

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, August 11, 2016

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 with Chairman Dennis Bland presiding.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Members Present: Gerald Bepko, Dennis Bland, John Conant, Jon Costas, Susana Duarte De Suarez, Jud Fisher, Chris LaMothe, Mika Mosier, Chris Murphy, Dan Peterson, John Popp and Caren Whitehouse.

Members Absent: Lisa Hershman and Allan Hubbard

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chairman Bland began his report stating on behalf of the Commission, I would like to thank Ball State University for providing us with a tour of Ball State's campus, your hospitality last evening and for hosting our meeting today.

I have the privilege of introducing you to our newest Commission member and student representative, Mika Mosier. Ms. Mosier is a student at Ivy Tech Community College in Columbus. She is involved in many activities and groups on campus, including serving as the past Treasurer and incoming President of the Student Government Association (SGA) and as a member of the Student Budget Committee. We are very excited to gain Mika's perspectives on our Commission for the next two years.

As you know we have a new Officer Slate for 2016 and 2017, before I present that slate I want to say thank you so very much for the honor of allowing me to serve as Chair of the last two years. I thank you for the trust and the support you provided to colleges and universities. It has been an honor and privilege to serve and the Commission has been wonderfully supportive. I am honored to have had an opportunity to serve in this role and to serve with you.

Before we continue with our regular meeting items, I would like to propose the Officer Slate for 2016-2017 to the Commission. This slate was created by the nominating committee consisting of one member per class. The slate includes: Dan Peterson, Chair; Susana Duarte De Suarez, Vice Chair; Chris LaMothe, Secretary.

R-16-05.1 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the 2016-2017 Officer Slate (Motion – Murphy, second – Costas, unanimously approved)

The Officer Slate for 2016-2017 is adopted. Congratulations to our new officers, and at this time it is my honor to pass the gavel to our new Chair, Mr. Dan Peterson.

Mr. Bland passed the gavel to Mr. Peterson.

Mr. Peterson said when we take on new responsibilities and have to follow someone, the common thought is to say thank you, of course which we all have said and will continue to say to Dennis for a long time forward. It is also common to say, I have big shoes to fill. I can tell you that I really feel that in this role. Dennis has been tremendous in so many ways, as have others who have participated in other leadership roles on the Commission. It is such a great group of people and Dennis has exemplified everything that I would hope we would all want to be: thoughtful, articulate, caring, thinking about the big picture, thinking about the students, their families as well as the institutions. Know that we are very appreciative and thankful of the great job you have done and represented all of us so well.

Mr. Peterson said we talked earlier today that this is a complicated industry, if you will. For those of us who come in from outside of dealing with higher education on a day to day basis, it takes a while. I'm looking at Ms. Mosier, and even though she's immersed in it as a student, it takes time to understand and learn the nuances and complexities of all of this. I will encourage, as I talked about earlier this morning as it relates to the budgetary process, the importance of helping all of us as well as trustees and other members of the higher education community understand these issues as deeply as we can. We do not want to micromanage but we need to understand them enough to be helpful. I encourage everyone to study and think about these issues and also be reflective on where higher education is changing in so many ways due to significant macro and micro-pressures. We are not going to be experts on everything but we need to keep our eye on how the world is changing around us globally. Our new strategic plan is well-aligned to lead us forward and I know we will all work hard to stay true to that.

In front of everyone is a new list of committee assignments for this coming year that have changes in both who is leading them as well as membership of those committees with the attempt to try and rotate to get more experience in different parts of all of our good work.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lubbers began her report stating, I think the first and most important responsibility I have today is to join you in extending the thanks on behalf of the staff to Dennis and his extraordinary leadership throughout the last two years. I think you know and do not need to tell you how many ways we have benefitted from his wise counsel throughout the last couple years and his clear commitment to the students we serve every day. It was my pleasure to honor him recently by presenting a Sagamore of the Wabash Award. This is Indiana's top award but even that falls short of adequately acknowledging his contributions. But please know that we are deeply grateful and thankful that you will continue to be an important part of our team and the work we do.

