

APPROVED
June 14, 2023



Dave Kelm
General Counsel

Item #H-2
June 14, 2023

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
March 15, 2022

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: Minutes of the March 15, 2023, meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education held in person at Malcolm X College, 1900 West Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL, 60612, 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 March 15, 2023, Board meeting.

STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
March 15, 2023

A meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) was called to order at 1:00 p.m. at Malcolm X College, 1900 West Jackson Blvd, Chicago, IL, 60612, and online via WebEx as permitted by Public Act 101-0640 enacted June 12, 2020. The meeting was recorded and an announcement to that effect was made by the Chair at the beginning of the meeting.

All Board members were present.

The following Board members were present in person: *John Atkinson, Chair, Andrea Evans, Veronica Herrero, Sylvia Jenkins, Rashawn (Isaiah) Overton, Emmanuel Segbedzi, and Eric Zarnikow.*

The following Board members were present via WebEx: *Jennifer Delaney, Jennifer Garrison, Pranav Kothari, Kenneth Shaw, and Clarence Wyatt.*

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

Others were present via WebEx.

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 and video of the meeting were 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. Acting Board Secretary Lynch took roll call. A quorum was present.

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

Welcome to the March board meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. We are excited to be back holding meetings at college campuses. I'd like to thank David A. Sanders, President of Malcolm X College, and all the folks at City Colleges of Chicago, for inviting us and for allowing us to hold the March board meeting here. Thank you for the great tour of the building and the opportunity to engage with your students.

When attacks on diversity and equity are ramping up in various states across the country, we should all be relieved and proud that, in Illinois, everyday we're taking steps toward a more diverse and equitable state.

In no other state are these attacks more blatant and destructive than in Florida. Florida's Governor Ron DeSantis has resorted to implementing a hateful agenda across the state's education system.

DeSantis' Stop WOKE Act prohibits diversity initiatives in the workplace and limits school curriculum that celebrates Black culture. This racist Act is forcing educators to remove books from classroom and library bookshelves for fear of facing retaliation.

DeSantis has also forced the College Board to whitewash its Advanced Placement Black Studies curriculum – removing books by contemporary thought leaders like Nikole Hannah-Jones and Ta-Nehisi Coates and topics like the Black Lives Matter movement. The updated curriculum does not prohibit teaching about slavery, *so the apparent message to students is that it is okay to study racism if we pretend it no longer exists.*

DeSantis is bent on taking us backwards. It is not too long ago when segregation in schools in this country was allowed. It is not too long ago when Black and white people couldn't drink from the same water fountains. At a time when all leaders should be making a serious and concerted effort to foster a more just country for everyone, DeSantis is leaning into racist practices of the past, stoking fears, and division for political purposes.

But we can't pretend that racism is a thing of the past. Not only is it a lie, but it's also just wrong to tell people who experience discrimination because of the color of their skin that what they're experiencing isn't real.

What's more disappointing and frightening is that DeSantis isn't acting alone. He has the support of many Florida state legislators. A few weeks ago, Florida State Rep. Robert Alexander Andrade introduced House Bill 999.

This bill would place the public higher education system under extraordinary state control and out of the hands of educators. In fact, he just appointed a majority board of trustees to Florida's

New College, and according to the conservative magazine the *National Review*, Desantis' Chief of Staff said that they hoped, and I quote *"New College would become the Hillsdale of the South"*, a reference to a fundamentalist Christian School in Michigan.

This is simply outrageous and in fact highlights the hateful and intolerant views that are seeping into the mainstream of our culture. Our higher education system should serve as a buffer against, rather than a catalyst for this throwback agenda.

HB 999 would prohibit public colleges from funding any projects that *"espouse diversity, equity, and inclusion or Critical Race Theory rhetoric"* no matter the funding source and put faculty hiring into the hands of trustees. This is an egregious attack on academic freedom and the long-held principle of shared governance.

The bill also directs trustees to remove from their institutions majors and minors *"in Critical Race Theory, Gender Studies, or Intersectionality, or any derivative major or minor of these belief systems."*

In the land of the free and home of the brave, DeSantis has made his state less free for teachers, for women, people of color and LGBTQ people. *It appears Florida is home of the brave but not land of the free.*

Florida is not alone on this attack on higher education and academic freedom: Oklahoma Governor, Kevin Stitt singled out the state's two largest public universities: *"Because when we send our kids to college, we expect our tuition to pay for their education, not their indoctrination," Stitt said. "I want our universities to have less DEI officers and more career placement counselors."*

Well, I have news for both Governors: career success, business success and DEI are not mutually exclusive, and in fact business leaders know, that the opposite is true. Diverse teams produce better outcomes. Numerous studies show this to be fact. A recent study by McKinsey of over 1000 companies found that organizations in the top quartile outperformed those in the fourth by 36% in 2017 and these trends are similar when considering both gender and multi-cultural diversity.

