

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, March 10, 2016

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 1:00 p.m. at Vincennes University Aviation Technology Center, 2175 South Hoffman Road, Indianapolis, IN 46241, with Chairman Dennis Bland presiding.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Members Present: Dennis Bland, John Conant, Sarah Correll, Jon Costas, Susana Duarte De Suarez, Allan Hubbard, Chris LaMothe, Dan Peterson, John Popp and Caren Whitehouse. *On the Phone:* Gerald Bepko

Members Absent: Jud Fisher, Lisa Hershman, Chris Murphy

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairman Bland began his report stating on behalf of the Commission, I would like to thank Vincennes University for hosting our meeting today.

The Commission will host a number of events this coming April. The Next Steps College Conference will take place on Saturday, April 2nd at Ivy Tech Community College. Over 100 current 21st Century Scholars students will participate in interactive and engaging workshops that will not only promote academic success, but the overall well-being of Scholars as they pursue their academic endeavors.

Also, in lieu of a regular commission meeting, you are invited to and strongly encouraged to attend a two-part discussion on our new strategic plan, *Reaching Higher, Delivering Value* at our annual State of Higher Education Address and the H. Kent Weldon Conference for Higher Education. The Address will take place on April 13th at 4:00 pm at the Statehouse. The Weldon Conference will take place on April 14th at 9:00 am at the Indianapolis Marriott North and feature remarks by Governor Mike Pence and a keynote address by Kevin Carey, a national thought leader on higher education issues and acclaimed author. Both plenary sessions and breakout sessions later in the day will delve deeper into issues related to college value. I hope to see each of you there, and would also encourage you to extend the invitation to any of those in your professional or community networks that might benefit from attending. Please direct all questions and inquiries about the Commission's upcoming events to events@che.in.gov.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lubbers began her report stating as noted in our working session, the legislative session, which concludes this week, addressed many issues of teacher capacity and quality. During the development of *Reacher Higher, Delivering Value*, the staff considered our previous two plans. A major focus in *Reacher Higher* was the need for high-quality teachers and school leaders to improve student success. Now, eight years later, we will have legislative directives to consider ways to accelerate the recruitment of teachers, especially in the high need/shortage areas. Noting the progressive nature of the 2008 document, it also “promoted teaching as a profession that is valued, finding meaningful ways to lift up classroom teaching as a highly respected and appreciated career path.”

During the month February, I traveled the state to meet with our university presidents about the new strategic plan and any other issues they wanted to discuss. This is an important way for the commission to align our efforts with those at the institutional level. It was encouraging to see how many elements of their strategic plans align for ours – as we are all focused on increasing student success. Just last week, the University of Southern Indiana’s board of trustees adopted their new five year strategic plan. According to President Bennett, the new plan is designed to “shape the future through learning and innovation” and will frame the strategies and metrics. This is certainly consistent with the Strategies in *Reaching Higher, Delivering Value*. As a final meeting, I met with Richard Ludwick who leads the Independent Colleges of Indiana on Monday of this week.

On March, 4, the Higher Learning Commission, the agency that accredits 19 middle states (including Indiana), approved the creation of Purdue University Northwest. The unification of Purdue University Calumet in Hammond and Purdue University North Central in Westville has been in the works since Purdue trustees approved the merger in July 2014. As you probably know, Purdue Calumet Chancellor Thomas Keon was named the chancellor of Purdue Northwest. The merger makes Northwest the state’s fifth largest public university with more than 15,000 students and about 1,500 faculty and staff members.

As you know, one of three central sections in the strategic plan focuses on career alignment and the need to increase work and learn experiences for more students. In partnership with the Department of Workforce Development, an application was made to the National Governor’s Association to participate in their Policy Academy on Work Based Learning. Indiana was one of six states selected by NGA. This is a good opportunity for us to work with our state partners, to learn more about models of success and to integrate the work into the implementation of the career section of our strategic plan.

Finally, our outreach/communications efforts in March will focus on *You Can. Go Back.* as well as building interest in our spring success coalition summits and our new strategic plan.

Today, March 10th, is the FAFSA deadline.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY, 2016 COMMISSION MEETING

R-16-02.1 **RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approve the Minutes of the February, 2016 regular meeting (Motion – Costas, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

II. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. *Reaching Higher, Delivering Value Strategic Plan*

R-16-02.2 **RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education approves by consent the following plan, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Peterson, second – Whitehouse, approved by majority) Mr. Popp abstained from voting.

B. College Readiness Reports

Indiana's College Readiness Reports are produced annually to help local schools and communities understand how their students are performing in college while informing policies that increase college readiness and success. The Commission recently published the results from the high school graduating class of 2014. Dr. Townsley gave an overview of the results.

