

APPROVED
August 16, 2023

 Dave Kelm
General Counsel

Item #F-1
June 14, 2023

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
JUNE 14, 2023

Submitted for: Action.

Summary: Minutes of the June 14, 2023, meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education held in person at Northern Illinois University, 1425 West Lincoln Highway, DeKalb, IL, and Vandalia CUSD #203, 1109 North 8th Street, Vandalia, IL, via WebEx as permitted by the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7).

Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the minutes of the June 14, 2023, Board meeting.



STATE OF ILLINOIS
BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

MINUTES – BOARD MEETING
June 14, 2023

A meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education held in person at Northern Illinois University, 1425 West Lincoln Highway, DeKalb, IL, and Vandalia CUSD #203, 1109 North 8th Street, Vandalia, IL, via WebEx as permitted by the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/7). The meeting was recorded and an announcement to that effect was made by the Chair at the beginning of the meeting.

The following Board members were present in person at NIU: *John Atkinson, Chair, Jennifer Delaney Andrea Evans, Jennifer Garrison Veronica Herrero, Sylvia Jenkins, Rashawn (Isaiah) Overton, Emmanuel Segbedzi, Kenneth Shaw, and Eric Zarnikow.*

The following Board members were present at the in person location in Vandalia and connected to the NIU location via WebEx: *Jennifer Garrison.*

Others present in DeKalb: Ms. Ginger Ostro, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Dr. Eric Lichtenberger, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Mr. Jose Garcia, Illinois Board of Higher Education; Ms. Gloria Gibson, Illinois Board of Higher Education; and, Mr. David A. Kelm, Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act, a quorum was present in DeKalb allowing for participation by video conference. Additionally, all action items were recorded with roll call votes. The audio of the meeting was recorded and may be requested on the IBHE website.

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

- **Call Meeting to Order, John Atkinson**

Chair John Atkinson called the meeting to order. Acting Board Secretary Kelm took roll call. A quorum was present.

B. Adoption of Board Rule Pertaining to Board Member Participation

A motion to adopt a rule to allow Board members to attend meetings by other means than in person.

Pursuant to the Section 7 of the Open Meetings Act, Board members may attend meetings by video or phone conference under specific circumstances. This rule of the Board of Higher Education shall conform to the limits and restrictions of 5 ILCS 120/7.

Board Member Evans moved to approve the rule. Board Member Jenkins seconded the Motion. A roll call vote was taken and the Motion to approve the rule was approved unanimously.

C. Adoption of Board Rule Pertaining to Virtual Public Comment

A motion to adopt a rule for public comment before the Illinois Board of Higher Education or IBHE.

Members of the public are offered the opportunity to address the IBHE virtually at every properly noticed public meeting pursuant to the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120). The public's ability to comment at public meetings is only constrained by procedural rules put in place by each subject public body.

As such, the IBHE requires that members of the public request an opportunity to provide public comment at a time and manner specified at the beginning of each meeting. Public comment may be made virtually and/or telephonically. The Chair or designee will recognize public commenters in the order in which they registered their interest in providing comment, with those in person commenting first and then those participating virtually. While the IBHE welcomes public comment, the Chair is permitted to limit the time comment may be made by an individual to no more than three minutes to permit as many comments as possible while also maintaining decorum of each public meeting.

Board Member Evans moved to approve the rule. Board Member Jenkins seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken and the Motion to approve the rule was approved unanimously.

Opening Remarks

Chairman Atkinson welcomed attendees to the June meeting of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The Chair noted the Board is excited to be back holding meetings at college campuses. I'd like to thank Dr. Lisa Freeman, President of Northern Illinois University, and all the folks at NIU, for inviting us and for allowing us to hold the June board meeting here. Thank you for the great tour of the campus.

The Chair noted that Governor Pritzker signed the Fiscal Year 2024 State Budget a week ago today, which included a historic appropriation of \$2.53 billion for higher education. Compared to the last budget, it's an increase of \$279 million - the largest increase in over 20 years, which is a huge step toward closing equity gaps and fostering a diverse workforce that will lead to an inclusive and thriving Illinois economy.