A diverse, equitable Illinois is a thriving Illinois. Diverse, inclusive teams make faster, better decisions and those decisions yield better results for employers. Diversity and equity are good for companies and our economy. But above all else – *it is a moral imperative.*

We all benefit from a diverse workforce. And to ensure a diverse workforce, we must deliver equitable educational experiences to all students.

We know that inclusive curriculums and classrooms make for better student outcomes, and successful students make our state and our nation flourish.

In Illinois, we understand the value of diversity. We understand the importance of an equitable system of higher education. That's why our higher education strategic plan explicitly promotes equity in education, and Governor Pritzker has not only made historical investments in this work year after year, but his charge to myself and this board when we were appointed in 2019 was to be focused on equity so that every student in our state can *Thrive*.

And guess what? It's working!

We've seen Black and Latino student enrollment increase at *record levels in Illinois when it has decreased nationwide*. The governor has increased MAP funding in the FY24 budget to make college more affordable, especially for students from low-income households. The governor also increased funding for the MTI scholarship to recruit and retain teachers of color. All of these are deliberate investments to make progress toward equity.

Inviting students to wrestle with colonialism and slavery in American history is important for the development and advancement of our society. Our students must learn the reality of systemic racism in our society so they can be equipped to extinguish it forever.

We cannot and will not allow the evils of the past to reign again. We have a responsibility for producing educated citizens that are so vital to a healthy democratic society.

We are standing at a dangerous precipice as a nation as certain kinds of political dogma steeped in racism, homophobia and sexism continue to infiltrate all forms of public education systems across the country.

We cannot, and will not, as a state or here at the IBHE tolerate any attempt to strip anyone of their identity or to erase the complicated and sometimes inconvenient history of our great nation.

- **Remarks by David A. Sanders, President of Malcolm X. College**

Malcolm X. College President David A. Sanders welcomed the Board and other attendees to Malcolm X. College. He presented the Board with small gifts of Malcolm X. College key fobs, briefcase tags and business card holders. President Sanders informed the Board that Malcolm X. College had its highest enrollment in a decade and spoke of the growth and development at Malcolm X. College and City College in general.

- **Ginger Ostro, Executive Director of IBHE**

IBHE Executive Director Ginger Ostro welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Ostro presented highlights of Governor Pritzker's proposed budget for higher education and its continued focus on the IBHE's Thriving Illinois strategic plan and its goal of equity, sustainability, and growth. Ms. Ostro noted that Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit, Illinois Board of Higher Education Deputy Director of Academic Affairs, has just had a book published, addressing the use of competency-based development models in higher education. Ms. Ostro, the Board, and attendees applauded Dr. Bernoteit.

Board Member Sylvia Jenkins thanked Chairman Atkinson for his important comments to open the meeting.

B. Presentation – City Colleges and One Million Degrees; Scaling Partnerships

The Board next heard a presentation by Ms. Veronica Herrero, Chief of Staff and Strategy, City Colleges of Chicago, and IBHE Board Member, and Aneesh Sohoni, Chief Executive Officer, One Million Degrees discussing the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC) and One Million Degrees (OMD) expanded partnership.

Herrero opened by describing the vision of CCC as an engine of economic mobility for the City of Chicago and the state and noted that the only way to do that is by focusing on equity. CCC has set goals to close the opportunity gap by 1/3 by 2026 and to reach a 55% completion rate by 2032. Recognizing the limitations of current national measures of completion rate, CCC will focus on both full-time and part-time students and will include completions of credentials and student transfers.

While the goals are ambitious, CCC has a plan, with many foundational components already underway, including the Chicago Roadmap, partnership with Chicago Public Schools, a student success framework, holistic student advising, and financial supports. Bringing in OMD as a partner is an important next step.

Aneesh Sohoni started with an overview of why the work is so important to him. He then turned to an overview of the OMD program. OMD's goal is to accelerate the progress of community college students. It serves both adult learners and students enrolling directly from high school. The program has four components: 1) a \$1,000 stipend to address emergencies that may prevent students from continuing; 2) academic support to help students align around their goals and interests; 3) personal coaching to connect their education and career goals; and 4) professional development, helping student navigate their personal identities and core life skills, such as financial literacy.

OMD partnered with the University of Chicago inclusive economy lab for a randomized control study which found that for student who enroll in OMD before starting college, they had a 70% increased likelihood of enrolling; 94% increased likelihood of persistence; and 73% increased likelihood of completing. There is also significant personal and societal economic impact as well.

Herrero then discussed the expanded partnership, noting that OMD and CCC have long been partners. Currently, OMD is serving about 600 CCC students. Under the new model to bring the work to scale, OMD will serve 3,000 students per year after the fourth year. The goal is to produced academic and workforce outcomes at scale together than either could achieve alone.

