APPROVED

Retreat of the

Illinois Community College Board

Heartland Community College

1500 West Raab Road

Community Commons Building (CCB)

Room 1406/07

Normal, IL

August 29, 2024

**RECOMMENDED ACTION**

It is recommended that the following motion be adopted:

The Illinois Community College Board hereby approves the Board minutes of the August 29, 2024, meeting as recorded.

**Item #1 – Roll Call and Declaration of Quorum**

Chair Lopez called the Retreat to order at 10:00 a.m. and asked Ann Knoedler to call roll. The following Board members were present: Craig Bradley, An-Me Chung, Marlon McClinton, Sylvia Jenkins, Larry Peterson, Maureen Banks, George Evans, and Aubrey Hebenstreit, student board member, were present. Mara Botman cannot attend due to illness and will participate virtually after being voted into the meeting. Teresa Garate was absent. A quorum was declared.

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Chair Lopez stated that Board member Mara Botman is unable to attend today’s meeting due to illness. According to Section 7 of the Open Meetings Act, Mara Botman may participate in today’s meeting virtually and the Board needs a motion to allow her to attend.

Craig Bradley made a motion, which was seconded by George Evans, to allow Board member Mara Botman to participate in today’s Board meeting virtually.

The motion was approved via unanimous voice vote. Student member vote: Yes.

Mara Botman stated, for the record, she is at her home in Chicago due to illness and unable to attend the Board meeting in person.

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Maureen Banks arrived at 10:03 AM

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**Item #2 - Announcements and Remarks by Dr. Lazaro Lopez, Board Chair**

Chair Lopez welcomed everyone to the annual Board Retreat. He went on to thank Heartland Community College for allowing the Board to host the retreat on their campus.

This is not a typical Board meeting. There are no action items, other than to adjourn. The retreat is held to discuss some important areas and to consider the Board’s priorities and direction. The Chair continued by quickly going through what items the Board will discuss throughout the day.

He concluded his comments by highlighting the National Adult Education and Family Literacy Week that will take place the week of September 15th. The hard work and dedication of adult educators across the system is appreciated and should be acknowledged. Adult Ed week is used to raise awareness of the vital services provided by adult education programs across the country, which empower millions of adults to achieve better job opportunities, complete their high school equivalency, and pursue higher education. The event also celebrates the partnerships between educators, organizations, and policymakers that work to address the educational needs of adults, while advocating for more resources and support to ensure equitable access to lifelong learning opportunities.

