

APPROVED

Minutes of the Work Session for the
399th Meeting of the
Illinois Community College Board
Moraine Valley Community College
9000 West College Parkway
Palos Hills, IL

September 21, 2012

The Work Session began at 9:05 a.m. with Suzanne Morris filling in as Chair. The following members were present: Michael Dorf, James Dumas, Suzanne Morris, Tom Pulver, Terry Bruce, and Joshua Beneze, Student Board member. The following members were absent: Randy Barnette, Guy Alongi, Jake Rendleman, Victor Henderson, and Alexi Giannoulis.

Suzanne Morris started off by welcoming newest Board member Terry Bruce.

Item #1 – Race to the Top: College and Career Readiness STEM Project Update

Brian Durham, ICCB Senior Director for Academic Affairs & Career & Technical Education, reported that ICCB is poised to receive nearly one million dollars in Race to the Top (RTTT) funds to implement the STEM College and Career Readiness project. Funded over three and a half years (3½), the money will support seven colleges in the development and implementation of academic remedial interventions in math for Junior and Senior level students in RTTT high school districts. About 88 percent of the RTTT funding went to the Chicago Public Schools, which means the City Colleges of Chicago will be requested to be involved with this project. The funding breaks down into approximately \$30,000 for each college, with the initial year being \$20,000.

Mr. Durham explained further that the basic model consists of a spring intervention in the high school, a summer bridge, and a fall intervention in the high school which will target medium to low need students. It is expected about 1200 students will benefit from this project per year, though these numbers will be finalized once the project is up and running.

Mr. Durham went on to explain the projects' three key goals:

- Diagnosing college readiness for students in Programs of Study by aligning placement assessments from secondary to postsecondary education.
- Reduction of remediation by utilizing targeted interventions in the high schools.
- Alignment of high school and college curriculum, student services, and evaluation—both self evaluation and external evaluation.

This project is set to begin implementation in October.

Mr. Durham also reported that ICCB is in the process of negotiating an Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the State Board of Education (ISBE). The documents have been reviewed and the edits have been sent to ISBE. As of now, there will be a meeting to discuss the next steps of the IGA. By October or November, the colleges will be selected as well as the project manager. Dr. Elaine Johnson added that once the IGA is finalized, the document will be brought to the Academic Affairs and Workforce Development Committee for discussion then on to the Board for approval.

Item #2 – Illinois Articulation Initiative Update

Dr. Johnson reported this past year the five general education and eighteen major panels met to review and approve courses for this past spring semester and will begin holding fall panel meetings this October. These panels consist of faculty members and Chief Academic Officers that make sure the courses are meeting the appropriate criteria. For the spring 2012 semester, 530 courses were submitted and reviewed by the panels: 385 courses were submitted under the Five Year Review process and 145 courses were submitted for New Course review and approval. In comparison, a total of 337 courses (236 Five Year and 101 New) were submitted for the same spring 2011 review period.

Dr. Johnson went on to say the Major Panel Initiative has completed all three tiers with the public universities. Next steps for this process include bringing the senior private institutions into the tier review and agreement process, and working with the appropriate major panels and public senior institutions to address concerns that prevented institutions from complete agreements with panel recommendations. A communication and review process will also need to be established with senior universities to address any changes a panel may make to their core courses since the initial Major Directive Initiative.

Dr. Johnson reported that the statewide committee on articulation met on the next steps and recommended that ICCB conduct a review of the effectiveness of transfer (particularly the Illinois Articulation Initiative), between community colleges and universities in the state, i.e. the Transcript Study.

Item #2.1 – Transcript Study

Dr. Johnson stated ICCB recently entered into an agreement with Southern Illinois University—Carbondale (SIU-C) to conduct a transcript study examining the effectiveness of transfer between SIU-C and its feeder community colleges. As a part of this, SIU-C agreed to produce data for their top 10 feeder community colleges in Illinois, including: John A Logan College; Rend Lake College; Southwestern Illinois College; Kaskaskia College; College of Lake County; Illinois Eastern Community College; Shawnee Community College; Southeastern Illinois College; College of DuPage; and Lake Land College. As a part of the study, transcripts are being shared between the feeders and SIU-C to determine what issues in transfer exist.