The Board and Governor Pritzker understand that we are at a critical point in higher education. The way students learn, and their needs are changing. The needs of the workforce are changing. And we need meaningful investments to meet those demands.

The budget includes a \$100 million increase for MAP, an \$80.5 million increase for public universities, a \$19.4 million increase for community colleges, a \$15 million increase for the AIM HIGH merit-based scholarship program, and \$12.6 million for student mental health supports.

Under Governor Pritzker, higher education in Illinois is more affordable than before he took office. With the MAP Grant funding increase, everyone at or below the median income can attend community college for free! This, along with the increase in funding for AIM High, will make higher education more attainable for students across our state.

The budget also includes increases for Grow Your Own, Golden Apple, the Minority Teachers of Illinois Scholarship Program, and the Teachers Loan Repayment Program – all of which are key in helping address teacher workforce needs.

Governor Pritzker and the General Assembly understand that there is a need for a stronger, more skilled, and more diverse workforce, and the investment in this budget will help us work toward those goals. There is an additional \$18 million for workforce training in this budget. This increased investment will ensure a robust trained workforce for Illinois' current and emerging industries and countless good paying careers for tens of thousands of Illinoisans from all walks of life.

The funding will allow Illinois' community colleges to create new cutting-edge programs in several areas including advanced manufacturing for electric vehicles to address the workforce needs in this rapidly growing industry, data center curriculum development to support employers as they meet the increasing needs of their businesses and to assist adult education students in today's digital learning age, especially for those with financial or childcare challenges.

This Board is excited to continue to carry out the goals in our strategic plan with this historic higher education budget. Together, we will build an equitable and thriving Illinois.

The Chair then welcomed David Kelm to IBHE. Dave recently joined as the agency's General Counsel. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the agency. Dave has practiced law for 13 years in the private and government sectors - the last five years as the General Counsel for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and before that with the Illinois General Assembly.

The Chair then thanked Eastern Illinois University President Dave Glassman and Northeastern Illinois University President Gloria Gibson for their service to the state and countless of students throughout the years as leaders of their institutions, as they both step down from their roles at the end of this month. He thanked them each for being great partners in imagining a more equitable higher education system.

- Lisa Freeman, President of Northern Illinois University, welcomed the Board and other attendees to NIU. President Freeman informed the Board of many positive aspects of NIU and the work the university is doing in alignment with *A Thriving Illinois*.
- Ginger Ostro, Executive Director of the IBHE, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Ms. Ostro presented highlights of Governor Pritzker's passed budget including increases in higher education funding. Director Ostro also discussed a conference held jointly with National Louis University regarding HOUSE liaisons to address housing insecurity and homelessness among students; a joint community of practice with ICCB for newly-appointed institutional benefit navigators and meeting student needs; and increased funding for mental health services. Finally, Director Ostro shared with the Board that the recommendations for the components of institution Equity Plan, developed by Equity Advisory Committee (convened jointly with ICCB), would be available soon.

D. Reports and Updates

- **Midwest Higher Education Compact (MHEC) Update (Pranav Kothari, Board Member and MHEC Representative)**

Board Member Kothari provided an overview of the MHEC Executive Committee meeting he attended. He noted that MHEC has a new strategic plan that includes three priorities for the next four years. They include advancing innovation, efficiency, and effectiveness; developing collaborative solutions to regional problems and opportunities; and driving cost savings and business solutions. He also noted that MHEC has a number of initiatives underway, including looking at open education resources for nursing, and supporting the Census Bureau's Postsecondary Employment Outcomes (PSEO) initiative. Member Kothari noted that Illinois is in the data review stages of the PSEO effort. He also indicated that MHEC would be reviewing the Midwest Student Exchange Program (MSEP) with an eye toward redesigning the program. He noted he would be providing links to all the programs mentioned, which are included below:

[MHEC Strategic Plan](#)

[Chippewa Valley Technical College OpenRN program](#)

[Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois \(CARLI\) Open Education Resource program](#)

[Census Postsecondary Employment Outcomes](#)

- **Faculty Advisory Council Annual Update (Dr. Shawn Shumacher, DeVry University)**

Dr. Shumacher presented an overview of the work of the Faculty Advisory Council. A copy of his full remarks are available on the IBHE website on the Board Agendas and Calendars page for the June meeting [here](#).

