

APPROVED
November 15, 2023

 Dave Kelm
General Counsel

Item #E-1
November 15, 2023

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2023

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: Minutes of the August 16, 2023, meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education held in person at National Louis University, 122 South Michigan Avenue, 2nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education office, 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 333, Springfield, Illinois via WebEx as permitted by the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7).

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the minutes of the August 16, 2023, Board meeting.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
August 16, 2023

A meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education held in person at meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education held in person at National Louis University, 122 South Michigan Avenue, 2nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois, and the Illinois Board of Higher Education office, 1 North Old State Capitol Plaza, Suite 333, Springfield, Illinois via WebEx as permitted by the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7). The meeting was recorded and an announcement to that effect was made by the Chair at the beginning of the meeting.

The following Board members were present in person: *John Atkinson, Chair; Jennifer Delaney; Andrea Evans; Veronica Herrero; Pranav Kothari; Emmanuel Segbedzi; Kenneth Shaw; Clarence Wyatt; and Eric Zarnikow.*

The following Board members were present via WebEx: *Jennifer Garrison and Sylvia Jenkins.*

Others present in DeKalb: Ms. Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Eric Lichtenberger, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Mr. Jose Garcia, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Gloria Gibson, Illinois Board of Higher Education; and, Mr. David A. Kelm, Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, a quorum was present in Chicago allowing for participation by video conference. Additionally, all action items were recorded with roll call votes. 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 at 1:10 p.m. Acting Board Secretary Kelm took roll call. A quorum was present.

A motion was made by Board Member Herrero and seconded by Board Member Delaney to allow Board Members Garrison and Jenkins to participate via WebEx. A roll call was taken, and the Motion was approved.

Opening Remarks by Chairman Atkinson

Chair Atkinson welcomed everyone to the August meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education and thanked Dr. Nivine Megahed, President of National Louis University, and all the folks

at National Louis, for inviting us and for hosting today's board meeting. He thanked them for the great tour of the campus and the opportunity to engage with students.

He noted that since the last meeting, the United States Supreme Court put an end to affirmative action – limiting how universities can consider race into their admissions decisions. As expected, this opinion by the Court sparked many questions and discussion around how institutions can continue to meet their equity goals. He emphasized that while the ruling upends decades of precedent, it did leave space for universities to consider how an individual applicant's lived experiences related to their race inform their ability to contribute to the university community.

He reiterated that equity is one of the goals in the state's higher education strategic plan. The IBHE is engaging with partners and stakeholders around this while holding our commitment to continue working to close equity gaps for Black, Latino, low-income, working adults and rural students.

IBHE is also committed to working with Illinois public and private colleges and universities to ensure racial and ethnic diversity on our campuses and to promote inclusive learning environments because diversity, equity, and inclusion in our higher education system are essential to building a thriving Illinois economy.

Governor JB Pritzker and the Board are being proactive to ensure that we remain focused on equity so every student can thrive. And it's working. We've seen Black and Latino freshmen student enrollment increase in Illinois despite decreasing nationwide. The governor increased MAP funding in his Fiscal Year 2024 budget to make college more affordable, especially for students from low-income households, and increased funding for the MTI scholarship to recruit and retain teachers of color. All of these are deliberate investments to make progress toward equity. We won't back down from this mission to uplift historically marginalized students in our system regardless of decisions from the Supreme Court or others who don't share our values when it comes to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

There is ongoing work to meet the Equity, Sustainability, and Growth goals outlined in the strategic plan, A Thriving Illinois. One of those important pieces of work is the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity. ECACE is a unique initiative meant to create and align systems and programs to meet the state's workforce needs in early childhood education and care settings. ECACE released its first-ever report which provides a comprehensive picture of the work since the launch of the Initiative. IBHE and ICCB staff will shortly provide an on this.