Dr. Johnson went on to say an initial transcript summit was held in June, shortly after execution of the agreement. Broader work began in early July and is slated for completion by December. Currently, ICCB staff and others involved in the study are visiting campuses and working to analyze transcripts.

Each individual college will receive information about their students that were evaluated in the study. The final intent is to identify any transfer issues that may exist and to develop processes and procedures to correct those issues. Dr. Johnson stated that further studies are anticipated with other four year institutions using the model developed in this process. Any reports released will be done jointly between SIU-C and the ICCB.

Item #3 – Veteran’s Services Update

Jennifer Timmons, Senior Director for Student Development, began by reporting that the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, Illinois Board of Higher Education and Illinois Community College Board are working together with u.select Illinois and several Illinois higher education institutions to ensure that veterans and military students are granted appropriate academic credit for the education, skills and experience they have earned in the military services. This effort aligns national, state and institutional goals to increase the rate of college completion among military and veteran students.

Ms. Timmons went on to say the following areas have been identified as important tracks to move this initiative forward.

- Acquisition and effective communication of information.
- Articulation of military training by higher education institutions.
- Additional Resources.

The IDVA has provided a list of popular military career fields as a suggested starting point:

- Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics
- Computer Support Specialists/Operators/Security Specialists
- Electrical and Electronics Repairs
- Security/Military Police
- Military Medic
- Supply and Logistics Support
- Truck Driver

Ms. Timmons reported that the Military Family Research Institute (MFRI) at Purdue University is an Eli Lilly funded program that has worked to support the needs of service members, veterans and their families for the past decade. MFRI research and outreach have played an important role in increasing understanding of military life and the challenges facing student service members and veterans in transitioning to postsecondary education and employment.

She stated they have approached Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio to serve as a Midwestern states consortium and share a commitment to making the process of evaluating and awarding military credit transfer more transparent, efficient, and consistent. Representatives from the states met in Indianapolis to discuss opportunities and challenges in awarding academic credit for military training experience. As a result, the MFRI is asking the states to agree to collaborate on addressing barriers and achieving solutions that can be implemented locally and serve as a regional and national model.

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Ms. Timmons went on to say First Lady Obama and Dr. Biden formed the Joining Forces Initiative at the national level to assist veterans and their families. The ICCB has participated in conversations and workshops with the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs and other national organizations to assist in the feasibility of an Illinois Joining Forces (IJF), which will now be launched at a collaborative Summit on November 9, 2012. She stated the IJF is a joint Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Military Affairs effort designed to better serve veterans, service members, and their families throughout the state. ICCB has been invited to participate in this Summit to establish concrete goals and action plans for training, education and greater collaboration that will improve support for service members, veterans, and their families.

ICCB has been working with the Illinois National Guard to identify high demand work force areas to assist with reintegration activities for their soldiers returning from deployment. Ms. Timmons stated the National Guard has identified the location of the returning service members and their military career fields and ICCB is working with them to locate education and training opportunities in similar fields.

Ms. Timmons reported the ICCB continues to work with the Illinois Vet Center and the mobile vet unit. They are in the second year of the state wide tour, and representatives from the Mobile Vet Center will present later today during the Board meeting.

In conclusion, Ms. Timmons announced an ICCB staff member has been invited to serve on the Illinois Advisory Council for Military Education, which will be reviewing military transcripts and articulation. The first meeting will be held on October 2nd to review the bi-laws and what is being done at the national level.

Item #4 – Legislative Update

Item #4.1 – Open Meetings Act Update

Mr. Morse went on to report on the new amendment to the Open Meetings Act, Public Act 97-0827. The amendment requires the posted agenda set forth the general subject matter of any resolution or ordinance that will be the subject of final action at the meeting. Mr. Morse stated that after checking with the Attorney general's office, this amendment can be interpreted as the Board cannot take final action (vote) on subject matter not already included on the posted agenda. The ICCB agendas routinely include "Action" items on which the Board will vote. This new amendment would prohibit final action votes on items not so listed on the agenda. Mr. Morse explained that such votes are rare for the ICCB but may occur when discussions on a non-action topic leads the Board to believe they need to take action. Such action must be part of a future agenda at which time a vote may be taken.

