

**APPROVED**  
**March 15, 2023**



John Lynch  
Interim General Counsel

Item #H-1  
March 15, 2023

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING**  
**January 18, 2023**

**Submitted for:** Action.

**Summary:** Minutes of the January 18, 2023, meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education held in person at Governors State University, 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 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 January 18, 2023, Board meeting.



STATE OF ILLINOIS  
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

**MINUTES – BOARD MEETING**  
**January 18, 2023**

A meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) was called to order at 1:00 p.m. at Governors State University, 1 University Parkway, University Park, IL 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, Veronica Herrero, Pranav Kothari, Isaiah Overton, Kenneth Shaw, Clarence Wyatt, and Eric Zarnikow.

The following Board members were present via WebEx: Jennifer Delaney

The following Board members were absent: Andrea Evans, Veronica Gloria, and Emmanuel Segbedzi.

Others present in Chicago: Ms. Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Lisa Freeman, Northern Illinois University; Dr. Cheryl Green, Governors State University; Dr. Guiyou Huang, Western Illinois University; Dr. Brian Durham, Illinois Community College Board; 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; and Ms. Ja'Neane Minor, Illinois Board of Higher Education; and Ms. Tracy Rembusch, Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Others present via WebEx: Mr. Jeremy Oberfeld, Proprietary Advisory Committee; Dr. Shawn Schumacher, Faculty Advisory Council; Dr. Sophia Gehlhausen-Anderson, Illinois Board of Higher Education; and Dr. Eric Lichtenberger, Illinois Board of Higher Education.

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 Atkinson thanked Dr. Cheryl Green, president of Governors State University (GSU), for inviting the Board to hold the January Board meeting here. The Board is excited to be back

holding meetings at college campuses as this gives the Board the chance to witness students learning and is a reminder of the importance of our collective work.

In December of 2022, IBHE released the fall enrollment report for public universities. Freshmen enrollment at Illinois public universities increased by five percent year-over-year but the national trend indicated a 2.4 percent decrease in freshmen enrollment. Chair Atkinson reported that of Illinois' 12 public universities, nine reported an increase in freshmen enrollment. He added that Illinois outpaced the national enrollment growth rate of African American and Latino freshmen. Enrollment of Latino freshmen in Illinois increased by 12.9 percent, compared to a decrease of 0.7 percent at the national level. Chair Atkinson said that while national data show that enrollment of African American freshmen decreased by 4.3 percent, in Illinois, enrollment increased by 10.5 percent. He noted there was also great enrollment news in the community college system last fall. Chair Atkinson stated that none of this happens without resources for students and institutions, and it is the responsibility of each one of us to ensure that each student has the resources and guidance necessary to get through college and into a career.

Chair Atkinson reported that later in the meeting will be a presentation on the budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2024. This recommended budget builds on the incredible investments in higher education in the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, which included historic investments in the Monetary Award Program (MAP), full funding for the *College Illinois!* prepaid tuition program, increases for public universities and community colleges, expansions of programs to diversify faculty and minority teachers and expanding the healthcare workforce.

He remarked that the Fiscal Year 2024 budget recommendations continue crucial investments to ensure Illinois has a strong and equitable higher education ecosystem that enables Illinois to thrive. Part of ensuring Illinois thrives is to make sure higher education institutions are meeting workforce needs, and he shared that IBHE staff recently awarded grants to nursing schools and nurse educator fellowships to support the pipeline into nursing.

Chair Atkinson informed the group that the Illinois Commission on Equitable Public University Funding will continue its meetings next month, as the technical workgroup has begun its work. He added that the Commission is an important component of the strategic plan, and the he is excited to continue making progress toward an equitable university funding formula.

*Whereupon Board Member Jennifer Garrison entered the meeting via WebEx.*

- **Welcome and Update by Dr. Cheryl Green, President, Governors State University**

Dr. Green welcomed everyone and stated she is honored to provide a brief overview of GSU. GSU was founded July 17, 1969, as a senior institution of higher education to serve non-traditional students. She added that in 2014 they modified their focus and admitted their first class of freshmen students.