And now, in the passing of the baton and on behalf of the staff, I welcome Dan Peterson as our new chair. During Dan's tenure on the Commission, he has been a thoughtful and visionary member. He understands higher education and its potential to change lives and build the State's economy. His business acumen, communication skills and deep

commitment to students will guide us in critically important ways as we continue to implement our strategic plan. We look forward to working with Dan in this expanded role as well as Susana and Chris and our committee chairs.

These acknowledgements remind me of how fortunate I am to serve at this pleasure of this Commission. To a person, you are committed, smart and generous with your time and experience. Because of you, I am always more confident in our work product and contributions to students and the State. As the Commissioner, thank you for your continued leadership. Mika, you should know that you are joining the hardest working, most talented board in state government. I think you will find that this will be challenging, exciting, fun and important every day.

I also have the pleasure today to introduce to you our newest staff member, Sean Tierney, who will be serving as our Associate Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Policy. Sean comes to us from the Lumina Foundation where he advanced state-level policy. Prior to be at Lumina, Sean served in research and policy roles at the Maryland Higher Education Commission, the Tennessee Higher Education Commission and Vanderbilt University - which is also where he received his undergraduate and graduate degrees.

At this time, I would like to provide brief updates on two important initiatives: our *You Can. Go Back.* campaign and our 21st Century Scholars Success Program.

There is a great deal for excitement and hope for the *You Can. Go Back.* campaign from the Governor's Office, legislators, employers, schools and students, and around the nation. You have in front of you a copy of the op-ed that ran a couple weeks ago that outlines the support of employers in this effort. They understand, and certainly our chair's employer, Cook, exemplifies this thinking, that an investment in their people is an investment in their bottom line. We also provided a one page fact sheet about the program that has been shared widely with others. It shows that 17,000 plus Hoosier adults have visited the website; 8,000 plus adult student grant applications have been received; and 4,000 plus students have been connected with participating colleges. The primary colleges that they are visiting are IUPUI, Ivy Tech, WGU-Indiana and Indiana Wesleyan. We are currently seeking grant support to expand our expanded efforts.

Finally, you may have seen the media coverage about the success of our 21st Century Scholars to complete the requirements of receiving the grant. These are activates that must be completed in high school. The graduating class of 2017 will be the first one to be required to do so. In the spring only around 10% of the scholars were on target to meet the expectations. With focused efforts these numbers have increased threefold and continue to move in the right direction. I am convinced that these are the right expectations and that no scholar is unaware of them. Now, we must double down our efforts – in partnership with schools, community organizations and leaders to ensure that no student loses a scholarship next spring. We will keep you posted of our progress.

CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE, 2016 COMMISSION MEETING

R-16-05.2 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approve the Minutes of the June, 2016 regular meeting (Motion – Whitehouse, second – Bepko, unanimously approved)

II. PUBLIC SQUARE

A. Integrating Workplace Experiences

1. Dr. Linda Bachman, Director Office of University Experiential Learning, University of Georgia
2. Ellen Whitt, Executive Director, *The Exchange*, Marian University
3. Chris Flook, Lecturer, Telecommunications, Ball State University

At our last Commission meeting we began discussing new components of our new strategic plan, *Reaching Higher, Delivering Value*. As the Commission staff begins implementing the work set forth in our strategic plan, the public square topics in the coming months we will focus on one of the three pillars each month. Last month we focused on Completion with a preview of the College Value Index, and today we will focus on the Career section, specifically integrating workplace experiences into college curriculum. Our panelists for the public square discussion are: Dr. Linda Bachman, Director, Office of University Experiential Learning, University of Georgia; Ellen Whitt, Executive Director, *The Exchange*, Marian University; Chris Flook, Lecturer, Telecommunications, Ball State University.

Josh Garrison facilitated the public square discussion.

III. BUSINESS ITEMS

A. Academic Degree Program for Full Discussion

1. Bachelor of Science in Multidisciplinary Technology to be offered by Purdue University West Lafayette through Purdue Polytechnic Statewide

Dr. Vibbert and Mr. Schaffer presented this item.

Dr. Bepko commented this is a recommendation from the Academic Affairs and Quality Committee as well.