- **Disability Advisory Council Annual Update (Angela Szczepanik-Sanchez, Director, Student Disability Services, Governors State University)**

Ms. Szczepanik-Sanchez provided an overview of the work of the Disability Advisory Council. A copy of her presentation is available on the IBHE website on the Board Agendas and Calendars page for the June meeting [here](#).

E. Presentations

- **Higher Ed Enrollment Patterns: A Review of the Data (Dr. Eric Lichtenberger, Deputy Director of Information Management and Research, IBHE)**

Dr. Lichtenberger provided a detailed analysis of overall post-secondary attainment in Illinois; students who have some college and did not receive a credential and the opportunities for institutions to better serve adult learners; changing demographics of high school graduates; patterns of initial enrollment for recent high school graduates; impact of the implementation of the Common App on application and application volume at Illinois public universities; admission and enrollment patterns of new freshmen at public universities; admitted students who do not enroll at any post-secondary institution; data on high school

graduates who leave Illinois for college (outmigration). A copy of the presentation slides are available on the IBHE website Board Agendas and Calendars page for the June meeting [here](#).

The Board engaged in a discussion and covered topics such as whether credits become “stale” for students who received “some credit but no credential” and how many of those students are still carrying student debt. The Board also asked whether implementing all the opportunities outlined in the presentation would change the enrollment trajectory enough to overcome the underlying demographics. Others pointed out that ultimately the challenge is affordability and how to tell a much simpler story that college can be affordable, despite the complexities of financial aid. The Board appreciated the presentation and looks forward to engaging more with the data and considering policy solutions.

- **Cost, Location, and Academics: How Illinois High School Seniors Decide on a Four-Year College (Dr. Mariana Barragan-Torres and, Dr. Meg S. Bates, Illinois Workforce and Education Research Collaborative (IWERC))**

Drs. Barragan Torres and Bates presented an overview of their research into why Illinois high school seniors choose a four-year college. Subsequent reports will address why seniors choose community colleges or why they do not enroll at all. The researchers conducted a survey of high school graduates in May, 2022 and identified five key takeaways, for which they presented detailed data.

Finding 1: The general factors most four-year college-goers consider are cost, location, reputation, and social environment.

Finding 2: The single decisive factor that the biggest proportion of four-year college goers consider is cost.

Finding 3: Both stayers and leavers agreed, albeit with a large gap, that Illinois colleges had a better cost of attendance.

Finding 4: Leavers expressed that cost-related issues, as well as better college quality, could have encouraged them to stay.

Finding 5: A sampling of responses showed how decision-making factors varied significantly by race/ethnicity and region.

A full copy of their slides is available on the IBHE website Board Agendas and Calendars page for the June meeting, [here](#).

- **Fiscal Year 2024 Higher Education Budget Overview (Ginger Ostro, Executive Director, IBHE)**

Executive Director Ostro noted that Chair Atkinson had provided an overview of the key investments included in the enacted Fiscal Year 2024 budget. She reiterated that the higher education community was grateful for the historic increases and pointed to a few highlights:

- **\$100 million increase in MAP.** The MAP total is now \$701 million, which is projected to increase the maximum award and the average award. A *Thriving Illinois* calls for reaching \$1 billion in MAP over 10 years (or by 2031!). With this

historic investment, Illinois is much closer than could have been imagined at the time the plan was developed.

- **\$80.5 million (7%) increase for public universities**
- **\$19.4 million (7%) increase for community colleges**
- **AIM HIGH** is continued at \$35 million, another of the Board's recommendations.

F. Public Comment

Chair Atkinson asked General Counsel Kelm if any member of the public in person or on-line had requested time to address the Board. General Counsel Kelm indicated that no member of the public requested time to address the Board.

G. Action Items

1. Consideration and Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Grants and Programs

Board Member Delaney moved to approve the FY24 Grants and Programs. Board Member Garrison seconded the Motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the Motion was approved unanimously.

