MINUTES – BOARD WORKING SESSION
April 6, 2010

Submitted for: Action.


Action Requested: That the Illinois Board of Higher Education approve the Minutes of the April 6, 2010, working session.
A working session for Board members and staff of the Illinois Board of Higher Education was held on Tuesday, April 6, 2010, at 10:30 a.m. at Harold Washington College in Room 102, Chicago, Illinois.

The following Board members were present:

Carrie H. Hightman, Chair
Jay D. Bergman
Frances G. Carroll
Alice Hayes
Don McNeil
John Minogue
Proshanta Nandi
William Obuchowski
Santos Rivera
Elmer L. Washington
Addison E. Woodward, Jr.

The following IBHE staff were present:

Michael Afolayan
Mike Baumgartner
Bob Blankenberger
Judy Erwin
Bill Feurer
Ocheng Jany
Mike Mann
Candace Mueller
Linda Oseland
Don Sevener
Arthur Sutton

Academic Affairs Committee Chairman Elmer Washington called the working session to order at 10:30 a.m.

Chairman Washington welcomed Board members and introduced Dr. Ross Hodel and Dr. Lynne Haefele from the Center for the Study of Education Policy at Illinois State University.

Dr. Hodel and Dr. Haefele presented the first part of a special study on proprietary higher educational institutions in Illinois, with special emphasis on comparisons of Illinois regulatory statutes as compared to other states. Dr. Hodel noted that a national Education Commission of the States (ECS) study in the early 2000’s showed Illinois at that time was considered to be one of the leading states in this area.

The report triggered numerous questions and comments. Most of the questions and comments related as to the role of current statutes and rules in the context of the rapid increase in size of proprietary higher education in recent years. Key issues identified included, but were not limited to, the following:
1. The existing relationship in the regulatory process of the state, the accrediting agencies and the federal government and whether those relationships should be changed or could be improved?

2. Has the rapid growth of proprietary schools created any special problems for the IBHE as it approves new institutions and degree programs?

3. Do other states have regulatory approaches that could or should be considered by Illinois?

4. Are reciprocity agreements with other states appropriate?

5. Should communication channels with other regulatory bodies be formalized?

6. In the event of misrepresentation by an institution of higher education, are legal remedies available to IBHE, students, or others adequate?

7. Are present funding mechanisms fair and equitable? Do those mechanisms distort or adversely affect higher education patterns in any way?

8. Are there ways to measure success rates or outcomes among the various classes of institutions that would be valuable for the regulatory process?

Two articles were distributed to the Board that also provided some context for responding to the selected questions and/or making recommendations: *How Colleges Are Buying Respect* by Daniel Golden from the March 15, 2010, issue of *Bloomberg Businessweek* and *For-Profit Colleges Change Higher Education's Landscape - Nimble companies gain a fast-growing share of enrollments* by Robin Wilson from the February 7, 2010, issue of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Chairman Washington requested that meeting attendees submit any suggestions or other areas of concern to him. A Board working session is tentatively planned in conjunction with the August 10, 2010, Board meeting for the purpose of considering additional changes and/or recommendations.

No resolutions were offered nor were any votes sought or taken.

The working session was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.