President Green noted that since GSU is just over 53 years old, it is still evolving and creating time-honored traditions that serve their campus community. They have six core values: investing in student success; providing opportunity and access; serving as an economic catalyst for the region; preparing students for the future demonstrating inclusiveness and diversity; and promoting quality of life for personal and professional growth.

Dr. Green reported that in May of 2021, GSU graduated its largest class. She discussed the enrollment of Latinx students and added that international student enrollment has been growing. She believes this is because of their competitive graduate programs in business administration, computer sciences, and health care. GSU students are engaging in high impact practices by presenting their research at national conferences. GSU is transforming to include an honor's college.

Dr. Green discussed some of their campus-wide initiatives. They have four master plans currently in progress and their Board of Trustees recently approved the facilities master plan which includes construction of new buildings for classrooms, student services and a new library. The athletics master plan includes the expansion of new teams for both men's and women's sports.

She talked about their implementation phase regarding students and said they are seeing good investment in first generation, Latinx, international, and adult students. They have accomplished great student success outcomes but still have financial needs that are required to sustain their momentum.

President Green shared some of the academic highlights including their first Ph.D. program, 23 Master's degree programs, and the ACS accreditation for the College of Business. They are in partnership with Southern Illinois University Carbondale on a 3+3 program as well as many local school districts. They are also involved in the Illinois Tutoring Initiative.

Dr. Green stated that she was recently appointed to the inaugural Presidents Ambassadors Council which is the association for international education administrators. This will allow her to navigate and advocate for a greater international footprint for recruitment.

She added that GSU recently opened their Black Hall of Fame honoring legendary African Americans. They also achieved two years of top ranking of the Nathan Manilow sculpture park. She added they received a healthy building institute award for the safety protocols they put in place during the pandemic and an Arboretum Award that speaks to the beautiful campus.

They recently launched the Center for Community Media which promotes community access to broadcasting to serve the digital needs of the community. They are also in the RPR American Rescue Plan which will provide scholarships for students who want to major in nursing or teaching. GSU is focused on *The Thriving Illinois* with their focus on their equity plan.

President Green introduced three students who spoke about their experience at GSU. They were Uriah Berryhill, Marquis Park, and Lluvia Hernandez-Aguirre.

*Whereupon Board Member Sylvia Jenkins entered the meeting via WebEx.*

**B. Presentation: Closing Equity Gaps and Meeting Student Needs: Work Underway**

- Dr. Guiyou Huang, President, Western Illinois University

President Guiyou Huang stated that Western Illinois University (WIU) has seen an increase in freshman enrollment and the enrollment in the graduate college is at its highest over the last 18 years. He added that they are at their highest record of international enrollment. WIU has also established an anti-racism task form which has been hard at work. Dr. Huang discussed the retention

of students and said he looks forward to seeing larger outcomes for their work in the next year or two.

President Huang introduced Dr. Amber Schultz, V.P. for Enrollment Management and Mr. Justin Schuch, Executive Director of Retention Initiatives.

WIU is focusing on growth and set a goal to increase new student population by three percent each year. They are working to ensure that they have a diverse campus community while maintaining the strong percentage of African American student and increasing the Latinx enrollment.

Dr. Amber Schultz discussed their focus on communicating with students and a program they use called EdSites which is a software program that helps predict which students are most at risk and would benefit from additional outreach. She said they also communicate using Single Vine which is a texting tool that can be personalized out to the students, and they are able to text back.

Mr. Justin Schuch highlighted some of the programs they are utilizing and how they reach out to students and connect with them throughout their academic experience at WIU. He spoke about the Connections Mapping Program, which is their signature early intervention program, their care referral process, and Leathernecks First Four.