In response to Mr. Hubbard's comment regarding the remediation numbers dropping in half in just three years, Dr. Townsley stated that the drop we are seeing statewide coincides with the changes at Ivy Tech which is the state's largest provider of remediation. She said it is fair to say that there are other things happening, perhaps in the K-12 environment.

Ms. Lubbers added that Mr. Hubbard raised a good point that we need to identify what part of it is attributable to students leaving high school better prepared and what part is attributable to a change in how we identify and deliver remediation. Ivy Tech uses a corequisite model now for remediation, so instead of students being placed in standalone remediation, they get placed in a course where they get credit and have wraparound services that they might need. They are using new ways to identify students who may need remediation, for example a grade point average as well as other measures. They have new math pathways that they're putting students in that are appropriate for them as well, so it would be safe to say in response to Mr. Hubbard's question, that this isn't an apples to apples comparison but it is indicative that we are moving in the right direction by both identifying students in high school who are not prepared and trying to change the curriculum they receive in high school, and, to better identify and deliver remediation for those who do enter a two-year institution needing it.

In response to Ms. Duarte De Suarez's question if we are redefining remediation, Dr. Townsley stated, no, we track it by identifying students who enroll in remedial level coursework. It has always been and remains up to the institution to define that.

Dr. Tincher, Interim Provost at Ivy Tech Community College, spoke in response to what Ms. Lubbers stated with regard to Ivy Tech's Math Pathways. Ivy Tech created a quantitative reasoning math pathways for programs that did not require a STEM math pathway. In the fall of 2015, over 12,000 students were placed into a math pathway, 8,500 of which took a quantitative reasoning pathway. That is a significant change to entrance, placement and math requirements with regard to remediation.

Dr. Johnson, President of Vincennes University, discussed math remediation at Vincennes University. He stated that the measures we were using before may not have been completely accurate. We question whether we were placing students in remediation who actually need remediation or if we were applying a standard that perhaps placed them falsely in remediation. Moving forward, we are coming up with better measures and approaches.

Ms. Lubbers stated that we are doing this with math pathways that were not available before. We have had everyone on the same math pathway regardless of whether they were going into a STEM, a Calculus or a Liberal Arts field. Would STEM or Calculus math be the appropriate math for everyone or is there another math that is rigorous and aligned with what that individual needs. What we have discovered is that math became not a pathway to a career and success, but became an absolute obstacle to college completion for a significant number of students. We need math pathways that have academic rigor in the math pathway aligned to what the student needs.

C. Resolution to Strengthen Student Preparation in Mathematics

R-16-02.3 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education approves by consent the following resolution, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Bepko, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

D. Nursing Licensure Exam Pass Rate Data

As part of its ongoing commitment to return on investment and consumer protection, The Commission, in coordination with the State Board of Nursing, has conducted an examination of Indiana's nursing licensure exam pass rate data. Dr. Sauer led the discussion, joined by Ross Miller, Director of State Authorization with the Commission, and Toni Herron, Education Compliance Officer with the Indiana State Board of Nursing.

E. Academic Degree Programs for Full Discussion

1. Doctor of Philosophy in Nursing to be offered by Purdue University West Lafayette

Dr. Vibbert, Ms. Kirkpatrick and Dr. Karen Foli presented this item.

Ms. Duarte De Suarez appreciates their challenge and still has concerns about the low numbers graduating from the program the Commission approved two years ago.

Dr. Sauer provided the staff recommendation.

R-16-02.4 **RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education approves by consent the following degree program, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – LaMothe, second – Hubbard, approved by majority) Ms. Duarte De Suarez abstained from voting.

F. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

1. Bachelor of Science in Neuroscience to be offered by Indiana University Southeast
2. Bachelor of Science in Dental Technology to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne

R-16-02.5 **RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education approves by consent the following degree programs, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Duarte De Suarez, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

G. Capital Projects for Expedited Action

1. Purdue University-West Lafayette – Life Sciences Utility Infrastructure and Site Development
2. Purdue University-West Lafayette – Indiana Manufacturing Institute Lease

R-16-02.6 **RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education approves by consent the following capital projects, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Correll, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

H. 2017-19 Performance Funding Metrics & Per-Unit Payments

R-16-02.7 **RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education approves by consent the following capital projects, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Correll, second – Duarte De Suarez, unanimously approved)

III. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action
- B. Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff
- C. Capital Projects Awaiting Action
- D. Media Coverage

**IV. OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:27 P.M.

Dennis Bland, Chair

Susana Duarte De Suarez, Secretary