Steve Morse, Associate Vice President for External Affairs, reminded the Board members, who have not already, to complete the online training for the Open Meetings Act by December 31, 2012, except for Terry Bruce who has 90 days to complete the training. The training is mandatory for members of statewide boards and commissions.

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The training module can be found on the website of the Attorney General: <http://foia.ilattorneygeneral.net/>, and each Board member should register as “OMA Public Body Member.” The Board requested Ms. Knoedler resend the email to the members who have not completed the training.

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Item #5 – Changes in GED Testing

Dr. Karen hunter-Anderson, Vice President of Adult Education and Family Literacy, stated the change in GED testing was announced about a year ago but will not take effect until January, 2014. ICCB is looking for input and direction from the Board.

Jennifer Foster, Senior Director for Adult Education and Family Literacy and State Director for GED Testing, reported on July 6, 2005, the GED Testing Program transferred from the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) to the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB). Since this time, ICCB has provided guidance and oversight for 78 GED Testing Centers statewide.

Ms. Foster continued stating that from 2005-2008, the cost to take the GED was \$35.00. For the testing centers, the average testing cost was \$84 per test taker, which meant that Illinois GED Testing Centers were losing an average of \$49.00 per test taker. Approximately 26,000 individuals were tested annually, resulting in a statewide deficit of \$1.2 million. ICCB requested additional resources from the state legislature to offset the cost of administering the GED Test but did not receive any additional funds. In September, 2008, the Board approved a motion to increase the cost to take the GED to \$50.00.

Ms. Foster went on to say that in January, 2012, the American Council on Education (ACE) announced a merger with Pearson VUE to create GED Testing Service (GEDTS), LLC. Beginning January, 2014, all GED tests will be delivered by computer when GED Testing Service introduces a new assessment system. The computer-based testing system will improve the delivery and flexibility of the testing experience; however, it will also significantly increase the cost of taking the test. Ms. Foster also described the process for looking for alternative assessments. Currently there are no alternatives, but there have been discussion of the development of alternatives. However, these alternatives won't be available until later in 2014-2016. Ms. Foster stated that in order to ensure that there is an assessment available for IL, we must use the computer based testing through GEDTS.

Each testing center will be required to be a Pearson VUE Authorized Test Center (PVTC), and it is estimated that the cost of the test could increase, at a minimum, to \$120. Ms. Foster also stated that Illinois anticipates an additional cost of ten dollars to be added to the minimum cost for the GED certification and official transcripts, bringing the total to \$130. Other states have increased the cost to as much as \$150.00 or more.

By the end of 2013, all states must utilize GEDTS' computer-based testing or an alternative approach. However, the paper based testing will continue through the end of December 2013 and remain at a cost of 50.00 until the change to all computer based testing occurs in 2014.

Ms. Foster stated Illinois has a transition committee that has met twice over the last three months and has identified three pilot sites, which include Frontier Community College, Elgin Community College, and Sauk Valley Community College. In October, ICCB will hold its annual GED Examiner Meeting in which GED Testing Services and Pearson VUE will both be presenting.

Ms. Foster concluded by announcing that movement to computer-based testing will require the board to set the minimum cost and will need approval from the Board during their business meeting this afternoon.

Item #6 – Discussion on Online Degree Programs/Illinois Community Colleges Online (ILCCO)

Dr. Karen Hunter-Anderson introduced Jeff Newell, Director for Distance Learning & Education Technology Support, who has been involved with the ILCCO for the past 10 years. Mr. Newell began by stating that the online instruction has increased dramatically in almost all areas of education. In Illinois Community Colleges, online enrollments increased 36 percent between 2008 and 2011. Nearly one third of community college completers have taken at least one online course. Currently, there are 30 out of 48 colleges participating in ILCCO.

