

**APPROVED**

**NOVEMBER 15, 2022**

Item #G-6  
November 15, 2022

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING  
August 16, 2022**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** Minutes of the August 16, 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 August 16, 2022, Board meeting.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING**  
**August 16, 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 John 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, Andrea Evans, Teresa Garate, Jennifer Garrison, Veronica Gloria, Veronica Herrero, Pranav Kothari, Kenneth Shaw, and Eric Zarnikow.

The following Board members were absent: Cody Castle and Samiha Syed.

Others present: Ms. Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education; 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. Terri Kinzy, Illinois State University; Dr. Dan Mahony, Southern Illinois University; Dr. Zalduaynaka Scott, Chicago State University; Dr. Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board; Dr. David Sam, Community College Presidents; Dr. Shawn Schumacher, Faculty Advisory Council; Ms. Angela Szczepanik-Sanchez, Disability Advisory Committee; Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Mr. Jose Garcia, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Sophia Gehlhausen Anderson, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Gloria Gibson, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Eric Lichtenberger, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Mr. John Lynch, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Ja'Neane Minor, Illinois Board of Higher Education; and Ms. Jaimee Ray, 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 to the meeting and to the start of a new academic year. He noted the good news that that institutions have new resources with the increases provided in Fiscal Year 22 and 23 budgets. Additionally, he noted the resources provided by the

Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund continue to help with learning renewal and social-emotional supports for students impacted by the pandemic.

In addition to institutional budget increases, he noted that IBHE received additional funds to increase the number of Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois (DFI) fellows for this academic year, helping more students of color on the path to graduate degrees and careers in higher education in Illinois. IBHE also has more resources to distribute this fall for our signature nursing programs and new resources to help institutions address the underlying causes of homelessness among students.

Chair Atkinson stated that we continue to take concrete steps to address the goals in our state's strategic plan for higher education, *A Thriving Illinois*, and today, the Board will hear from agency staff and members of the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity on the Consortium's work to date. He noted that the Consortium is an important component of the strategic plan as it works to streamline, coordinate, and improve access to credentials and degrees for the incumbent early childhood workforce. Chair Atkinson added that the Board will hear how the Consortium is working to remove barriers and helping the adults educating and caring for our youngest children to return to school.

He reported that the Commission on Equitable Public University Funding also continues to make important progress. The Commission empaneled two work groups—one on establishing what adequate funding or adequacy means in the public university context and one on establishing what resources should be included in determining how adequately funded an institution is. The work groups meet monthly.

- **Remarks, Ginger Ostro, Executive Director**

Ms. Ginger Ostro introduced new members of the IBHE team – John Lynch, interim general counsel, and Gloria Gibson, Chief Financial Officer. She reported that the agency has been working internally to build capacity for implementation of the strategic plan.

Ms. Ostro stated there will be a presentation today on the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity which is one of the central strategies of our strategic plan. She encouraged feedback and engagement to ensure we are fulfilling everyone's vision of a strong higher education system that closes equity gaps, secures stronger financial futures for individuals and institutions, and increases talent and innovation to drive economic growth.

## **B. Resolution and Recognition – Action Item**

### **1. Consideration and Approval of Resolution Honoring**

Chair Atkinson read a Resolution honoring Board Member Derek Douglas. Mr. Douglas stated it has been an honor to serve on the Board with a wonderful group of committed Board members and committed staff led by Ginger. Ms. Ostro thanked Mr. Douglas for his support and help with the development of the strategic plan.

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Andrea Evans and seconded by Dr. Jennifer Delaney, unanimously approved the Resolution honoring Board Member Derek Douglas. The roll call vote was:*

*Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garate, Garrison, Gloria, Herrero, Kothari, Shaw, Zarnikow*

Nays: none

**C. Presentation**

- **Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity**  
(Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Brian Durham, Executive Director, Illinois Community College Board; Ms. Christi Chadwick, Project Director, Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE), Illinois Board of Higher Education; and Dr. Marcus Brown, Deputy Director and Project Director, ECACE, Illinois Community College Board)

Ms. Ostro stated that the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) is a partnership that began during the strategic planning process as a sub-group of the Design Work Group on Educator Preparation. This group focused specifically on how to address the underlying challenges that kept those adults working in our early childhood settings from returning to school for further credentials and degrees. The Consortium came from the notion that there are challenges that can only be solved by working together across institutions and by working at statewide scale. The idea and goals of the Consortium were explicitly incorporated in *A Thriving Illinois* as part of our Growth goal, strategy five. She added that parallel work was happening at that time in the General Assembly that led to legislation establishing the Consortium in statute. The Governor signed that legislation on July 28, 2021.

Dr. Brian Durham thanked Ms. Christi Chadwick and Dr. Marcus Brown for their hard work on this project. He said this is an important and innovative change and there will be many positives that come from this. Dr. Durham added that the goal is that individuals who go through this program across the system and will increase their credentials, increase their earnings, and ultimately be on a career path of their choosing in early childhood.

Ms. Christi Chadwick stated that this initiative is driven by IBHE and the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) in partnership with four other state agencies—Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC), Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development (GOECD), and the Illinois Department of Human Services (DHS). She said the early childhood workforce is mostly women who serve young children birth to five in places such as Head Start, childcare, schools, pre-schools and home settings. Ms. Chadwick reported on some of the historical challenges the early childhood workforce has faced.

