

**State of Indiana  
Commission for Higher Education**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Thursday, September 8, 2022**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 9:00 a.m. ET at Indiana University's Indiana Memorial Union, 900 East 7th Street, Bloomington, IN 47405, with Chairman Jud Fisher presiding.

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

*Members Present:* Mike Alley, Dr. Edward Berger, Dennis Bland, Anne Bowen, Mike Daigle, Jud Fisher, Pepper Mulherin, Dan Peterson, Tom Saunders and Erika Steuterman

*Members Absent:* Bill Hanna, Al Hubbard, Nancy Jordan, Chris LaMothe

**CHAIR'S REPORT**

Good afternoon and thank you everyone for joining us today. I would like to thank President of Indiana University Dr. Pamela Whitten and her staff for your hospitality and hosting our meeting today.

We are pleased to welcome a new member to the Commission today. Mike Daigle of South Bend is the CEO and executive director of the St. Joseph County Airport Authority.

Mr. Mike Daigle introduced himself.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good morning and welcome. President Whitten and the team from Indiana University, thank you again for hosting us. I would say we've had a very nice experience the last several hours, including the last hour or so with your Provost who represented this institution extraordinarily well.

Mr. Chair, members of the Commission, I'm gonna share just a few slides this morning trying to utilize this time at each one of your meetings to set a tone, provide a quick update and hopefully keep us grounded on where we're headed.

First on the value proposition: affordability, quality and career relevance. I know you're continuing to hear us talk about those things. We are breaking this down a bit more, including in the one-pager that some of you requested last time we were together, that we hope will serve all of you as you talk about what's going on in higher education today in the key areas of which we are providing focus.

The next priorities are talking about the talent pool here in Indiana and how we develop talent. The final priority is the role of the Commission and how we are a strategic partner with the Governor, with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation and others in growing investment in Indiana organically and acquisitively.

The Governor asked recently: How are we in terms of production of engineers in Indiana? We have 16-plus institutions now offering some form of engineering degrees. The combined bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees are nearly 5,400 conferred. Per capita, Indiana leads in the Midwest in the production of engineers at the bachelor's level. We now have it in our charge to work with IEDC and others, to work with the institutions in understanding where those highest demand areas of the economy are since we're trying to grow organically and acquisitively and understand it better. This gives all of us an opportunity to have higher education in the room, at the table when all this work is being done very early on. It makes the difference.

You were supportive of a strategic direction we took to create two new Associate Commissioner positions and we are delighted to have Michelle Ashcraft and Dr. Stacy Townsley joining us today. Michelle is our new Associate Commissioner for K-12 strategy and Stacy is our Associate Commissioner for Adult Strategy. Liz Walker is leaving the Commission to be Chief Operating Officer for the Governor's Workforce Cabinet. On a personal note, I don't know anyone who could have made my transition any easier. A substantial part of her life has been given to the work of this Commission and our State. We're grateful and delighted we get to keep working with Liz on a regular basis. As you look at the senior leadership team, one of the first that is so important to point out is that the role Sean Tierney holds is changed to Business Intelligence and Economics. Rajinder Heir will now report to me as Associate Commissioner for Business Enterprise Solutions. Charlee Beasor is Associate Commissioner for Marketing & Communications. Seth Hinshaw is Associate Commissioner for Finance and Operations. Josh Garrison is Associate Commissioner for Public Policy. We believe this sets us up to not only deliver on the mission of this Commission, but in our partnerships with our university and college partners, public and private.

Soon, we will host a meeting with the university and college presidents and we're going to try to meet three times a year. Lastly, I had the great pleasure a few weeks ago attend the announcement of the splitting of IUPUI into Indiana University Indianapolis and Purdue University at Indianapolis. It's going to be important on so many levels, including the focus on talent, the importance of research, and the priority of student engagement. It signifies one of those big long term plays not just for the two institutions but for our state. It was just a terrific moment and I think we have much to be hopeful for. Mr. Chairman, thank you.

At the conclusion of Commissioner Lowery's report, Chairman Fisher called for a vote for the three individuals recommended as new Associate Commissioners.

**R-22-5.1 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the hiring of Michelle Ashcraft as the Associate Commissioner for K-12 Strategy (Motion – Bland, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

**R-22-5.2 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the hiring of Dr. Stacy Townsley as the Associate Commissioner for Adult Strategy (Motion – Steuterman, second – Bland, unanimously approved)

**R-22-5.3 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the promotion of Rajinder Heir to Associate Commissioner for Business Enterprise Solutions (Motion – Saunders, second – Daigle, unanimously approved)

Chairman Fisher concluded by thanking Liz Walker for her nine years of service to the Commission and wishes her well at the Governor’s Workforce Cabinet.

## II. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING MINUTES

**R-22-5.4 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the August 2022 regular meeting. (Motion – Mulherin, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

## III. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. 2023-2025 Indiana Postsecondary Institution Budget Presentations

Today we have the pleasure of hearing from three of our public college and university presidents as they provide their budget presentations. Those familiar with this process will recall that this is the first step in developing the budget for the next biennium.

After these presentations, and four more at our October meeting, the Commission will provide a full higher education budget recommendation to the legislature—the Commissioner will present these recommendations to the State Budget Committee prior to the start of the legislative session in January.

Dr. Pamela Whitten, President of Indiana University, presented.

Dr. Sue Ellspermann, President of Ivy Tech Community College, presented.

Dr. Ronald Rochon, President of the University of Southern Indiana, presented.

## IV. BUDGET ITEMS

### A. Capital Projects for Full Discussion

1. Purdue University West Lafayette – Max W & Maileen Brown Family Hall Renovation

Alecia Nafziger presented this item. Seth Hinshaw provided the staff recommendation.

**R-22-5.5 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 – Alley, second – Bland, unanimously approved)

**B. Capital Projects for Expedited Action**

1. Purdue University West Lafayette – Northwest Chiller Plant System Improvements
2. Purdue University West Lafayette – Vawter Hall Electrical Enhancements and Replacement

**R-22-5.6 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 – Alley, second – Daigle, unanimously approved)

**V. ACEDMIC AFFAIRS ITEMS**

**A. Access and Communications: Indiana College Core**

Charlee Beasor presented this item.

**B. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action**

1. Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science to be offered by Indiana University East, IUPUI, Northwest, South Bend and Southeast
2. Bachelor of Science in Accounting to be offered by Indiana University East, Kokomo, Northwest, South Bend and Southeast
3. Bachelor of Science in Applied Statistics to be offered by Indiana University East, IUPUI, Northwest, South Bend and Southeast
4. Master of Science in Management to be offered by Indiana University East, Kokomo, Northwest and Southeast
5. Master of Science in Strategic Finance to be offered by Indiana University East, Kokomo, Northwest, South Bend and Southeast
6. Master of Arts for Teachers in German to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington, IUPUI, South Bend and Southeast

**R-22-5.7 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 – Alley, second – Steuterman, unanimously approved)

**VI. STUDENT SUCCESS ITEMS**

**A. Marketing, Communications and Outreach Efforts**

Charlee Beasor presented this item.

**VII. INFORMATION ITEMS**

**A. Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action**

- B. Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff
- C. Media Coverage
- D. Schedule of Upcoming Meetings of the Commission

**VIII. OLD BUSINESS  
NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:42 P.M. ET

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Maj. Gen. Erika Steuterman, Chair

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Anne Bowen, Secretary