

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, August 9, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 1:00 p.m. at Ball State University, 2000 West University Avenue, Muncie, IN 47306 with Chairman Chris LaMothe presiding.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Members Present: Mike Alley, Dennis Bland, Jud Fisher, Coleen Gabhart, Chris LaMothe, Chris Murphy, Kathy Parkison, Dan Peterson, Beverley Pitts, John Popp and Alfonso Vidal
On the Phone: Jon Costas

Members Absent: Lisa Hershman and Allan Hubbard

CHAIR'S REPORT

On behalf of the Commission, I would like to thank President Mearns and the rest of the Ball State staff for your hospitality yesterday and hosting our meeting today.

This morning we welcomed our newest Commission member, Coleen Gabhart. Coleen is a 2018 graduate Ivy Tech Community College where she earned an Associates of Science with a Global Studies Certificate. She continues to take courses at Ivy Tech and plans to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Business. While at Ivy Tech, Coleen served as Vice President then later President of the Student Body of the Lafayette campus. She also served as the Student Representative on the Ivy Tech State Board of Trustees and as an intern for the government relations office. Coleen is passionate about the agriculture industry, serving as an active member in FFA and 4-H.

I am sure I speak for all of us when I say that we will greatly benefit from your expertise over the next two years. Welcome.

Commissioner Lubbers recently announced the departure of two key members of her staff, Jason Bearce and Dominick Chase. Jason Bearce has accepted the position as Vice President of Education & Workforce Development at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and Dom will be Assistant Vice President of Finance and Chief Procurement Officer at Ivy Tech. While we are abundantly aware of the loss we face, we are pleased to announce two highly qualified individuals as their replacements.

Alecia Nafziger joins the Commission from the Indiana House Republican Caucus, where she currently serves as Fiscal Analyst. She has worked closely with the Commission on budget

and fiscal matters in this role and her previous position as Assistant Director of Education and Economic Development for the State Budget Agency.

Stephanie Wilson, who previously served as our Communications Director, will return to the Commission after serving as Press Secretary for Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb. She brings with her many years of experience in strategic communications and we are pleased to have her back on the Commission staff.

R-18-04.1 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby by approves hiring Stephanie Wilson and Alecia Nafziger Associate Commissioners (Motion – Fisher, second – Murphy, unanimously approved)

Before we continue with our regular meeting items, I would like to propose this year's officer slate. Each year in August the Commission elects a new slate of officers. This slate was created by a nominating committee consisting of one member per class. The 2018-2019 Officer Slate includes:

- Chris LaMothe, Chair
- Lisa Hershman, Vice Chair
- Al Hubbard, Secretary

R-18-04.2 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the 2018-2019 Officer Slate (Motion – Murphy, second – Parkison, unanimously approved)

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lubbers began her report stating, first, I want to welcome our new student Commission member, Coleen Gabhart. In addition, I'd like to welcome Alecia Nafziger and Stephanie Wilson who are joining the Commission after Labor Day. As I stated in the announcement release that went out on Monday, it's hard to imagine two people better prepared to hit the ground running in these roles.

July is the month for higher education meetings, and while we are selective in our participation there are many that reap benefits. I'll highlight the State Higher Education Executive Officers meeting that was earlier this month. At this meeting, we got a chance to learn from other states – new programs, legislative agendas and political challenges. It always makes me glad to be the SHEEO in Indiana. In our state report, I spoke about our efforts to ensure affordability; align education and the workforce; prove degree and credential value; and address equity gaps. There is always interest in our commitment to paying for what we value through performance funding for schools and requirements for financial aid students that are tied to success. I just returned yesterday from SHEEO's policy conference, where I presented at the opening session with my peers from Oregon and New Jersey on the topic of my State of Higher Education Address: The Value of Higher Education in an Age of Skepticism. It was helpful to see how all of us are dealing with the value proposition.

Closer to home, I was invited to share the Commission’s perspective on Closing the Educational Attainment and Equity Gaps at the 2018 Indiana Black Expo meeting. I was able to provide a “sneak look” at our Equity report and appealed to them to engage with us in these issues as well as teacher preparation and developing a more diverse teaching workforce. We are partnering with ETS to sponsor a convening on September 14th focused on Best Practices of Attracting, Admitting, Supporting and Graduating a Diverse Educator Workforce.

The Governor’s Workforce Cabinet continues to build support for work and learn opportunities, career navigation and blended funding sources. I had the opportunity along with others on the Cabinet to join Jud and the Muncie community for a meeting on “The Future of Work in Delaware County.” It really highlights the need for these efforts to be contextual around regional and economic needs. Representatives of five major manufacturers, Ivy Tech, Ball State, The Chamber of Commerce and several non-profits are collaborating to build the 21st century workforce and meet the needs of employers. As you would expect, Jud’s leadership is pivotal to this effort.

In the coming months, you’ll be reviewing budget requests by the institutions and legislative ideas from our staff. In preparation for the legislative session, we’re meeting with legislators and their staff – with a focus on demonstrating the return on investment for the dollars invested in the schools or the students who attend, especially financial aid recipients. Senator Young’s conversation with us today will provide some intersection between our work and the federal higher education issues and ways to streamline the policies or funding streams.

In closing, I want to use this opportunity to publicly thank both Jason and Dom for their contributions to the Commission’s work. They are both smart, committed to their work and our cause, and have been integral to our work – from our strategic plan and initiatives to our fiscal and IT innovations. We would not be in the strong position we are today without them. On both a personal and professional level, they will be missed – but they’re not going far and we wish them the very best.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH, 2018 COMMISSION MEETING

R-18-04.3 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the June, 2018 regular meeting. (Motion – Vidal, second – Murphy, unanimously approved)

II. PUBLIC SQUARE

A. Alignment of State and Federal Policies in Higher Education

1. Senator Todd Young

For our Public Square discussion today, we are honored to have U.S. Senator Todd Young join us for a thoughtful dialogue on the alignment of state and federal policies in higher education. Commissioner Lubbers moderated the discussion.

III. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. College Equity Report

In 2013, the Commission passed a resolution which set a goal to cut the state's race-and-ethnicity achievement gap in half by 2018 and to eliminate it by 2025. A new Equity Report measures progress on closing this gap, as well as gaps related to gender, family income, and rural or non-rural status. The report also found that the 21st Century Scholars program appears to play a significant role in closing several of these gaps. Mr. Sean Tierney presented key findings from the report.

B. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

1. Bachelor of Science in Community Health Advocacy to be offered by Indiana University at IUPUI Columbus
2. Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Science in Social Sciences to be offered by Indiana University Southeast

R-18-04.3 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following degree programs, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Vidal, second – Murphy, unanimously approved)

C. Capital Projects for Full Discussion

1. Ball State University – New North Residential Neighborhood Phase II

Ms. Becca Polcz presented the project. Mr. Dominick Chase provided the staff recommendation.

R-18-04.4 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following capital project, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Murphy, second – Popp, unanimously approved)

D. Capital Projects for Expedited Action

1. Ball State University – STEM and Health Professions Facilities Phase II

R-18-04.5 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following capital project, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Fisher, second – Vidal, unanimously approved)

E. Performance Funding Per-Unit Payments

R-18-04.6 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following Performance Funding Per-Unit Payments, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Murphy, second – Fisher, unanimously approved)

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action
- B. Academic Degree Actions Taken By Staff
- C. Media Coverage

**V. OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 P.M.

Chris LaMothe, Chair

Al Hubbard, Secretary