

**State of Indiana
Commission for Higher Education**

Minutes of Meeting

Thursday, November 14, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Commission for Higher Education met in regular session starting at 9:02 a.m. ET at the Purdue Memorial Union, 101 Grant St., West Lafayette, IN 47906.

ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS AND DETERMINATION OF A QUORUM

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

Members Absent: Chad Lochmiller, Larry Garatoni, Pepper Mulherin, and Tom Saunders

CHAIR'S REPORT

Thank you to Purdue for hosting. I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone involved in higher education here in Indiana. From the Commissioner to the to the great staff, to the Commission members, most importantly to our university partners. In times of change, especially the political change like we see right now in the smooth transition of power at the state, local and federal.

There's always, of course, uncertainty about what the next generation or iteration of governments will be. But I think what's what we've seen in the lead up to the budget hearings and the great work that has been done by this collective body to focus on the importance of higher education in Indiana is the consistent thing. And I think that is very much a reflection of how important our work is to support a high quality, well distributed set of opportunities for all our citizens in Indiana and those that come to state. Consistency and focus I think are just critically important, and we're keeping up the good work. I think the reflection is coming together of the of the HOPE agenda and the Partnership Pentagon work. To give great credit to the focus on not just talking about things, but showing the data, both quantitative and qualitative, of the impact that higher education makes which you'll see bit more today. It's not always easy, but it is just critically important for the future of our state and for our citizens.

It's my pleasure to now invite Patrick Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and University of Purdue University, to address the group.

Patrick Wolfe, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and University of Purdue University, addresses the group.

Thank you, Provost Wolfe.

II. CONSIDERATION OF THE MEETING MINUTES

R-24-8.1 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the October 10, 2024 regular meeting. (Motion – Fisher, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

R-24-8.2 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Minutes of the November 6, 2024 regular meeting. (Motion – Fisher, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

III. STUDENT SUCCESS AND COMPLETION COMMITTEE

A. Purdue University Presentation

Dr. Jenna Rickus, Dr. Kerrie Douglas, Dr. Peter Bermel, Mark Daniel Ward, Dr. Nathalie Duval-Couetil, and David Umulis presented this item.

It is now my pleasure to turn it over to Commissioner Lowery for his report.

COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

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

Commissioner Lowery reported on the following topics:

Data Updates

Indiana Pre-admissions

1. Thirty-nine public and private institutions participated in 2024-2025.
2. More than 67,000 high school seniors received pre-admission letters.
 - i. Up from 57,000 last year.
3. Roughly 1.6 million total decisions were delivered to students.
4. Twenty-four percent of students were admitted to all 39 campuses.
5. On average, students were admitted to 24 campuses.
6. Three hundred ninety Indiana high schools participated.

Attainment Ranking

1. In 1960, Indiana ranked 39th in bachelor's degree attainment, and 2022 data shows Indiana is 40th in bachelor's degree attainment.
 - i. Thirty-ninth in attainment of adults within associate degree or higher.
 - ii. Fifth in sub-associate degree attainment.

- iii. Twenty-eighth in total education attainment beyond a high school diploma.

Indiana's Enrollment Rate

1. In 2024, public enrollment increased over 2 percent from 2023.
 - i. This is the second year to see an increase, reversing an over decade-long decline.
 - ii. The largest one-year percent increase since Fall 2010.
2. Both resident and non-resident enrollment has increased, as well as both undergraduate and graduate enrollment.
3. Enrollment at both 2-year and 4-year institutions increased.
4. Enrollment for private colleges/universities is also up from the previous year at nearly 5 percent.
 - i. Resident enrollment growth exceeds public resident enrollment growth.

Program Updates

21st Century Scholars

1. Automatic Enrollment
 - i. More than 50,000 students were automatically enrolled in the 2028 cohort.
 1. Over 46,000 initially enrolled for the 2027 cohort.
 - ii. Letters were sent this fall to automatically enrolled students in both cohorts.