Ms. Chadwick discussed IBHE's strategic plan and the working group that was able to spell out some of the key features of the Consortium. She stated that the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Act codified the work of the working group. Governor Pritzker signed the new law, Public Act 102-0174, and invested \$200 million to strengthen the early childhood workforce which aligns with his vision that Illinois will become the best state in the nation for families raising young children with the best early childhood education and child care.

Dr. Marcus Brown said that one institution cannot solve the problem or the challenge for the early childhood workforce, and we need to think about what we can achieve together as a collective rather than as individual institutions. He asked what is needed to support the EC workforce and advance equity and what does higher education look like to serve adult learners.

Dr. Brown reported that the consortium is comprised of 62 institutions which includes four-years, community colleges, and interested private institutions. The goal of this Consortium is to

address the needs of adult learners. Dr. Brown discussed the goals of the Consortium and how they were charged with, among other things, determining how to assign college credit for the Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.

Julissa Cruz from the Carole Robertson Center for Learning shared the provider perspective of why the CDA is beneficial. She stated it creates a pathway into higher education and upskills the workforce. Their agency has looked at parents and community members who may want to work in early childhood, hired them, and then encouraged them to pursue an associate degree. She stated this is good for those looking for a new career and providing support to their staff to pursue credentialing and higher education.

Dr. Brown reviewed the recommendations brought to the Consortium in June to award college credit for the CDA. They were unanimously passed and include six semester hour of early childhood credit and will be a tiered implementation over the next year and a half beginning no later than January 2023 for the preschool CDA and January 2024 for the Infant/Toddler CDA.

Ms. Chadwick discussed the transfer of the Associate of Applied Science (AAS) degree. The field has evolved and recognizes how much young children benefit from teachers with more advanced education and learning. She noted that most of our four-year institutions have redesigned or expanded and are implementing acceptance of the AAS degree fully toward a Bachelor's degree.

Dr. Rebecca Pruitt from Lewis University stated they serve a nontraditional student body, and they started their early childhood program in 2012. The program showed evidence by 2018 to support the idea that the AAS to BA pathway is preferred. Dr. Pruitt added there are two options for the course, a 100 percent online eight-week course or a traditional blended online and in-person 16-week course.

Dr. Anne Pradzinski from the University of Illinois stated they did not have a program that was conducive to the workforce population of students, so they worked to develop a new program that is running parallel to their traditional early childhood program. This includes a mixture of online synchronous and asynchronous courses with 8- and 16-week formats. Dr. Pradzinski discussed the support provided from the initial inquiry through graduation.

Board members had an opportunity to ask questions to both Dr. Pruitt and Dr. Pradzinski.

Ms. Chadwick discussed the ECACE scholarship program. The soft launch had 500 scholarships and this year's has over 1200 applications to date. She provided information on the Navigators. They provide assistance to students to access higher education such as completing scholarship applications and financial aid forms and finding/applying to an institution.

Board members engaged in discussion with the Early Childhood panel after the presentation.

#### **D. Public Comment**

Juan Jose Gonzalez from Education Systems Center spoke on dual credit coursework through the community college system. He said they are joined by more than 160 partners from across the state to increase transferability of major coursework for future educators seeking to teach elementary secondary settings.

## **E. 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 Mr. Pranav Kothari and seconded by Dr. Jennifer Garrison hereby grants authority to the College of DuPage to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Aviation 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. The roll call vote was:*

*Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garate, Garrison, Gloria, Herrero, Kothari, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow*

*Nays: none*

*And, hereby grants authority to the Danville Area Community College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Barbering 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 Elgin Community College to offer the Associate in Fine Arts in Music Production 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 Harper College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Care 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 Central College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography 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 College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Digital Media 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 Olive-Harvey College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Cannabis 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 Rock Valley College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Medical Assistant 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 Dr. Kenneth Shaw and seconded by Ms. Veronica Herrero hereby grants to Eastern Illinois University authorization to grant the Bachelor of Science in Health Sciences 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, Garate, Garrison, Gloria, Herrero, Kothari, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow*

*Nays: none*

#### **F. Consent Agenda Action Items**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Dr. Clarence Wyatt and seconded by Dr. Jennifer Garrison unanimously approved Items No F-1 and F-2. The roll call vote was:*

*Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garate, Garrison, Gloria, Herrero, Kothari, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow*

*Nays: none*

##### **1. Consideration and Approval of 2023 and 2024 Board Dates**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the 2023 and 2024 Board dates.*

##### **2. Consideration and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – June 29, 2022**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Minutes of the Board Meeting of June 29, 2022.*

#### **G. Executive Session**

##### **• Executive Session for the Purpose of Discussing Matters Pursuant to Sections 2(c)(1) 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) of the Open Meetings Act.

*Dr. Teresa Garate made the motion to move the Illinois Board of Higher Education into executive session. Ms. Veronica Gloria seconded the motion. The roll call vote was:*

*Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garate, Garrison, Gloria, Herrero, Kothari, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow*

*Nays: none*

The Board moved into executive session at 2:55 p.m.

Reconvened in Open Session at 3:15 p.m.

#### **H. Action Item**

##### **1. Consideration and Approval of Executive Session Minutes – June 29, 2022**

No action was taken on the Executive Session Minutes – June 29, 2022

#### **I. Other Business**

The next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, November 15, 2022. Additional details about the meeting location and agenda will be posted on the IBHE website.

**J. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Dr. Andrea Evans and seconded by Dr. Kenneth Shaw, and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:30 p.m. The roll call vote was:

*Yeas: Atkinson, Delaney, Evans, Garate, Garrison, Gloria, Herrero, Kothari, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow*

*Nays: none*

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rembusch, Secretary to the Board.