

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, July 24, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 9:00 a.m. ET at Ivy Tech Community College, 590 Ivy Tech Drive, Madison, IN 47250.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

Members Absent:

CHAIR'S REPORT

As I mentioned, welcome, and a more official welcome here to Dr. Castronova. As you all recall, at all times we have a faculty member of the Commission, just like we have a student member of the Commission. Dr. Castronova will serve as the Commission's faculty representative for the next two years.

The first order of business is approving the schedule for the 2026 Commission meetings.

R-25-4.1 RESOLVED: The Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the 2026 Commission Meeting Calendar. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Cabello, unanimously approved)

Moving on with a little bit of change. The Commission will continue to host our meetings on campuses around the state as we have been doing, but out of respect for the budget which we all know is a challenge, we will no longer be doing evening dinners and tours on the campuses. We will attempt to move these meetings to one day sessions on Thursdays. All seven institutions are aware of this change, and this will begin in September.

Also, the Commission will pay for hotel rooms for those people that need them the night before. To reiterate, if you do need a room, we ask that all Commission members do respond in a timely fashion to Lucas and the team about whether or not you need a room. There will be a deadline given and if it's after that deadline, the room will be released.

For the next order of business, we do need to fully authorize a new slate of officers for the Commission. Later in the meeting, Michelle will be talking about some needed changes to our bylaws beyond this.

We will continue what we have done in the last number of years with a two-year process for slate of officers. Dr. Lochmiller's term was cut short as secretary since he was on the off-two-year schedule. Given his departure and given the slate that we had, the proposed slate that we need approval on will include, for the next year, myself as chair for one more year; Nancy Jordan as vice chair for one more year; and then we'd like to add Kent Kramer on as secretary to serve out the remaining year of Dr. Lochmiller's term.

R-25-4.2 RESOLVED: The Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the 2026 Commission Officer Slate. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Fisher, unanimously approved)

At the Commission, we have two standing committees as part of our work. We have the Academic Affairs and Quality Committee, and we have the Budget Productivity Committee.

The current membership and proposed membership for the next year is as follows: For the Academic Affairs and Quality Committee, Dennis Bland as chair, Dr. Ted Castronova, Jud Fisher, Larry Garatoni, Kent Kramer, Pepper Mulherin, and myself.

For the Budget Productivity Committee, we have Mike Alley as Chair, Kathy Cabello, Samantha Fleischaker, Bill Hanna, Nancy Jordan, and Molly Kitchell.

The topic of mission differentiation has long been part of our conversation and has carried various interpretations over time. Given current circumstances, it has become clear that a deeper, more focused review is needed to ensure that existing definitions align with present-day intentions and future goals.

To that end, we propose forming a working group to examine mission differentiation in depth over the coming months. I will appoint a chairperson for this group in collaboration with Commissioner Lowery. We hope several Commission members—any who are interested—will participate, along with relevant staff and external contributors, including representatives from the universities. The group will ultimately report back to the full Commission with its findings and potential recommendations for future action.

If you're a Commission member interested in joining the working group, please notify Chris or me by August 8. While logistical details (e.g., meeting frequency or format) are still being determined, this type of initiative has precedent and proven value.

We aim to move forward efficiently and gain clarity on this important issue.

As a final note regarding Commission committees, I'll now turn it over to Chris to introduce a proposed legal subcommittee and explain its intended purpose.

R-25-4.3 RESOLVED: The Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the formation of the Legal Subcommittee. (Motion – Alley, second – Fisher, unanimously approved)

It's now my great pleasure to invite Dr. Martin Pollio, new president of Ivy Tech Community College, to address the group.

Dr. Pollio, President of Ivy Tech Community College, addressed the group.
Thank you.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING MINUTES

R-25-4.4 RESOLVED: The Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the minutes of the May 15, 2025, regular meeting. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Fisher, unanimously approved)

III. STUDENT SUCCESS & COMPLETION COMMITTEE

A. Ivy Tech Community College Presentation

Amanda Harsin presented this item.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Commission Bylaws*

Dr. Michelle Ashcraft presented this item.