Also, the IBHE recently released the report and survey recommendations for the Task Force on Campus Sexual Misconduct Climate Surveys, which is included as an Information Item in the Board materials. All institutions of higher education are required by law to annually conduct an anonymous campus sexual misconduct climate survey to assess students' experiences, outcomes regarding their experiences, and perceptions of sexual violence and collegiate culture. The Task Force is charged with developing and refining over time the base survey that institutions will administer and to develop implementation guidance.

Our students must feel and be safe on our campuses. Documenting students' experiences effectively and in a timely manner is important to help identify and promptly address any alleged sexual misconduct.

The Illinois Commission on Equitable Public University Funding, which I am humbled and proud to Co-Chair, is also continuing its work. Next month, we anticipate that the Commission will review the first draft of the complete model and implementation recommendations, and the Commission is expecting to deliver its recommendations to the General Assembly in November of this year. Every day, we're closer to a funding formula that equitably funds our state's public universities.

And one more thing before we move to the next item on the agenda – the public universities created the Illinois Partnership to Advance Technology in Higher Education and have recently reached a three-year agreement with Adobe that will dramatically expand access to Adobe Creative Cloud for faculty, staff, and students at almost all the IL public institutions. This will help ensure students are career-ready across disciplines and will help close the digital divide by promoting digital equity. This effort is exactly what was envisioned in the strategic plan strategy to expand joint purchasing to achieve savings. Great job by the universities in working together and securing this joint deal!

There's lots of exciting and important work going on. Thank you to our partners, stakeholders, and the staff at IBHE for making it all happen.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Ginger Ostro provided an update on work underway that is aligned with *A Thriving Illinois*. Starting with Equity, she focused on Learning Renewal and Student Support services. The Ending Student Housing Insecurity (ESHI) grants are funded by the Illinois Department of Human Services and designed to help institutions address underlying causes of housing insecurity and homelessness. Fiscal Year 2023 grants were awarded to 11 institutions, each receiving roughly \$50,000, six public universities and five private institutions. In total, institutions spent \$514,402 from January through June 2023, with eight of the 11 institutions using funds for direct student aid through emergency housing grants or stipends and six institutions to address basic needs insecurity through updating their food pantries to include hygiene items. Other ways institutions spent ESHI funds include:

- Textbook scholarships;
- Peer mentor and poverty coach training;
- Emergency gift cards for transportation, food, and medical items; and
- Student basic needs surveys.

National Louis and IBHE co-hosted a conference for the Housing Liaisons, supported by the grant. Our lesson from the grants is the need to meet student basic needs in holistic way, not just focus on one aspect, such as housing insecurity. And that meeting basic needs is core to closing equity gaps. The Fiscal Year 2024 budget includes \$2 million to expand these grants.

Ostro also highlighted that she served on a panel at the SHEEO Policy Conference highlighting the importance of holistic student supports with One Million Degrees. The Board heard a presentation from OMD and City Colleges at the March meeting.

Ostro reported on the work of the Task Force on Sexual Misconduct on Campus Climate Surveys. Public Act 102-0325 (110 ILCS 155/35), mandates that all institutions of higher education annually conduct an anonymous campus sexual misconduct climate survey to assess students' experiences, outcomes regarding their experiences, and perceptions of sexual violence and collegiate culture. The law also called for the creation of a Task Force on Sexual Misconduct on

Campus Climate Surveys to develop and refine over time the base survey that institutions will administer and to develop implementation guidance. The law required the IBHE Executive Director or designee to serve as chairperson of the Task Force and IBHE staff providing administrative support. The Task Force held ten virtual meetings throughout 2022 and 2023, with all Task Force documents, and video recordings on IBHE's website. The Task Force released a draft of its Task Force Report that included the proposed base survey and implementation plan for public comment from June 20 to June 30, 2023, and received 27 public comments. The Task Force reconvened July 12, 2023, to discuss the public comments received and suggest changes. The Final Task Force report was released July 31, 2023.

Ostro noted that the Task Force made several recommendations to IBHE, which include:

- Recommending state-funding for opt-in coordinated survey administration to be done by a third party.
- Creating guidance on the analysis and reporting of the base climate survey.
- Providing the base survey and implementation plan to all institution throughout the state, including Private Business and Vocational Schools (PBVS).
- Merging the federal and Illinois survey when the federal survey is released.
- Pursuing approaches to increase community college participation when the Task Force reconvenes in two years.