Indiana College Core

1. The Indiana College is a block of 30 college credits students can earn while in high school that can be transferred to all Indiana public and some private institutions.
2. The average full “sticker” price for a year at a public institution is \$22,000, equating to a savings of nearly \$225 million for Hoosier students.
3. Recent data show that 90 percent of Indiana College Core earners from the class of 2021 went on to attend college.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

1. In 2023, Indiana joined 7 other states in legislatively requiring the FAFSA for graduating high school seniors.
2. Indiana is first in the nation in change compared to last year, being within 1.5 percent of FAFSA completions from 2023.
 - i. Indiana ranks first in change compared to last year for low-income high schools at +0.5 percent.
 - ii. Indiana ranks fourth in change compared to last year for high-minority high schools at +0.5 percent.

Perceptions & Realities of Higher Education

- i. A working group schedule has been proposed to Commission members to further discuss the findings and response to this research.

- ii. The Commission and Heart+Mind Strategies met with the Lilly Endowment in October to present final research of the project.
- iii. The Commission is coordinating a response informing programming and outreach based on the findings.
- iv. The report, quantitative data, and Commission response will be shared later this year.

Graduate Retention

- 1. As a part of the revised Outcomes-Based Performance Funding formula, institutions are now tasked with keeping their graduates in the state of Indiana.
- 2. This is a key pillar in supporting Indiana's 60 percent attainment goal.
 - i. It is not enough that students enroll and complete college, but we want Hoosier students to connect with Indiana employers and retain out-of-state students who attend an Indiana institution.
- 3. Examples of retention strategies:
 - i. Purdue University (WL)
 - 1. Created the Office of Experiential Education (ExEd) to identify, develop, and connect students with companies that offer world-ready experiences.
 - ii. University of Southern Indiana
 - 1. Over 80 percent of the employers who attend USI's internship and career fairs each semester are based in Indiana or have physical locations employing within the state.
 - iii. Ball State University
 - 1. Introduced its County Ambassador Program in 2023, a student-to-student engagement initiative that provides all 92 Indiana counties the opportunity to attract Ball State graduates upon the completion of their degrees.

CHE New Staff

CHE Staff Updates

- 1. Recent Hires
 - i. Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer
 - 1. Dr. Matt Butler
 - ii. CTE Program Manager
 - 1. Miaya Scott
 - 2. Mikayla Moore

R-24-8.1 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the hiring of Dr. Matt Butler as the Senior Associate Commissioner and Chief Academic Officer. (Motion – Fisher, second – Fleischaker, unanimously approved)

IV. DISCUSSION ITEM

A. State of Higher Education in Indiana Presentation

Commissioner Chris Lowery presented this item.

V. BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

A. HOPE Agenda Dashboard Presentation

Aaron Olson presented this item.

VI. ADULT STRATEGY

A. Adult Strategy Update and Justice-Involved Work

Davyd Hall and Dr. Stacy Townsley presented this item.

VII. ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

A. Academic Programs for Full Discussion*

R-24-8.2 RESOLVED: That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Bachelor of Science in Public Health in Sexual and Reproductive Health to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington. (Motion – Alley, second – Fisher, approved 8-1, Bland recused, Fleischaker voted in opposition)

B. Academic Programs for Expedited Action*

- R-24-8.3 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Science in Education in Evidence-Based Practices in Educational Psychology to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington. (Motion – Bland, second – Alley, unanimously approved)
- R-24-8.4 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Public Policy to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington. (Motion – Bland, second – Alley, unanimously approved)
- R-24-8.5 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Master of Design Leadership to be offered by Indiana University Bloomington. (Motion – Bland, second – Alley, unanimously approved)
- R-24-8.6 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Ph.D. in Information Science to be offered by Indiana University Indianapolis. (Motion – Bland, second – Alley, unanimously approved)

VIII. BUSINESS ITEM

A. Frank O'Bannon Grant Schedule of Awards*

Josh Garrison presented this item.

- R-24-8.7 RESOLVED:** That the Commission for Higher Education hereby approves the Frank O'Bannon Grant Schedule of Awards. (Motion – Cabello, second – Fisher, 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 2:31 P.M. ET.

Dan Peterson, Chair

Chad Lochmiller, Secretary