

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, May 15, 2025

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 9:00 a.m. CT at Purdue University Northwest, 2200 169th Street, Hammond, IN 46323.

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, Pepper Mulherin, and Dan Peterson

Members Absent: Bill Hanna

CHAIR'S REPORT

Thank you. Much appreciated.

Pepper, congratulations. I understand you are with a new grandbaby and not able to be with us today, so congratulations.

Thank you, again, very much to everyone here, and I want to thank Chancellor Holford and his entire team for a wonderful visit so far. Last evening was outstanding. We had a great dinner, presentation, and discussion that he facilitated with Alejandra Castillo, former Economic Development Administration head, who is now a senior fellow here with Purdue Northwest. Some interesting topics around the work they're doing here in the region, if you will, around network and quantum computing, which is very exciting to hear about.

We very much appreciate a lovely evening and your welcoming staff and everyone's been fantastic.

Certainly, interesting times for all of us I think in every sector of the world, both geographically and sector wise. Higher education is no exception to facing some challenging times like we all are, right? I think, just reflecting on those challenging times, I want to actually pick up on a point that the Chancellor referenced yesterday. At the core of all these challenges and opportunities, if you will, the key is still students. Learning in high quality, affordable, available higher education is still the key to potential success for students of all ages. So, I think in that regard, that is our true north, and you did a great job of setting that stage. So, with that said, thank you again. Thank you all for being here.

I also want to reflect upon someone who unfortunately will be leaving us. Dr. Chad Lochmiller has been a fantastic Faculty Commission Member in his two years, and we regret

having to say goodbye to him in that role, but we very much appreciate his work on our behalf and with us. And we do have a resolution honoring his service that we'd like to present.

Whereas, Dr. Chad Lochmiller provided strong faculty representation to the Commission for Higher Education since his appointment on July 1, 2023; and

Whereas, during his service to the Commission, Dr. Lochmiller discharged his duties with distinction and impartially advocated for the students and faculty at Indiana's public institutions of higher education; and

Whereas, he was actively engaged in the Commission's Academic Affairs and Quality Committee, providing thoughtful insight into discussions and review of academic programs; and

Whereas, Dr. Lochmiller was appointed to serve as the Commission's Secretary in 2024, and effectively fulfilled his duties in that role; and

Whereas, he successfully planned and hosted the well-received and attended Faculty Leadership Conference in February of this year entitled "Innovation in the Classroom: Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education;" and

Now therefore be it resolved, that the Commission for Higher Education expresses its deep appreciation to Dr. Chad Lochmiller for his two years of dedicated service as the Faculty Representative to the Commission for Higher Education and to the State of Indiana, and wishes him well as he continues his teaching duties as Associate Professor of Educational Leadership and serving as Chair of the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Indiana University.

Thank you. Congratulations and a round of applause.

R-25-3.1 RESOLVED: The Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the resolution of Dr. Chad Lochmiller's term as Faculty Commission Member. (Motion – Bland, second – Jordan, unanimously approved)

I would now like to invite Chancellor Holford to the dais for his welcoming remarks. Again, thank you so much for having us and we really appreciate you and your staff's hospitality.

Chris Holford, Chancellor of Purdue University Northwest, addressed the group.
Thank you.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING MINUTES

R-25-3.2 RESOLVED: The Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the minutes of the March 13, 2025, regular meeting. (Motion – Jordan, second – Fleischaker, unanimously approved)

III. BUDGET & FINANCE

A. Budget Update

Brooke Kile presented this item.

B. Tuition and Fees Recommendation*

Brooke Kile and Commissioner Lowery presented this item.

R-25-3.3 RESOLVED: The Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Tuition and Fees Recommendation. (Motion – Garatoni, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. Legislative Update

Greg Harrell and Senator Goode presented this item.

COMMISSIONER’S REPORT

Commissioner Lowery thanked Chairman Peterson and Purdue University Northwest for hosting the meeting.

Commissioner Lowery reported on the following topics:

2025 Legislative Session

1. Revenue Forecast & Budget
 - i. Indiana's legislature and the administration were challenged with addressing a sharp fall in estimated revenue.
 - ii. The April forecast communicated a \$400 million reduction in revenue during the remainder of FY25 and \$2 billion across the new biennium.
 - iii. To balance the budget, the General Assembly:
 1. Proactively raised revenues;
 2. Responsibly utilized reserves; and
 3. Cut at least 5% to the operating budgets of all state agencies, including the Commission and the public colleges.

