

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, January 15, 2026

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 10:05 a.m. ET at 101 W. Ohio Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Members Present: Mike Alley, Dennis Bland, Kathy Cabello, Edward Castronova, Jud Fisher, Samantha Fleischaker, Larry Garatoni, Bill Hanna, Nancy Jordan, Molly Kitchell, Kent Kramer, Pepper Mulherin, and Dan Peterson

Members Absent:

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

R-26-1.1 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the January 2026 Commission Meeting agenda. (Motion – Mulherin, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

R-26-1.2 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the minutes of the November 13, 2025, regular meeting. (Motion – Fisher, second – Hanna, unanimously approved)

IV. STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

I'll keep my comments brief. Welcome to our first meeting as we kick off the year. I'm looking forward to a great year ahead, and I want to thank all of you for your continued commitment to education in Indiana—especially higher education here and beyond. It's important that you're here.

I also want to thank Ivy Tech, Dr. Pollio, and MJ for hosting our breakfast this morning. We appreciate your hospitality. Later today, we'll be hearing from Hamilton County Campus Chancellor Rachel Kartz on the topic of utilizing AI to impact student success, which couldn't be more relevant right now.

Just yesterday, I watched the House Education and Workforce Committee in Washington, D.C. hold its first hearing on the use of AI in education. The legislative commentary was one

thing, but the four witnesses were especially insightful. They spoke about how AI is evolving and emphasized that the question isn't whether AI will be part of our future, it's already here. The real challenge is preparing people to use it wisely, safely, and effectively.

On a lighter note, it's probably not a coincidence that many of us are wearing red today. Our Commissioner encouraged it, and as an IU graduate, I have to say it's pretty exciting. There's been a lot of distraction lately—honestly, I don't think I'd heard the word "surreal" more than once every few years, and now it seems to come up every other day, especially with everything happening in football.

And if I seem a little distracted myself, it's because my daughter is about to go into labor—she's due tomorrow—so I've got a lot on my mind as we wait for my first grandchild. She's already having early contractions, so things are getting real.

That's enough from me for now. I appreciate all of you being here, and I will now turn it over to Commissioner Secretary Jenner for her comments.

V. STATEMENT FROM THE COMMISSIONER

VI. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Academic Affairs and Quality Committee: Routine Staff Actions*

R-26-1.3 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Routine Staff Actions. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Capital Projects for Expedited Action*

Cody Blake Robison provided the staff recommendation.

R-26-1.4 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Capital Projects for Expedited Action: Regional Deferred Maintenance from Indiana University, Terre Haute Health Science Renovation Project from Ivy Tech Community College, Steam Plant Renovation from Vincennes University, and George Rogers Clark Residence Hall Renovation from Vincennes University. (Motion – Alley, second – Cabello, unanimously approved)

B. Capital Projects for Full Discussion*

Cody Blake Robison provided the staff recommendation.

R-26-1.5 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Waldron Street Purchase and Ground Lease from Purdue University. (Motion – Alley, second – Cabello, unanimously approved)

R-26-1.6 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Roberts Impact Lab First Floor Renovation from Purdue University. (Motion – Alley, second – Cabello, unanimously approved)

R-26-1.7 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Sellersburg Technical Center New Building Project from Ivy Tech Community College. (Motion – Alley, second – Cabello, unanimously approved)

C. Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action*

Dr. Matt Butler provided the staff recommendation.

R-26-1.8 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Academic Degree Programs for Expedited Action. (Motion – Fisher, second – Hanna, unanimously approved)

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Frank O’Bannon Grant Methodology

Brooke Kile presented this item.

B. Ivy Tech Community College: Student Success

Rachel Kartz of Ivy Tech Community College presented this item.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 P.M. ET.

Dan Peterson, Chair

Kent Kramer, Secretary