In response to Mr. LaMothe's request for clarification about how many hours of this 120 hour degree would be core versus hours in other subject areas you have interest in, Mr. Shaffer stated that 75 hours are customizable by an industry partner. There is a provision that those are packaged into primary and secondary focus areas because we did not want it to be a hodgepodge of credits. They will meet all college requirements in math, speech, communication, English and so forth. The primary and secondary areas will be built around things that you need to accompany for an industry.

Ms. Mosier asked for clarification regarding how the degree would be offered through Purdue PolyTechnic with a company partnership arranged with Ivy Tech and Vincennes University. IN

response, Mr. Schaffer stated they would work with someone with zero credits who wanted to do everything through one of the Purdue statewide locations. If a company is already working with Ivy Tech or Vincennes, they are able to develop appropriate courses to address different employee workforce development needs.

Dr. Sauer added clarification, it is the Commission's policy that articulation agreements be developed if at all possible. Some programs are very unique and just don't lend themselves to it. It is the obligation of a university that is proposing a baccalaureate degree to also have articulation opportunities. It is not just a burden that we place on two year institutions but four year institution and this case, because it is such a customized curriculum, it doesn't really lend itself to standard articulation agreement.

Mr. LaMothe stated that it appears in the development of the writing that it is really targeted for partnerships with companies that are looking to encourage their workforce to go on to a degree. In response to Mr. LaMothe's question if it is also available to any student whether they are involved in a partnership or not, Mr. Schaffer stated that the intention at this time is to have it be a workforce degree.

Ms. Duarte De Suarez expressed concern about the degree program as it is a degree for a group of individuals within an existing company and without company sponsorship, you are using taxpayer dollars to train a corporate workforce. She stated that this set of skills may not be transferrable to other companies. Mr. Schaffer said that it is packaged out of existing courses. Mr. Schaffer said if a company said they needed someone who had both mechanical and electrical engineering backgrounds, we would like to build this program to have mechanical as the primary and electrical as the secondary, those would be courses they are already offering and those students would sit in courses that we've already scheduled. Regarding transferability, students who will be in these programs are in the workforce and would get this degree for a promotion or career track opportunity. They would continue to gain experience and that would make them marketable and those skills transferrable to other industries.

Mr. Popp stated that you could have a situation where someone would say, I'd like to take that course that my friend is taking who works at this company, you wouldn't turn him down but you might say that's highly specialized and ask do you really want to do that or would you want to take the traditional course. Mr. Schaffer the degree program would not be only available to someone from a particular company, but we would be very careful to say it's a focused type of study.

Mr. Schaffer spoke more to the point of funding, he couldn't speak on behalf of companies but I can tell you from experience, the vast majority of our non-traditional students from our State-wide locations are on tuition support from the employer.

Mr. Conant stated he appreciated the level of detail put into this by using already existing courses and faculty. In response to his request for explanation how this is better than the alternative of reducing your core and expanding your electives, Dr. Vibbert said that it is a planned selection of coursework based upon their needs. It forces them to talk with their supervisor and work with the faculty to create a plan of existing courses that makes sense.

Dr. Sauer provided the staff recommendation.

R-16-05.3 **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 – Murphy, second – Whitehouse, unanimously approved)

B. Approval of Sean Tierney

R-16-05.4 **RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves hiring Sean Tierney as Associate Commissioner for Strategic Planning and Policy (Motion – Bland, second – Duarte De Suarez, unanimously approved)

C. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

1. Master of Science and Ph.D. in Cell, Molecular and Cancer Biology to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington
2. Master of Science in Product Stewardship to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis
3. Bachelor of Science in Dental Hygiene offered by Indiana University at Indiana University -Purdue University Indianapolis
4. Bachelor of Applied Science to be offered by Indiana University at Indiana University -Purdue University Fort Wayne

R-16-05.5 **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 – Murphy, second – Bepko, unanimously approved)

C. Capital Projects for Full Discussion

1. Indiana University Bloomington – Memorial Stadium Excellence Academy and Related Stadium Renovations

R-16-04.6 **RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education approves by consent the following capital project, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Conant, second – Duarte De Suarez, unanimously approved)

IV. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

**V. OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 P.M.

Dan Peterson, Chair

Chris LaMothe, Secretary