

**STATE OF INDIANA**  
**Board for Proprietary Education**

**Minutes of Meeting**

**Friday, December 13, 2024**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The Board for Proprietary Education met in a regular session starting at 1:00 P.M. (Eastern) at 101 West Ohio Street, Suite 300, in the Kent Weldon Board Room, with Chairman Butler presiding.

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

*Members Present:* Scott Bogan (in person); Ken Konesco (in person); Matt Butler, Ph.D. (in person); and Anne Shane (in person).

*Members Absent:* None.

*State Board of Nursing:* Toni Herron (virtual).

*Plante Moran:* Alex Barann (virtual); and Paige Demkowicz (virtual).

*Guests:* Rasheed Ahmed (virtual); Shahper Ahsan (virtual); Aisha Azhar, Ph.D. (virtual); Rayshun Doughty (in person); Sedricka Epperson (in person); Donielle Krempel (virtual); Kimberly Richard (virtual); Abdul Samad (in person); Shariq Siddiqui J.D., Ph.D. (virtual); Sheraz Tariq (virtual); and Kesha Wims (virtual).

A quorum was determined for the December 13, 2024, Board meeting.

**CONSIDERATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2024, BOARD MEETING**

**R-24.12.01      Resolved:** The Board for Proprietary Education hereby approves the Minutes of the September 9, 2024, regular meeting.  
(Motion – Shane, second – Konesco, unanimously approved)

**II. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Matt Butler introduced himself as the new Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer for the Commission for Higher Education. His role includes serving as the Executive Director of the Board for Proprietary Education and President Chair. Prior to this position, he worked in Governor Holcomb’s administration for three years and spent two years with the non-profit organization INvestEd. He also has experience working in the House of Representatives, serving the Ways and Means, as well as the Policy and Communications committees.

Matt Butler acknowledged and led the Board in applauding Ken Sauer, Ph.D., for service as the inaugural Executive Director of the Board for Proprietary Education, recognizing his extensive contributions and expertise.

Additionally, Ross Miller was recognized as an inaugural recipient of the Commission’s HOPE award.

The Board-adopted fee schedule is set to be promulgated through the rulemaking process. The rule will be submitted to the Legislative Services Agency for publication in the Indiana Register, followed by a 30-day public comment period, and to include a public hearing. The proposed rule will then be formally incorporated into the Indiana Administrative Code.

### III. PROGRAM REVIEW

#### A. Program Review

1. Comprehensive review of academic programs offered by the Zakat Foundation Institute.

Representing Zakat Foundation Institute: Rasheed Ahmed, Executive Director; Shahper Ahsan, Director of Operations; Aisha Azhar, Dean of Academics; Abdul Samad, Program Manager; Shariq Siddiqui, Assistant Professor of Philanthropic Studies and Director, Muslim Philanthropy Initiative; and Sheraz Tariq, Director of Admissions and Student Services.

Matt Butler introduced the program review. Ross Miller presented the staff report outlining the details of the review. Abdul Samad and Shariq Siddiqui presented additional materials on behalf of the institution.

### IV. DECISION ITEMS

#### A. Academic Degree Program

1. Doctorate (Professional Practice) in Humanitarian Leadership to be offered by Zakat Foundation Institute.

Representing Zakat Foundation Institute: Rasheed Ahmed, Executive Director; Shahper Ahsan, Director of Operations; Aisha Azhar, Dean of Academics; Abdul Samad, Program Manager; Shariq Siddiqui, Assistant Professor of Philanthropic Studies/Director, Muslim Philanthropy Initiative; and Sheraz Tariq, Director of Admissions and Student Services.

Matt Butler introduced the proposal for the Doctorate in Humanitarian Leadership program. Ross Miller presented the staff report recommending that the Zakat Foundation Institute be approved to offer the Doctorate program.

**R-24-12.02**      **Resolved:** The Board for Proprietary Education approves the following recommendation by consent, per the background information provided in this agenda item.  
(Motion –Shane, second – Bogan, unanimously approved)

#### B. Initial Institutional Authorization

1. Initial institutional authorization of Essential Healthcare Academy at Fort Wayne.

Representing Essential Healthcare Academy: Rayshun Doughty, Administrator; Sedricka Epperson, Program Coordinator; Donielle Krempel, Instructor; Kimberly

Richard, Instructor; and Kesha Wims, Instructor.

Representing Plante Moran: Alex Barann, Manager – Management Consulting; and Paige Demkowicz, Senior Consultant – Management Consulting.

Matt Butler introduced the Essential Healthcare Academy institutional authorization item. Ross Miller presented the staff report, recommending that Essential Healthcare Academy be granted initial institutional authorization at one location.

Alex Barann and Paige Demkowicz presented an overall financial assessment of Essential Healthcare Academy.

**R-24-12.03**      **Resolved:** The Board for Proprietary Education approves the following recommendation by consent, per the background information provided in this agenda item.  
(Motion –Shane, second – Bogan, unanimously approved)

**V. INFORMATION ITEM**

1. Ross Miller presented the tentative 2025 Calendar of Board Meetings.

**VI. OLD BUSINESS  
NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

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Dr. Matt Butler, Chairman

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Date