Mr. Newell explained that there are several benefits of online instruction for students: flexibility of when and where students can “attend” class; an increase in the availability of diverse material; an enhanced knowledge of the technological skills that will be critical to workers in the 21st century; and the facilitation of team learning through chat rooms and newsgroups.

Online courses can be a convenient and cost effective way to earn college credits, certificates, and degrees. In addition, online courses can be a flexible way for a college to add additional courses or sections and to share courses with students outside of their districts.

In fall 2002, ILCCO was opened to all Illinois Community Colleges providing students access to online courses available at institutions throughout the state but with the emphasis of focusing their learning through their local college. ILCCO is a platform for colleges to work together to provide leadership, facilitate collaboration and share resources in online and technology-enhanced education. It remains committed to course sharing between colleges, creating access to instruction so students can achieve their educational goals.

The increased emphasis on technological literacy in education and in the workforce makes online course options in Illinois Community Colleges more significant. An examination of the role of ILCCO in the Illinois Community College System, the affordability and access to online courses, and the proliferation of online courses through for-profit educational institutions could provide insights into a strategic plan for online education in Illinois Community Colleges.

Mr. Newell concluded his report with the following list of online learning issues community colleges are dealing with in order to meet the demands of online courses and programs:

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1. Online Services - The Higher Learning Commission provides a process that reviews the content being provided during the courses and programs to make sure it is correct.
2. Student identity – Confirms the student participating in the online class is who they say they are which stems from the Higher Education Reauthorization Act.
3. Expanded opportunity for online course sharing and collaboration – increase educational access to students.
4. State Authorization – In recent federal regulations from the Department of Education, colleges who have a distance learning student from another state registered there, that college needs to be authorized in the student's state to be able to teach that student legally. This requires all the community colleges to be authorized in up to 49 states if they plan on serving distance learning students outside the State of Illinois, which adds more work and sometimes more costs to the colleges. The Illinois Board of higher Education is the authorizing agency in Illinois.

Illinois Community Colleges Online allows students to take online courses through a different college, if not offered through the college the student is enrolled in, which allows the student to stay on course with completing their degrees.

5. Competition from for-profits - For-profits are so effective due to their aggressive and efficient marketing skills. Overall, 23 percent of their budget is spent on marketing in comparison to community colleges which spends roughly 1 percent. Mr. Newell went on to say that for-profits are very responsive with a quick turnaround when students call with questions; Veterans use Phoenix due to the availability of courses and programs, unlike some state colleges' online courses and programs getting filled quickly; and for-profits also receive more financial aid funds and grants.

Suzanne Morris stated this is an area ICCB could be stronger in and requested Mr. Newell and Dr. Anderson bring more specific information and possibly a few recommendations on how to improve the community college online learning.

Item #7 – Updates on Board Committees

Item #7.1 – Fiscal, Personnel, Ethics, and Conflict of Interest

Ellen Andres, Chief Financial Officer, began by distributing a document explaining the State of Illinois owes the community colleges a total of 72.5 million for Fiscal Year 2012. The colleges will not receive funding for Fiscal Year 2013 until the 72.5 million has been paid.

Item #7.2 – Adult Education, Research and Education Technology

Michael Dorf stated the information discussed within Jennifer Foster and Jeff Newell's presentations cover this committee's report.

Item #7.3 – Academic Affairs and Workforce Development

Tom Pulver stated the information discussed within the earlier presentations cover this committee’s report, except for one item; the Illinois Tollway Authority is offering an additional opportunity for the minority women who own construction businesses. They are making it possible for some of the smaller contractors to get involved. Dr. Johnson stated that the Illinois Tollway Authority is in the process of sub-contracting with the ICCB on this opportunity, similar to the work IDOT is conducting with the ICCB.

Item #7.4 – External Affairs

Steve Morse, Associate Vice President for External Affairs, stated the committee did not meet; however, there will be legislation that will be brought to the committee and the Board for approval at the November meetings.

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Work Session ended at 12:00 p.m.

Suzanne Morris
Board Vice Chair

Geoffrey Obrzut
President and Chief Executive Officer