The new components of the model are 1) to move from an opt-in, with a separate application, to an opt-out, where all eligible CCC students are automatically accepted into OMD; 2) to have OMD as an embedded partner with CCC, with access to student data, working with CCC advisors; 3) to have a shared research agenda to ensure continuous improvement. Herrero also noted that CCC would start with the colleges that serve the most Black students and are most ready to begin the initiative before expanding to additional colleges.

Sohoni then talked about the economics of the program, noting it is funded with \$5 million from CCC and \$15 million from philanthropy. In the long-run, the economic returns from increased tuition will cover the cost of the program to make it sustainable.

Herrero then concluded with the long-term impact expected, including closing racial equity gaps at CCC, \$420 million in aggregate earnings for students, \$30 million in additional tuition generated, and becoming a national model for community college success and economic mobility.

Board members then engaged in discussion with Herrero and Sohoni about the program, including the importance of communication with various stakeholders, the indicators used to determine institutional readiness to participate in the program; how adult learners are included.

C. Presentation – Diversifying Faculty in Illinois: Two Perspectives

Presentations were made by:

Ms. Xóchitl Guerrero, a 3rd year PhD student at the University of Illinois Chicago Jane Addams College of Social Work, a DFI fellow, and a Clinical Assistant Professor of Social Work at Dominican University; and

Mr. Derek O. Brown, a DFI Fellow from 2017-2019 and currently the Orientation Coordinator at DePaul University in Chicago.

Guerrero emphasized the challenges of returning to school as an adult, and also the benefits. She shared how she brought her life experience as well as her practice perspective as a social worker to the classroom. She highlighted the importance of advising and support she received from her DFI representative and the space she received to share her experience and to create that sense of belonging.

Brown emphasized how attending the conferences supported by DFI was important; the opportunities for support he received from his DFI representative, seeing her as more of a mentor and providing support to help him be successful. This has helped him in his subsequent roles in higher education to support other students.

D. Reports and Updates from IBHE Advisory Committees

- **Report of the Faculty Advisory Council Equity Working Group**

Dr. Julie Clemens, Faculty Advisory Council (FAC), Equity Working Group and Dr. Shawn Shumacher, chairperson of the Faculty Advisory Council presented an overview of the work of the Equity Working Group of the Faculty Advisory Council.

Clemens highlighted that the FAC work related to equity referenced began the prior year, with three strategies. This year, the FAC Equity Working Group focused on faculty development to support the work of institutional Equity Plans – support and guidance to support faculty engagement.

She highlighted how most efforts to address equity and belonging focus on efforts to help students cope with what they experience in the classroom. However, faculty need to engage in training and development focused on racial responsiveness, cultural responsiveness, and issues of belonging, and curriculum and pedagogy. The Working Group curated a collection of tools to meet the needs of faculty.

Clemens also presented the Working Group’s recommendations for institutional Equity Plans, including assessing the current state through disaggregated data, climate surveys, and then designing the future state. She referenced the resource guide as a set of tools and resources to support this design of the future state *after* the full assessment of the current state is completed. She also emphasized that long-term and sustainable work depends on professional development of faculty and staff.

The Resource Guide has been updated and this updated version will be provided to the Board.

- **Report of the Student Advisory Council**

Ms. Samiha Syed, member of the Student Advisory Council and former IBHE Board member, and Mr. Isaiah Overton, current student Board member, presented the report of the Student Advisory Council.

Syed presented a resolution prepared by the Student Advisory Council on student health, mental health, basic needs, and DEI needs. The Resolution calls on IBHE to prioritize student success and wellness in its budget recommendations; to engage students in discussions around development and implementation of resources.

Syed then shared with the Board a video of student interviews regarding student needs for health, mental health, and other supports. The video and a full copy of the Resolution is available on the [IBHE website](#).

E. Resolution Honoring Former Board Member

A resolution was presented to honor former Board Member Veronica Gloria for her dedication and service to the Board and State of Illinois.

Board Member Eric Zarnikow moved to approve the resolution. Board Member Andrea Evans seconded the Motion. A roll call vote was taken and the Motion to approve the resolution was approved unanimously.

F. Public Comment

Ms. Heather Alderman, President and CEO of the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation, spoke about her foundation's work on children's mental and oral health. Ms. Alderman wanted to make the IBHE and the agency aware of a grant opportunity for 21 grants across the state of Illinois, \$20,000 each, to inspire youth to join the mental health and oral health workforces. Ms. Alderman asked the IBHE to make it's stakeholders aware of the availability of the grants.

Mr. Jim O'Connor, Project Director at Advance Illinois, addressed the Board to advise that Advance Illinois would be sending the IBHE and ISBE a memo seeking support for more programs to increase the number of paraprofessionals seeking their educators license in high-need areas throughout Illinois.