Ostro acknowledged the work of the Task Force and thanked the Task Force Members for their dedication and hard work. She also acknowledged the IBHE Policy Team of Ashley Lewis and Melissa Van for their tireless efforts in support of the Task Force. Finally, she noted that Full Report included as information item in the Board packet.

Under the “Growth” goal of *A Thriving Illinois*, Ostro reported that the Assessment of Higher Education Needs in the Quad Cities launched. The consulting team will focus on strong stakeholder engagement, data analysis on workforce and educational needs, and ultimately share a methodology that IBHE can use to continue its own analysis in other regions of the state.

B. Presentations

- **The Illinois Articulation Initiative at 30: A Panel Discussion of the Vision for the Future**
Stephanie Bernoteit, Executive Deputy Director, IBHE
Marcus Brown, Deputy Director for Academic Affairs and Student Success, ICCB
Malinda Aiello, Director, Illinois Articulation Initiative, ISU

The presentation began acknowledging that the Illinois Articulation Initiative fit within A Thriving Illinois’ Goal 8 to strengthen the statewide transfer system. The presenters highlighted the data, noting that Illinois had 38,000 transfer students in Academic Year 22-23. The Illinois Articulation Initiative is built on three principles: That two- and four-year institutions are equal partners; that faculty take lead responsibility; and that institutions work together to ensure courses are comparable in scope, quality and rigor. Illinois State University has been the home to the Illinois Articulation Initiative for 30 years.

Today, the IAI includes the General Education Core Curriculum (GECC) package, a group of courses of 37-41 credit hours. Participating institutions agree to accept the GECC package as

meeting all lower division general education coursework. There are 108 institutions that are participating institutions in the GECC.

Legislative updates effective as of January 1, 2024, require that major courses must be transferable as direct equivalents in the major. There are also provisions if a receiving institution does not offer the course at the lower-division level. A provision was also added to include Elementary and Secondary Education as an area for articulation.

The full presentation is available on the [Board Agenda and Calendar page](#) of the IBHE website.

- **Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity**

Christi Chadwick, Director, Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity, IBHE
Marcus Brown, Deputy Director Academic Affairs and Student Success, ICCB

Christi Chadwick and Marcus Brown, project directors for the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) presented an overview of the ECACE work from the first annual report, which was released in August. They highlighted the goals of the consortium to support working adults in the early childhood field; for colleges and universities to support students, smooth transfer, and provide courses when, where, and how students need them; and increase access to personalized assistance and financial supports.

They highlighted the success of one student who has already graduated and hopes to start her own child care center.

The Consortium, called for in *A Thriving Illinois*, was enacted in statute in July 2021. All public universities and community colleges with an early childhood program are required to be part of the Consortium and non-profit private institutions are permitted to join. In total 61 institutions are members of the Consortium. In addition to offering a full array of student supports, the Consortium focuses on meeting the needs of employers.

In the short time the Consortium has been in place, enrollment in early childhood programs jumped 18 percent from 2,727 in Academic Year 2020 to 3,214 in Academic Year 2022. At the same time, the proportion of enrollment represented by members of the workforce jumped from 38% to 45%. Enrollment increased for African American, Latino, and white students.

The Governor dedicated about \$200 million of federal COVID child care funds to support total cost of attendance scholarships for students and other supports for the Consortium. By December 2022 over 1,000 students had been awarded scholarships, with significant diversity by race/ethnicity, geography, and age.

Other student supports include Navigators, a team of over 30 people statewide who help members of the early childhood workforce return to school by providing outreach and technical support. Navigators also make sure students are connected to a designated Mentor when they select a school. Mentors are dedicated staff who provide personalized assistance for students.

The Consortium institutions have developed approaches to fully accept the AAS degree and to award six hours of credit for training and experience if students have earned an industry-recognized credential.

