

**State of Indiana  
Commission for Higher Education**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Thursday, August 12, 2021**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 1:00 p.m. CT in-person at Purdue University Northwest, Hammond, 2200 169th Street, Hammond, IN 46323, with a virtual option via Microsoft Teams videoconferencing, with Chairman Mike Alley presiding.

**ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM**

*Members Present:* Mike Alley, Dennis Bland, Anne Bowen, Jud Fisher, Al Hubbard, Pepper Mulherin, Dan Peterson, Beverley Pitts, and John Popp

*Members Absent:* Chris Murphy and Chris LaMothe

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

I am delighted to welcome you to our meeting. It is great to see all of you. I would like to invite Chancellor Keon for welcoming remarks.

Chancellor Keon provided remarks.

Thank you, Chancellor Keon, for your welcoming remarks, and many thanks to you and the Purdue Northwest leadership for your hospitality last evening and hosting our meeting today.

I mentioned last month that the Governor's office was working on confirming our pending appointments. I am pleased to report today that Dr. Edward Berger, Professor of Engineering Education and Mechanical Engineering at Purdue University West Lafayette, has been selected as our new faculty member. The Governor's office will formally make this announcement and all other pending appointments soon, but I wanted to share this bit of good news today.

I also want to share the story of Leroy Medrano, a 21st Century Scholar and recent graduate of Purdue University. This was a personal letter sent to Commissioner Lubbers a few weeks ago, and I want to share it with you all today.

"My name is Leroy Medrano, and I was part of the 21st Century Scholars Program. I recently graduated from Purdue this year with a Bachelor's in speech, language and hearing sciences. I want to say thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for establishing and running a program like this. I had the chance no one else in my family had before, to go to university. My family and I come from nothing, and thanks to individuals like you who care about the

wellbeing and educational opportunities for other people, I was able to finish college debt-free. During my time at Purdue, I was able to participate in different research labs, a couple of study abroad programs, and to learn more than I had ever known before. I am grateful to you, and to all the individuals that are involved in this program. I cannot imagine the work and stress that you deal with, but I want you to know that for someone like me, it was worth it.”

This is just one example of how the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program impacts the lives of students and can change the course of their life. Leroy plans to attend Graduate school at Purdue University for Audiology, and we certainly wish him well.

### **2021-2022 Officer Slate**

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 2021-2022 Officer Slate includes:

- Mike Alley, Chair
- Jud Fisher, Vice Chair
- Anne Bowen, Secretary

**R-21-05.1 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the 2021-2022 Officer Slate. (Motion – Bland, second – Peterson, unanimously approved)

Congratulations to our new officers. At this time, it is my honor to pass the gavel to our new Chair, Mike Alley.

Chairman Alley stated, thank you, Bev. It is my pleasure to serve as Chairman of the Commission.

### **COMMISSIONER’S REPORT**

Commissioner Lubbers began her report by stating, let me begin by joining Chair Pitts and other Commission members in welcoming our newest member faculty representative, Dr. Edward Berger, who will be officially joining us in September. We’ll be providing an orientation prior to that meeting and like all the faculty members who preceded him, we know our work will be enriched by his knowledge and experience. I especially liked one of the quotes in his statement of interest: “I have worked with three academic organizations and a federal funding agency, and each experience taught me important lessons about my priorities and how values alignment is central to my effectiveness and fulfillment.”

The Governor’s Office has informed us that due to a higher number of commission and board assignments, they are backlogged on making appointments or reappointments – but have assured us that those will be made prior to our September meeting. We look forward to announcing the names of the new members very soon.

We officially welcome President Whitten to Indiana University and look forward to meeting with her – as a commission – at one of our upcoming meetings. It's clear she's "hit the ground running," and we look forward to the partnership we enjoy with all our institutional presidents.

I want to highlight another institution – Indiana State University – who announced last week the launch of a major new initiative: The Indiana State Advantage. There are three components of the program: 1) All first-time, full-time students can apply for up to \$3,000 for an education experience outside the classroom – an internship, study abroad, research or service; 2) eligible students will be able to finish a bachelor's degree in four years, or the rest of the tuition is free; and 3) after aid is calculated, ISU will make up any difference in tuition costs for Pell Grant recipients who had a high school GPA of 3.0 and are in good academic standing. I mention this initiative because of its alignment with our strategic plan metrics, especially career relevance and affordability to ensure completion.

As you know, the Commission benefits from having both AmeriCorps Vista and ScholarCorps members helping us both in the office and as our ambassadors on college campuses. Earlier this summer, we received notification from Serve Indiana that the ScholarCorps/AmeriCorps program will be funded for the 10<sup>th</sup> year to host 25 members for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. These ScholarCorps members are placed on both public and private college campuses around the state and are tasked with providing one-on-one direct support to state financial aid recipients – especially our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars. Each year the program serves 4,000 students. We know our scholarship programs make a difference. We heard Beverley Pitts read a letter in her Chair's report, and I'd like to read a short note about another scholarship program which was shared with us from a gentleman named Grant Kaufman, a recipient from Bremen, Indiana. He wrote, "I want to express my incredible gratitude for your generosity in granting the Future Hoosier Educator Scholarship in the amount of \$30,000 for four years. It will pave the way for me to live a debt-free life while making a difference in the lives I serve. I cannot wait to pursue my academic career at Purdue University where the scholarship will give me the freedom to focus on my education. Thank you again, so much." I mentioned last night in my remarks the partnership we have with the General Assembly and the deep gratitude for their continued State support for financial aid. I think both letters show in a very personal way why that is important.