The Connection Mapping Program brings together data sets based on decisions students make in the first few weeks of the semester. This gives indicators on which students the administration connect with early in the semester. He also spoke about the Leathernecks First Four campaign that focuses on the first four (days, weeks, months) to hopefully get students connected a lot earlier. The last intervention tool he spoke about was the Leathernecks Care Referral Program.

Board Members followed up with questions regarding retention and the outreach tools they reviewed.

- **Dr. Brian Caputo, President, College of DuPage**

Dr. Brian Caputo presented a brief overview the College of DuPage (COD). They serve 48 communities with a total population of one million residents. There are 26 public high schools and ten private and more than 25 percent of the District 502 high school graduates attend COD. Dr. Caputo discussed their strategic long-range plan which included student success; their performing arts program; economic development; and the organization culture which focuses on the workforce and how they develop and improve COD.

Dr. Caputo introduced Jill Salas, Interim Director, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Danielle Kuglin Seago, Manager, Project Hire-Ed; Dr. Diana Del Rosario, Assistant Provost, Student Affairs.

Ms. Jill Salas shared some history and background on their institutional performance gaps, and added they have created an equity plan to address these gaps. Ms. Salas stated they have three broad strategies outlined in their plan. The first focus is employee retention; the second was to hire an outside consulting partner to complete a comprehensive assessment of COD; the third was the Multicultural Community Center.

Ms. Salas reported on a few of their achievements, such as the workplace inclusion survey, hosting the Fall 2022 Equity Summit, and increased recruitment sources. She stated that in terms of

future vision she has worked with hiring and recruitment, establishment of employee resource groups, cluster hiring, and working to establish a leadership institute.

Dr. Diana del Razario discussed COD's pathway impact and its progress. She stated they opened the position of navigator who are student success specialists dedicated to first time college students. Dr. del Razario talked about the need to help students understand the value of learning and why it is important. COD worked to develop specific populations they wanted to target such as the adult population, first generation students, African American students, and Latinx students. She said their community is about 26 percent Latinx and they need to do better in retention. A Multicultural Center will become a support center and a place where students can feel comfortable. COD has had a food pantry for the last ten years.

In terms of retention, she discussed student athletes, neurodiverse students, and first-generation and English language learners. They are tracking data to review how they are retaining them and learning how to help them. Dr. del Razario noted they had an increase in the fall enrollment numbers over last year.

Ms. Danielle Kuglin Seago presented on the progress and vision around the workforce development which they are using as a way to address equity gaps to meet students' needs as well as address the local workforce needs. She stated that Project Hire-Ed acts as a conduit between education and employers by providing access and tools to address skills gaps.

Ms. Kuglin Seago shared some of the achievements of COD. They are really trying to serve as the conduit between workforce and education facilitating and translating inviting partners to the table. They have integrated within the ecosystem regionally to have a regional advisory board and partnered with the regional office of education for seamless experiences and work-based learning from K-12 to postsecondary. She added they are always thinking of new ways they can connect with student and the workforce.

Board Members followed up with questions about dual credit, apprenticeships, and the workforce.

- **Ginger Ostro, Fiscal Year 2024 Higher Education Budget Recommendations: Operations, Grants, and Capital Improvements**

Ms. Ginger Ostro stated that like the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, the Fiscal Year 2024 recommendation invests in *A Thriving Illinois*. The recommendations include a \$2.5 billion higher education budget, an increase of \$180.3 million from Fiscal Year 2023. There is work underway right now to close equity gaps in enrollment, persistence and completion, particularly for black, Latin, low income and rural students. Ms. Ostro stated that we heard from Western Illinois University and College of DuPage, and that she wanted to share stories on other institutions, which are included in the Budget Item before the Board.