C. Resolutions and Recognition

Chairman Atkinson formally thanked and recognized President Glassman, Eastern Illinois University; President Gibson, Northeastern Illinois University; and President Jenkins, Moraine Valley Community College.

A motion was made by Board Member Shaw and seconded by Board Member Wyatt to offer a resolution thanking the three presidents for their service. A roll call was taken, and the Motion was approved.

D. Public Comment

Chair Atkinson asked General Counsel Kelm if any member of the public in person or on-line had requested time to address the Board. General Counsel Kelm indicated that no member of the public requested time to address the Board.

E. Action Items

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

Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze presented five new associate degree programs at five community colleges. These programs have all been previously approved by the Illinois Community College Board and meet the needs of regional employers. The section on “Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Efforts” provides highlights about each college’s plans to close equity gaps in the proposed program. This content aligns with strategies outlined in the higher education strategic plan, “A Thriving Illinois.”

- Olive Harvey College is seeking approval of an Aviation Maintenance Associate of Applied Science program. The College will partner with the Aviation Institute of Maintenance to deliver instruction for the program and will prepare graduates for full Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification as Aviation Maintenance Mechanics.
- Parkland College is seeking approval of AGCO Service Technician Associate of Applied Science. The program will prepare students for entry-level employment in the maintenance and repair of agriculture-related equipment used in Fendt and Massey-Ferguson equipment dealerships. Graduates of the program will be eligible to earn level 3 certification on Fendt Tractor Systems and other related systems.
- Southwestern Illinois College is seeking approval of an Agronomy Associate of Applied Science program. Graduates of the program will be prepared for careers as entry-level agronomists and will be employed as farmers, health scientists, plant breeders, and quality control scientists in the agronomy industry.
- Triton College is seeking approval of a Software Development Associate of Applied Science. Students in the program will learn systems analysis, database, and project management skills and be prepared for entry-level employment as software programmers and developers.

- Wilbur Wright College is seeking approval of a CNC Engineering Technology Associate of Applied Science. The proposed program provides educational ladder opportunity for students completing the College's Basic Certificates in Manufacturing Technology and CNC Technology, and the related Advanced level CNC Engineering Technology Certificate. Graduates of the program can seek employment in automated manufacturing fields or pursue further studies in bachelor's degree programs in CNC or related fields such as industrial management, applied engineering, or engineering technology.

Board Member Jenkins moved to approve the five new associate degree programs. Board Member Zarnikow seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

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

- University of Illinois Chicago requests authorization to establish the Department of Latin American and Latino Studies. The Department will provide students with in-depth interdisciplinary education that combines the study of Latin American and Latino communities and support existing program objectives, offering about 30 courses per year, many of which fulfill general education requirements.
- University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign requests authorization to establish the Department of Comparative and World Literature. The Department will foster interdisciplinary teaching and research in the humanities through facilitating an array of comparative, historical, critical, and creative approaches to the exploration of the meanings and values of human endeavors.

Board Member Evans moved to approve the two programs. Board Member Jenkins seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

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

- Rush University seeks authorization to offer a Doctorate in Physical Therapy in the Chicago Region. The program was developed in partnership with industry partners and will be delivered in an alternative, weekend, on-campus instructional format to help address the needs of non-traditional adult learners. Graduates of the program meet the educational requirements to sit for the National Physical Therapy Examination and are eligible to apply for licensure in the State of Illinois.

Board Member Zarnikow moved to approve the program. Board Member Kothari seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

F. Consent Agenda Action Items

1. Consideration and Approval of Non-Instructional Capital Projects for Fiscal Year 2024 – Governors State University Social Justice Initiative Building Construction.

2. Consideration and Approval of Board Minutes – August 16, 2023.

Board Member Segbedzi moved to approve both items on the Consent Agenda. Board Member Herrero seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

G. Executive Session

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

H. Other Business

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

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Board Member Evans and seconded by Member Delaney, a roll call vote was taken, and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by David A. Kelm, Acting Secretary to the Board and General Counsel.