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| **Item #3 - Overview of the Adequacy and Equity in Community Colleges Funding Working Group**  At the June 7th, 2024, ICCB Board meeting, the Board directed the Executive Director to convene a working group of key community college stakeholders representing the ethnic, racial, and geographic diversity of the community college system. Since then, the Working Group has solidified its membership, convened once at the ICCB offices in Springfield, and has scheduled future meetings. As a part of the Retreat, the Board heard a brief update from Brian Durham, Working Group Co-Chair, and Board Member George Evans, Working Group Co-Chair, on this first convening and discussed the general direction of the work. |
| **Item #3.1 - Presentation on the Illinois Community College Funding White Paper: Trends in Funding Principles, Mechanisms, and Measures**  In anticipation of the convening of the Adequacy and Equity in Community College Funding Working Group, the agency commissioned the development of a white paper to review previous efforts aimed at reviewing and / or modifying the community college funding structure and methods. Dr. Carrie Henderson and Katie Grissom of TSG Advisors, who led the drafting of the paper, provided a presentation on the document. |
| \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  An-Me Chung arrived at 10:22 AM  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  **Item #3.2 - A Short Refresher on the Community College Funding Formula**  Jennifer Franklin, Deputy Director for Finance and Administration, provided a brief presentation and overview of the community college funding formulas. |
| **Item #3.3 - A Discussion about specific areas of consideration by the Adequacy and Equity Working Group**  There was no discussion regarding this topic. Executive Director Brian Durham provided each Board member with a document to fill out that will list their suggestions. |
| \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  At this time, the Board took a break at 11:46 am and returned at 12:00 pm.  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  **Item #4 - From Collection to Dissemination: Understanding ICCB’s Data and Reports**  ICCB is the State Education Authority responsible for collecting and maintaining Illinois community college enrollment, completion, student characteristics, and related information. The standardized processes to collect and maintain data from the community colleges within the robust ICCB Centralized Data System was highlighted during the meeting. The protocols and dissemination of data for accountability reporting in statute was discussed, as well as, how it is utilized for reports and other high-impact data initiatives.  **Item #5 - Emerging Issues across Illinois’ Colleges: A Panel Discussion**  Deputy Executive Director Jennifer Foster facilitated a panel discussion of community college presidents who considered the challenges and opportunities facing their institutions today and what they are doing to address these areas. Participating presidents included Dr. Tracy Morris of Illinois Valley Community College, Dr. Jeremy Thomas of Black Hawk College, and Dr. Brian Knetl, of Waubonsee Community College. Some of the topics discussed were:   * Funding and Resources: What are the biggest financial challenges your institution is currently facing, and how are you addressing them? * Mental Health and Student Support: What are the most pressing mental health issues among your student population, and how are you addressing them with the resources available? * Student Enrollment and Retention: How has student enrollment been affected by recent trends, and what strategies are you implementing to improve student retention? * Community Engagement: What role does your community college play in the local community, and what challenges do you encounter in maintaining strong community partnerships? * Equity and Inclusion: What initiatives have you undertaken to promote equity and inclusion on your campus, and what challenges have you encountered in this area? * Technology and Online Learning: How has the shift towards online and hybrid learning impacted your institution, and what are the main challenges you face in delivering quality education through these modalities? Cell phone usage/ban? * What would be one thing you would like the Board to address?   \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  At this time, the Board took a break at 1:26 pm and returned at 1:36 pm.  \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*  **Item #6 - FY2025 Legislative Agenda**  Staff member Matt Berry provided an overview and discussion of proposed legislative agenda items for the Boards consideration. The Board discussed these items in length. They will vote on the items at the December 2024 or January 2025 Board meeting.  **Item #7 - Revisiting the Board Goals, Board Work Streams, and Committee Structure for FY25**  Every year the Board reviews its stated goals and considers what, if any changes are necessary. This typically occurs as a part of the Board Retreat and is voted on in the next regular Board Session. In addition, the Board considers its areas of interest and themes for the fiscal year, and any proposed revisions to committee structure and membership. For this meeting, Chair Lopez led a discussion on these areas and what changes or updates might be necessary. As a reminder, the ICCB goal statement is:  The Board hereby supports and affirms the mission of the state’s community college system in providing all Illinois residents with opportunities for economic and personal growth, civic engagement, and cultural awareness. The Board is committed to working with community colleges to ensure racial and ethnic diversity on our campuses and to promote inclusive learning environments. The system’s commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion is essential to students’ personal and professional growth and success academically, social-emotionally, and in the workforce. To meet this responsibility, the Board has committed to the following three goals:  GOAL 1: To support all students with a focus on minority, first-generation, and low-income students across urban, rural, and suburban communities, through the promotion of evidence-based best practices that close equity gaps resulting in system-wide improvement of equity metrics across enrollment, retention, advancement, and completion.  GOAL 2: To support a seamless transition for students into and through postsecondary education and the workforce by fostering the development of robust career pathways aligned to the needs of business and industry, strong engagement at all levels of the community college system, and with a focus on meeting students where they begin their educational journey, resulting in equitable access and outcomes for all students.  GOAL 3: To contribute to economic and workforce development by supporting the Illinois community college system’s effort to provide high-quality, dynamic workforce training opportunities that build essential skills for high-value work through apprenticeships, work-based learning opportunities, and competency-based instructional models that result in equitable economic mobility through increased credential attainment.  The Board will implement its goals with a focus and commitment to equitable access, opportunities, and outcomes for all students. The Board will promote best practices, enable evidence-based decision-making, and support system-wide continuous improvement.  The Board will reaffirm these goals during the September Board meeting.  The Board briefly listed a few topics they would like to discuss during the upcoming regularly scheduled board meetings:   * Student completion and retention * Long term investment funding for the colleges * Student basic needs * How does IL compare to what other states are doing * Better understand how AI is used   The Chair asked if the committee structures and meeting times were working. Everyone agreed it was working well.  **Item #8 – Adjournment** |
| George Evans made a motion, which was seconded by Maureen Banks, to adjourn the Board Retreat at 2:43 p.m.  The motion was approved via unanimous voice vote. Student Board member vote: yes. |