R-25-4.5 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Commission Bylaws. (Motion – Alley, second – Fisher, unanimously approved)

V. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

A. Overview of HEA1001 Voluntary Early Actions and Future Commitments

Dr. Matt Butler and Commissioner Chris Lowery presented this item.

B. Academic Affairs & Quality Committee Mission & Responsibilities Document*

Dr. Matt Butler presented this item.

R-25-4.6 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Academic Affairs & Quality Committee Mission & Responsibilities Document. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Kramer, unanimously approved)

C. Academic Programs for Expedited Action*

R-25-4.7 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Science in Organizational Leadership and Supervision to be offered by Purdue University West Lafayette and Indianapolis (online). (Motion – Bland, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

R-25-4.8 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the

Bachelor of Arts in Sport Communication to be offered by Indiana State University. (Motion – Bland, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

R-25-4.9 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Arts in Cognitive Science to be offered by Purdue University West Lafayette. (Motion – Bland, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

R-25-4.10 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington. (Motion – Bland, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

R-25-4.11 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Science in Business Intelligence and Data Science to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington. (Motion – Bland, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

VI. BUDGET ITEMS

A. Capital Project for Expedited Action*

Brooke Kile presented this item.

R-25-4.12 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Ivy Tech Community College South Bend, Dental Lab Renovation. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

VII. BUDGET & FINANCE

A. Commission for Higher Education Fiscal Year 2026 Spending Plan*

Brooke Kile presented this item.

R-25-4.13 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Fiscal Year 2026 Spending Plan. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Kitchell, unanimously approved)

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

Commissioner Lowery reported on the following topics:

CHE Staff

CHE Staff Updates

1. 2025 Summer Interns
 - i. Governor's Summer Intern, College Enrollment
 1. Elliott Linneweber
 - ii. Governor's Summer Intern, College Financial Aid

1. Sarah Hansen
- iii. Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation College Outreach Intern
 1. Joe Conde

Initiative Updates

21st Century Scholars Automatic Enrollment

1. 2023: The number of students enrolled moved from 19,000 to over 46,000 because of automatic enrollment (2027 cohort).
2. 2024: Over 50,000 were initially automatically enrolled (2028 cohort).
3. 2025: Over 44,000 students were automatically enrolled (2029 cohort).
4. 61 percent of 21st Century Scholars from the class of 2025 completed all 12 Scholar Success Program (SSP) activities
 - i. The largest percentage in recent history
5. 63 percent ScholarTrack account creation (2028 cohort) – Goal is 60 percent by end of 9th grade
 - i. 85 percent 2025 cohort
6. NEW Proactive email campaign using leading data to encourage SSP activities in addition to historical postcard campaign
 - i. Over 85 percent open rate

Indiana College Core

1. SEA 8-2024: More schools are now offering the Indiana College Core.
 - i. With strategic efforts from the Commission and recent legislation, the Indiana College Core will be more accessible to Hoosiers across the state.
 - ii. Starting the 2025-2026 academic year, 307 Indiana high schools will offer the Indiana College Core.
 1. This is nearly 4x the number of schools offering the College Core in 2022.

2025-2026 FAFSA

1. In 2023, Indiana passed legislation requiring high school seniors to file the FAFSA.
2. College Matters is a multi-year initiative of the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation aimed at increasing Marion County's college-going rate, especially among students from low-income households
 - i. Awarded \$362,000 to the Commission, \$2.6 million in grants to schools, and \$1.35M to community organizations.
 - ii. Philanthropy is key in serving as thought leaders to support grassroots initiatives.
3. Indiana ranks 15th in the country, up from 39th in 2023.

CHE Staff and Commission Update

CHE Commission Update

1. Recent Appointment
 - i. Faculty Commission Member
 1. Edward Castronova

CHE Staff Update

1. Staff Transitions
 - i. Former CHE CFO, Office of Education CFO
 1. Seth Hinshaw
 - ii. Assistant Commissioner for Public Policy & Strategic Partnerships
 1. Greg Harrell

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEM

B. Collegiate Purple Star

Kate Marling presented this item.

C. Credentials of Value and CTE Student's Journey

Linsay Osos and Sam Rourke presented this item.

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 2:39 P.M. ET.

Dan Peterson, Chair

Kent Kramer, Secretary