In honor of the Commission's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this month we're recognizing the service of Clyde Ingle, Indiana's fourth Commissioner. Dr. Ingle was appointed in December of 1983 – coming to Indiana from Minnesota Office of Higher Education – and served for nearly 12 years before retiring to North Carolina. According to Minnesota colleagues, we learned that he would relax after a board meeting by heading to the Boundary water and camping out with his family for the weekend. (I think I need a better way of unwinding after a Commission meeting!) I read a quote from him when he announced his retirement from CHE in 1995 – "As for the future of higher education in Indiana, the commission and universities need to quit maintaining the status quo. The parts need to work together to achieve one purpose." I hope we've done that better around the shared purpose of increasing student success. I would like to give Dr. Ken Sauer an opportunity, since he was the only one here who had the opportunity to serve with Clyde, to make a comment or two.

Dr. Ken Sauer began by stating, to pick up on the status quo question and Clyde's encouragement to move beyond that: thinking of transfer of credit, in the 1990s the academic affairs team did an analysis of the Indiana Vocational Technical College, now Ivy Tech, and at that point, virtually no credits transferred. It was on Clyde's watch that the Commission took the first steps toward transfer. The General Assembly passed a bill in 1992, which in a very primitive form started us down the road toward the Core Transfer Library. In addition, that was also when the first attempt at mission statements were produced. To pick up on the way Clyde relaxed, I also remember a few occasions at the end of a very difficult week, at five o'clock on a Friday afternoon, when a bottle of Jack Daniels would be produced. That was a way to end the week on a different sort of note. Clyde was a great person to work with, and he went on to help construct a house in North Carolina with his wife, Eva.

## **CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE, 2021 COMMISSION MEETING**

**R-21-5.2 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the June, 2021 regular meeting. (Motion – Fisher, second – Bland, unanimously approved)

## **II. PUBLIC SQUARE**

### **A. Prior Learning Assessments**

1. CAEL Standards for Assessing Learning
2. Allegra Fowler, Senior Director of Transfer & Articulation, Purdue University Global
3. Carolyn Gentle-Genitty, Assistant Vice President for University Academic Policy and Director, University Transfer Office, Indiana University
4. April Hay, Registrar, Indiana State University
5. Stacy Townsley, Vice President, Adult Strategy and Statewide Partnerships, Ivy Tech Community College

The Commission's strategic plan, *Reaching Higher in a State of Change*, emphasizes the need to increase the number of adult learners by "targeting populations who have exited the postsecondary pipeline or have never entered it." The plan also includes adult learners in calculating its key metric on educational attainment.

Adult learners who seek to continue or start their postsecondary education frequently have mastered competencies through a variety of means, including employment or military service, that are foundational to their program of study or major and are incorporated into required courses. No student wants to expend money or effort enrolling in classes whose competencies they have already mastered. Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) provides a vehicle for recognizing what a learner already knows so they can be placed into the appropriate level of coursework, thereby saving time and resources, and increasing the odds of completing a postsecondary credential.

This Public Square initiates a series of activities that will help the Commission fulfill its legislative responsibilities and contribute to a related, on-going project. More specifically, per HEA 1549-2021, the Commission, along with the Indiana Department of

Education and the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet, has been charged with publishing a “Postsecondary Prior Learning Assessment Clearinghouse” no later than July 1, 2022. In addition, the Commission is participating in on-going PLA work funded through external sources and involving the Council for Adult and experiential Learning (CAEL) as the content expert.

The Commission will be joined by: Ms. Allegra Fowler, Senior Director of Transfer and Articulation, Purdue University Global; Dr. Carolyn Gentle-Genitty, Assistant Vice President for University Academic Policy and Director, University Transfer Office, Indiana University; Dr. April Hay, Registrar, Indiana State University; and Dr. Stacy Townsley, Vice President, Adult Strategy and Statewide Partnerships, Ivy Tech Community College.

### III. Business Items

#### A. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action

1. Master of Arts for Teachers in French to be offered by Indiana University Northwest and Southeast
2. Bachelor of Science in Clinical Psychological Science to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington
3. Master of Arts in American Studies to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington
4. Master of Science in Cognitive Science to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington
5. Master of Science in Education in School Psychology to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington

**R-21-5.3 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following academic degree programs, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Bowen, second – Peterson, unanimously approved)

#### B. Capital Projects for Full Discussion

1. Purdue University West Lafayette – Steely Street and Pierce Street Land Purchases

Anne Hazlett, Senior Director, Government Relations and Public Affairs presented this item. Alexa Deaton provided the staff recommendation.

**R-21-5.4 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 – Peterson, second – Popp, unanimously approved)

2. Purdue University West Lafayette – Wade Utility Plant Chiller 7 Replacement and System Improvements

Anne Hazlett presented this item. Alexa Deaton provided the staff recommendation.

**R-21-5.5 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the following capital projects, in accordance with the background information provided in this agenda item. (Motion – Bland, second – Hubbard, unanimously approved)

**IV. INFORMATION ITEMS**

- A. Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action
- B. Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff
- C. Media Coverage
- D. Upcoming Meetings of the Commission

**V. OLD BUSINESS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**VI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 P.M. CT

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Mike Alley, Chair

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Anne Bowen, Secretary