G. 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 Member Jennifer Garrison and seconded by Member Jennifer Delaney, hereby grants authority to Elgin Community 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 Illinois Central College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Construction Management 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 Rock Valley College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Mechatronics, 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 Southwestern Illinois College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Film and Video, 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 Southwestern Illinois College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Medical 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.

The roll call vote was:

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

Nays: none

2. Consideration and Approval of New Units of Instruction, Public Service, and Research at Public Universities (Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education, on motion made by Member Kenneth Shaw and seconded by Member Herrero, hereby grants to Southern Illinois University Edwardsville authorization to grant the Master of Science in Forensic Sciences 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. The roll call vote was:

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

Nays: none

3. Consideration and Approval of New Operating and/or Degree Granting Authority for Independent Institutions (Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze)

The Illinois Board of Higher Education, on motion made by Member Andrea Evans and seconded by Member Isaiah Overton, hereby grants to Midwestern Career College authorization to grant the Associate of Applied Science in Surgical Technology in the South Metro 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

4. Consideration and Approval of Administrative Rules – National Council for State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze)

Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze presented proposed amendments to 23 Illinois Admin. Code 1033, to administer interstate reciprocity agreement for distance education, implemented and authorized by the Higher Education Distance Learning Act [110 ILCS 145]. The proposed amendments make changes to the rule to include institutional appeal, provisional approval, and other provisions to strengthen the State's oversight functions to enhance consumer protection. The proposed amendments align with updates to the NC-SARA Policy Manual.

Member Delaney expressed some concern with some about consumer protection components of the proposed amendment.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education, on motion made by Member Veronica Herrero and seconded by Member Emmanuel Segbedzi, hereby approves the proposed amendments to 23 IL Admin. Code 1033, subject to finalization of the amendment language by Member Jennifer Delaney, Dr. Onwuameze and Interim General Counsel John Lynch, for submission to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. The roll call vote was:

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

Nays: none

5. Consideration and Approval of Administrative Rules – Nursing School Grant (Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit)

Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit presented proposed amendments to 23 Illinois Admin. Code 1100, to administer a competitive grant program for Illinois nursing schools (23 Illinois Administrative Code 1100) as part of the [Nurse Educator Assistance Act](#) (110 ILCS 967).

The Illinois Board of Higher Education, on motion made by Member Kothari and seconded by Member Zarnikow, hereby approves the proposed amendments to 23 IL Admin. Code 1100 for submission to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. The roll call vote was:

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

Nays: none

6. Consideration and Approval of Administrative Rules – Nursing Educator Fellowship (Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit)

Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit presented proposed amendments to 23 Illinois Admin. Code 1105, to administer a fellowship program for Illinois nurse educators (23 Illinois Administrative Code 1105) as part of the [Nurse Educator Assistance Act](#) (110 ILCS 967). Amendments include allowing applicants to apply every other year and increased the maximum grant amount to \$25,000.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education, on motion made by Member Jenkins and seconded by Member Overton, hereby approves the proposed amendments to 23 IL Admin. Code 1105 for submission to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules. The roll call vote was:

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

Nays: none

7. Consideration and Approval of Updates to the PaCE Framework (Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit)

Dr. Stephanie Bernoteit presented proposed updates to the Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework – specifically, to expand the framework to include middle grades.

The Illinois Board of Higher Education, on motion made by Member Garrison and seconded by Member Jenkins, hereby approves the proposed updates to the Illinois Postsecondary and Career Expectations (PaCE) Framework. The roll call vote was:

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

Nays: none

H. 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 H-1 through H-5. 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 Board Meeting Minutes – January 18, 2023

The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Minutes of the Board Meeting of January 18, 2023.

2. Consideration and Approval of Update to IBHE Personnel Policies

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the update to the IBHE Personnel Policies included in this item.

3. Consideration and Approval of Line-Item Budget Transfer for the Illinois Math and Science Academy

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Line-Item Budget Transfer for the Illinois Math and Science Academy included in this item.

4. Consideration and Approval of Amendment to Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Amount for Grow Your Own Illinois

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Amendment to Fiscal Year 2023 Grant Amount for Grow Your Own Illinois included in this item.

5. Consideration and Approval of Commissioner to the Midwest Higher Education Compact

The Illinois Board of Higher Education hereby approves the appointment of Pranav G. Kothari to the Midwest Higher Education Compact.

I. Executive Session

The Board determined that there was no need to enter into Executive Session.

J. Informational Item

None

K. Other Business

The next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, June 14, 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 Member Wyatt and seconded by Member Segbedzi, and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:51 p.m. *The roll call vote was:*

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

Nays: none

Respectfully submitted by John J. Lynch, Acting Secretary to the Board and interim General Counsel.