2. Consideration and Approval of Fiscal Year 2024 Grants under the Independent Colleges Capital Investment Grant Program

Board Member Kothari moved to approve the FY23 Grants under the Independent Colleges Capital Investment Grant Program. Board Member Zarnikow seconded the Motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the Motion was approved unanimously.

3. Consideration and Approval of New Units of Instruction at Public Community Colleges (Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze)

Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze presented three new associate degree programs and three community colleges. These programs have all been previously approved by the Illinois Community College Board and meet the needs of regional employers. The section on "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Efforts" provides highlights about each college's plans to close equity gaps in the proposed program. This content aligns with strategies outlined in the higher education strategic plan, "A Thriving Illinois."

Lake Land College is seeking approval of a Construction Occupations Associate of Applied Science program. The program will provide an educational ladder opportunity for students who have completed construction Certificate programs and will prepare graduates for careers in construction management and related jobs with construction firms and other industry-related organizations.

South Suburban College is seeking approval of an Associate of Applied Science in Cosmetology. The proposed degree program will provide an educational ladder opportunity for the College's Cosmetology Certificate and will prepare graduates for entry-level employment, and career advancement as cosmetologists. Students will be prepared for the required Cosmetology Licensure through the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR).

Triton College is seeking approval of an Associate of Applied Science in Respiratory Care. The curriculum was developed according to standards outlined by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) for education in respiratory care and will prepare individuals for entry-level employment as respiratory care technicians. Graduates of the program will be eligible to sit for the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) credentialing exam through the National Board for Respiratory Care and obtain subsequent Illinois licensure.

Board Member Jenkins moved to approve the three new associate degree programs. Board Member Delaney seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

4. Consideration and Approval of Potential Board Extension of Accreditation Timeline Required for Operating and Degree Granting Authority at an Independent Institution (Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze)

Dr. Nkechi Onwuameze requests the approval of an extension of the timeline for obtaining institutional accreditation for Quiroga College. Quiroga College is an independent, not-for-profit institution approved by the Board to operate in the Chicago Region in June 2018 and is required, per Administrative Rule, to achieve institutional accreditation by an accreditor recognized by the U.S. Department of Education or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation within five years of approval. The deadline for obtaining accreditation was on June 5, 2023, and Quiroga College is seeking an extension to achieve accreditation with the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges by June 2025.

Board Member Shaw moved to extend the timeline for obtaining institutional accreditation for Quiroga College. Board Member Evans seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

H. Consent Agenda Action Items

- 1. Consideration and Approval of Non-Instructional Capital Projects for FY24 – Northern Illinois University.**
- 2. Consideration and Approval of Board Minutes – March 15, 2023.**

Board Member Herrero moved to approve both items on the Consent Agenda. Board Member Segbedzi seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously.

I. Executive Session

The Board determined that there was no need to enter Executive Session.

J. Action Item

- 1. Consideration and Approval of Removing Confidentiality of Executive Session Minutes and Destruction of Verbatim Recording.**

General Counsel Kelm explained to the Board that section 2.06(d) of the Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/1) requires the Board to semi-annually review its Executive Session minutes to

determine whether the minutes should remain closed or whether the minutes no longer require confidential treatment and should be available for public inspection.

After a review of the Executive Session Minutes, Kelm recommended that the Executive Session Minutes from January 31, 2021, June 29, 2022, August 16, 2022, and November 15, 2022, be open for public inspection.

Board Member Zarnikow moved to accept the recommendations made by General Counsel Kelm. Board Member Shaw seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was approved unanimously with Board Member Jenkins abstaining because she was not on the Board at the time of the meetings referred to in the motion.

K. Other Business

The next Board meeting will be held Wednesday, August 16, 2023, at National Louis University in Chicago. Additional details about the meeting and agenda will be posted on the IBHE website.

L. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Board Member Herrero and seconded by Member Kothari, a roll call vote was taken, and by unanimous vote, the meeting adjourned at approximately 3:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by David A. Kelm, Acting Secretary to the Board and General Counsel.