Key Takeaways and Highlights

1. Senate Enrolled Act 448
 - i. Agenda bill for Governor Braun
 - ii. Agency bill for Office of Education and CHE
 - iii. Authored by Sen. Greg Goode
2. House Enrolled Act 1001
 - i. Frank O'Bannon and 21st Century Scholars funding remained untouched.

- ii. The Commission prioritized protecting Outcomes Based Performance Funding, R&R, and Dual Credit.
- iii. All agencies received at least a 5% cut.
- iv. Fiscal
 - 1. Frank O'Bannon Grant and 21st Century Scholarship preserved, no cuts;
 - 2. Repeals non-reverting status for the Frank O'Bannon Grant, but allows the transfer between funds;
 - 3. 5% cut to operating costs and a 5% withholding factor;
 - 4. 5% cut to some scholarships.
- v. Non-Fiscal
 - 1. Requires a report that examines the utilization of physical
 - 2. facilities that are primarily used for instruction at state educational institutions;
 - 3. Governor's Workforce Cabinet abolished, most duties shifted to the Department of Workforce Development and a few to the Commission;
 - 4. Career Coaching Grant moved to the Department of Education on July 1, 2025;
 - 5. Career Scholarship Accounts moved to the Department of Education on July 1, 2026;
 - 6. Requires a biennially prepared plan for implementing postsecondary CTE programming.

2025-2026 Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- 1. Key Outcomes & Takeaways
 - i. Indiana reached 55% FAFSA filing rate for high school seniors finishing
 - ii. Eighth in the nation by the April 15 state priority deadline.
 - 1. 241 high schools exceeded 60 percent filings.
 - iii. In 2023, Indiana passed the FAFSA filing requirement. This legislation has led to growth in filings.
 - 1. Prior to the requirement, Indiana finished the 23-24 FAFSA cycle at 39th in the nation.
 - iv. The Commission also attributes the increased numbers to partnerships with community organizations and philanthropic support like the RMFF College Matters initiative.
 - v. Indiana's filing goal is 60%.

CHE New Staff

CHE Staff Updates

- 1. Recent Hires
 - i. Director of Finance
 - 1. Cody Robison

V. DISCUSSION ITEM

B. Indiana Pre-Admissions: Your Path to College Update

Victoria Phair and Dr. Michelle Ashcraft presented this item.

VI. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

A. Legislative Update

Dr. Matt Butler presented this item.

VII. STUDENT SUCCESS AND COMPLETION COMMITTEE

A. Purdue University Northwest Presentation

Dr. Marie T. Mora, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Dr. Elizabeth Babcock Depew, Vice Chancellor for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Christina Maldonado, Assistant Director of Admissions for Parent, Community, and Early Education, and Catharine Olsen, Chief of Staff to the Chancellor, presented this item.

VIII. BUDGET ITEMS

A. Capital Project for Expedited Action*

Brooke Kile presented this item.

R-25-3.4 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Ball State University New Baseball & Softball Clubhouse Facilities. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

IX. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

B. Academic Programs for Expedited Action*

R-25-3.5 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Science in Forensics to be offered by Indiana State University. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

R-25-3.6 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Science in Business Analytics to be offered by Ball State University. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

R-25-3.7 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Science in the Business of Biotechnology to be offered by Indiana University Indianapolis. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

- R-25-3.8 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering to be offered by Indiana University Indianapolis. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)
- R-25-3.9 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry to be offered by Indiana University Indianapolis. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)
- R-25-3.10 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Science in Digital Forensics to be offered by Indiana University Indianapolis. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)
- R-25-3.11 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Science in Education in Science of Reading to be offered by Indiana University Multi-Campus Collaborative (IUE, IUI, IUK, IUN, IUS, IUSB). (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)
- R-25-3.12 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Doctor of Business Administration to be offered by Purdue University Global. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

C. Interstate Tuition Reciprocity Agreement Adoption - Kentucky*

Ross Miller and Dr. Matt Butler presented this item.

- R-25-3.13 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Interstate Tuition Reciprocity Agreement Adoption - Kentucky. (Motion – Alley, second – Garatoni, unanimously approved)

D. Interstate Tuition Reciprocity Agreement Adoption - Ohio*

Ross Miller and Dr. Matt Butler presented this item.

- R-25-3.14 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Interstate Tuition Reciprocity Agreement Adoption - Ohio. (Motion – Alley, second – Jordan, unanimously approved)

X. INFORMATION ITEMS

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

**XI. OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS**

There was none.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:24 P.M. CT.

Dan Peterson, Chair

Kent Kramer, Secretary