

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, January 30, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 9:00 a.m. ET at MADE@Plainfield, 1610 Reeves Rd., Plainfield, IN 46168.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

Members Present: Mike Alley, Dennis Bland, Kathy Cabello, Jud Fisher, Samantha Fleischaker, Larry Garatoni, Nancy Jordan, Molly Kitchell, Kent Kramer, Chad Lochmiller, and Pepper Mulherin

Members Absent: Bill Hanna and Dan Peterson

CHAIR'S REPORT

Thank you all for being here today. Good morning, and happy New Year. And for those online, welcome, and thank you for joining us as well. You might have noticed that I don't look and sound like our normal chair, Mr. Dan Peterson. He had an unavoidable work trip he needed to take, but he sent his regards, and he provided us with a few comments here and there that we will sprinkle in, so you won't know he's gone.

Before we get started though, I would like to just take a quick moment, if any of you have paid attention to the news about the tragic air accident that happened in Washington, D.C. I think it's appropriate to just take a quick moment of silence for all who were impacted.

Thank you.

We have a full agenda today, both looking back at 2024 milestones and looking forward to the work we are undertaking in 2025. Part of that work is a committee that a lot of people may not know about, the performance and compensation committee. They met recently, and I want to toss it over to Jud, our past chair who chairs that committee, and give him a quick moment to share.

We absolutely want to thank our hosts from Vincennes University today, particularly this very special place. It is a partnership among numerous institutions but led by Vincennes. And it means so much to us Commission members that we can be on-site where, really, the magic of learning is taking place, right here.

I spent a little bit of time on the MADE@Plainfield website, and I noted on the homepage that they've summed up in one sentence a really important aspect of why we are all here today: By connecting the community to education and training opportunities, we facilitate the connection of local employers with highly skilled and trained individuals for high demand, high wage jobs. And they do it well, so thank you.

I am going to conclude my remarks now and invite Tony Hahn, Vice President of Government and Legal Affairs at Vincennes University, to address the group today.

Tony Hahn, Vice President of Government and Legal Affairs at Vincennes University, addressed the group.

Thank you, Tony.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING MINUTES

R-25-1.1 RESOLVED: The Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the minutes of the November 14, 2024, regular meeting. (Motion – Kitchell, second – Fisher, unanimously approved)

III. STUDENT SUCCESS AND COMPLETION COMMITTEE

A. Vincennes University Presentation

Dave Tucker, Vice President of Workforce Development/Community Services, presented this item.

Before turning it over to Commissioner Lowery, Chairwoman Jordan welcomed Secretary Katie Jenner as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Commission. Secretary Jenner will join the Commission at future meetings to help answer questions and add to the discussion when her schedule allows.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lowery thanked Chairwoman Jordan and MADE@Plainfield for hosting the meeting.

Commissioner Lowery reported on the following topics:

Governor Transition

1. The Commission is now part of the Governor's *Office of Education* and now reports to the Secretary of Education.
2. The Commission maintains its quasi-agency status.
3. Under EO 25-07, the Secretary of Education shall have the responsibility for **coordinating policy** with the Commission and the Education Employment Relations Board.

Agency Updates

1. Josh Garrison (former Commission for Higher Education Chief of Staff) has moved to the Office of Education to serve as Chief of Staff.
2. Seth Hinshaw (former Commission for Higher Education Chief Financial Officer) has moved to the Office of Education to serve as Chief Financial Officer.

Promotions for Commission Approval

1. Dr. Michelle Ashcraft (former Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Program Officer) to be promoted to Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer.
 - i. Policy Implementation will report to Dr. Michelle Ashcraft.

R-25-1.2 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the promotion of Dr. Michelle Ashcraft to Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer. (Motion – Mulherin, second – Cabello, unanimously approved)

2. Brooke Kile (former Associate Commissioner for Business Intelligence) to Senior Associate Commissioner for Business Solutions.
 - i. IT and Finance will report to Brooke Kile.

R-25-1.3 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the promotion of Brooke Kile to Senior Associate Commissioner for Business Solutions. (Motion – Kitchell, second – Fisher, unanimously approved)

Program Updates

Strategic Management Plan – 2024 Goals

1. Factoring out goals that were exempted, the Commission made progress on or met/exceeded 95% of agency goals.
2. Across the individual HOPE Agenda Goals (1-5), success by HOPE Goal ranged from 84-91%.
3. Factoring out goals that were exempted, agency success by HOPE Goal ranged from 93-96%.
4. The greatest success pertained to HOPE Goal 1 (college-going) and HOPE Goal 4 (completion).

CHE New Staff

CHE Staff Updates

1. Recent Hires
 - i. CTE Program Manager
 1. Mitchell Durnil

Additional Updates

Commission Member Acknowledgement

1. Commission Member Dennis Bland was awarded the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Freedom Award.

Upcoming Projects

1. Strada Education Foundation's Spring 2025 Survey will be made available to all public 2- and 4-year institutions at no cost.
2. Nominations for the 2025 Faculty Nominating Committee are due by Friday, February 7, 2025.
3. Agency talking points and information made available to Commission Members.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Office of Education

Dr. Katie Jenner presented this item.

V. BUDGET & FINANCE

A. Budget Update

Seth Hinshaw presented this item.

B. Capital Projects for Full Discussion*

Kendra Leatherman and Zach Smith Howard presented these items. Seth Hinshaw provided the staff recommendations.

R-25-1.4 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the IU School of Medicine Research Infrastructure Renovation and Build Out. (Motion – Alley, second – Kitchell, unanimously approved)

R-25-1.5 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Purdue University Northwest – New Residence Hall. (Motion – Alley, second – Kitchell, unanimously approved)

R-25-1.6 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the

Purdue University in Indianapolis – Lux on Capitol Lease. (Motion – Alley, second – Fisher, unanimously approved)

VI. RESOLUTIONS

A. Resolution for Commission Member Tom Saunders*

Commissioner Chris Lowery presented this item.

R-25-1.7 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the resolution of Commission Member Tom Saunders. (Motion – Fisher, second – Cabello, unanimously approved)

B. Resolution for Ken Sauer*

Commission Member Dennis Bland presented this item.

R-25-1.8 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the resolution of Dr. Ken Sauer. (Motion – Alley, second – Mulherin, unanimously approved)

VII. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Legislative Update

Greg Harrell presented this item.

VIII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

A. Academic Programs for Expedited Action*

R-25-1.9 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Science in Applied Supply Chain Management to be offered by Purdue Global. (Motion – Lochmiller, second – Fleischaker, unanimously approved)

R-25-1.10 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Science in Applied Computer Science to be offered by Purdue Global. (Motion – Lochmiller, second – Fleischaker, unanimously approved)

R-25-1.11 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Science in Applied Manufacturing to be offered by Purdue Global. (Motion – Lochmiller, second – Fleischaker, unanimously approved)

R-25-1.12 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Science in Applied Physics to be offered by Purdue Fort Wayne. (Motion – Lochmiller, second – Fleischaker, unanimously approved)

R-25-1.13 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the

the nomination of Dr. Matt Butler to serve as Indiana’s Midwestern Higher Education Compact Commissioner. (Motion – Lochmiller, second – Fleischaker, unanimously approved)

IX. INFORMATION ITEMS

- A. Academic Degree Programs Awaiting Action
- B. Academic Degree Program Actions Taken by Staff
- C. Media Coverage

**X. OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 P.M. ET.

Dan Peterson, Chair

Chad Lochmiller, Secretary