrero and seconded by Chair John Atkinson hereby denies the application for authorization to operate in the Chicago Region submitted by Southwest University of Naprapathic Medicine. The roll call vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garrison, Herrero, Jenkins, Kothari, Overton, Segbedzi, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: none

G. Consent Agenda Action Items

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Andrea Evans and seconded by Dr. Kenneth Shaw unanimously approved Items No G-1 through G-6. The roll call vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garrison, Herrero, Jenkins, Kothari, Overton, Segbedzi, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: none

1. Consideration and Approval of Rules for the Capital Investment Grant Program for Independent Colleges

The Board approves the final rules for the Capital Investment Grant Program for Independent Colleges as contained in Exhibit A that have met the requirements of first and second notice and received approval from the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules, as required by 2 Ill. Admin. Code 5050.100, and authorizes the Executive Director to seek applications for and award grants under the Capital Investment Grant Program for Independent Colleges statute and approved final rules.

2. Consideration and Approval of Noninstructional Capital Project for Fiscal Year 2023 – Governors State University

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Governors State University Noninstructional Capital Project included in this item.

3. Consideration and Approval of Noninstructional Capital Project for Fiscal Year 2023 – University of Illinois Urbana Champaign

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

4. Consideration and Approval of Confidentiality of Executive Session Minutes and Destruction of Verbatim Recording

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 August 16, 2022, and (b) and that such minutes be made available for public inspection.

5. Consideration and Approval of Update to IBHE Personnel Policies

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby adopts the updated personnel policy as reflected in the attachment.

6. Consideration and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – August 16, 2022

The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Minutes of the Board Meeting of August 16, 2022.

H. Executive Session

- **Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Matters Pursuant to Sections 2(c)(1) and 2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act**

Chair Atkinson asked that the Board go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing issues pursuant to 2(c)(1) and 2(c)(21) of the Open Meetings Act.

Dr. Jennifer Delaney made the motion to move the Illinois Board of Higher Education into executive session. Dr. Clarence Wyatt seconded the motion. The roll call vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garrison, Herrero, Jenkins, Kothari, Overton, Segbedzi, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: none

The Board moved into executive session at 3:50 p.m. and reconvened in Open Session at 4:10 p.m.

I. Action Items

1. Consideration and Approval of Personnel Evaluation

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Ms. Veronica Herrero and seconded by Dr. Clarence Wyatt unanimously approved a five percent salary increase for the Executive Director effective September 15. The roll call vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garrison, Herrero, Jenkins, Kothari, Overton, Segbedzi, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: none

J. Informational Item

1. Instituto College Accreditation

K. Other Business

The next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, January 18, 2023. 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 Dr. Sylvia Jenkins and seconded by Dr. Clarence Wyatt, and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 p.m. The roll call vote was:

Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garrison, Herrero, Jenkins, Kothari, Overton, Sedbedzi, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow

Nays: none

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rembusch, Secretary to the Board.