Ms. Ostro reviewed details of the Fiscal Year 2024 budget recommendations, which are all aligned with the strategies and goals included in *A Thriving Illinois*:

- Sustainability: 7.5 percent increase in the general operation budget for public universities and community colleges
- Sustainability: \$50 million increase for the Monetary Award Program (MAP)
- Growth: Maintain AIM HIGH funding at \$35 million

- Equity: Learning renewal and student supports – Illinois Tutoring Initiative \$25 million total with \$12.5 in Fiscal Year 2024; Continue \$80 million in the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund through September 30, 2024; and \$2 million to the end student homelessness.
- Equity: Workforce Equity Initiative maintain at \$23.8 million
- Equity: University Center of Lake County increase of \$150,000 for student supports
- Equity: Invest \$3.2 million for a new community college dual credit grant program.
- Growth: Invest \$5.2 million for non-credit workforce training credit to support community colleges
- Growth: \$1.5 million increase for the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy (IMSA)
- Growth: Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program increase to \$7 million
- Growth: Illinois Teacher Loan Repayment Program increase to \$975,000
- Recommend \$3 million increase for infrastructure of agencies (IBHE, ICCB & ISAC)
- Recommend fully funding the certified amount for the State Universities Retirement System
- Capital Infrastructure: Reappropriate construction projects underway and projected appropriated but not released.

Board Members thanked Ms. Ostro for the work on the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, were happy to see increases of funding, and shared statements of support.

### **C. Public Comment**

Jelani Saadiq from Advance Illinois spoke about MAP, MTI (Minority Teachers of Illinois) scholarship, and increases and equitable distribution of institutional funding. MAP is important for students of color, first general students, and low-income households. Second, Advance Illinois recommends an increase to \$7 million for the MTI scholarship. Last, he highlighted the need for an increase in institutional appropriation for Fiscal Year 2024. Advance Illinois is recommending a 7.5 percent increase that prioritizes equitable distribution.

In closing, they ask for an additional \$50 million in MAP, an increase of \$2.7 million for MTI support and five to eight percent increase with equitable distribution for our two- and four-year institutions.

### **D. Action Items**

#### **1. Consideration and Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Higher Education Budget**

**Recommendations: Operations, Grants, and Capital Improvements (Ginger Ostro)**

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Ms. Veronica Herrero and seconded by Mr. Pranav Kothari unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2024 Higher Education Budget Recommendations: Operations, Grants and Capital Improvements. The roll call vote was:*

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

*Nays: None*

#### **2. 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 Mr. Isaiah Overton hereby grants authority to the John A. Logan College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Hospitality 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, Garrison, Herrero, Jenkins, Kothari, Overton, Shaw, Wyatt, Zarnikow

And, hereby grants authority to Lincoln Land Community College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Diesel 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 Wilbur Wright College to offer the Associate of Applied Science in Cannabis Studies 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.

#### **E. Consent Agenda Action Items**

The Illinois Board of Higher Education on motion made by Mr. Eric Zarnikow and seconded by Dr. Clarence Wyatt unanimously approved Items No E-1 through E-7. The roll call vote was:

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

Nays: none

1. Consideration and Approval of Noninstructional Capital Projects for Fiscal Year 2023  
– Chicago State University

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

2. 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.

3. Consideration and Approval of Board Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2022

The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Minutes of the Board Meeting of November 15, 2022.

4. Consideration and Approval of Executive Committee Meeting Minutes – October 24, 2022

The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of October 24, 2022.

5. Consideration and Approval of Executive Session Meeting Minutes – June 29, 2022

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



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

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

7. Consideration and Approval of Executive Session Meeting Minutes – November 15, 2022

*The Illinois Board of Higher Education unanimously approved the Minutes of the Executive Session Meeting of November 15, 2022.*

**F. Executive Session**

Executive session for the purpose of discussing matters pursuant to Sections 2(c)(1) of the Open Meetings Act

It was determined there was no need for an Executive Session.

**G. Informational Items**

**1. Fiscal Year 2023 Nurse Educator Fellowships**

**2. Fiscal Year 2023 Nursing School Grant Awards**

**H. Other Business**

The next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, March 15, 2023. Additional details about the meeting location and agenda will be posted on the IBHE website.

**I. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Dr. Kenneth Shaw and seconded by Ms. Veronica Herrero, and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Tracy Rembusch, Secretary to the Board.