P-20 Joint Education Leadership Committee
Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 10th at 1:30pm

Lt. Governor’s Capitol Office
Springfield, IL

Lt. Governor’s Chicago Office
James R. Thompson Center
Chicago, IL

A- Roll call and approval April 2012 meeting minutes

Springfield
 Lt. Governor Sheila Simon
 Superintendent Chris Koch, IL State Board of Education
 Director George Reid, IL Board of Higher Education
 Director Brenda Klostermann, IL Education Research Council
 Susie Morrison, IL State Board of Education
 Bob Blankenberger, IL Board of Higher Education
 Al Phillips, IL Board of Higher Education
 Elaine Johnson, IL Community College Board
 Karen Hunter Anderson, IL Community College Board
 Julie Smith, Governor’s Office
 Maria Capoccia, Lt. Governor’s Office
 Lynne Haeffele, Lt. Governor’s Office
 Crystal Olsen, Lt. Governor’s Office
 Dean Debasish Dutta, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Chicago
 Director Eric Zarnikow, Illinois Student Assistance Commission
 Jason Tyszko, IL Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
 Lizzanne DeStefano, P-20 Council
 Amber Kirchhoff, Governor’s Office

Phone
 Miguel del Valle, P-20 Council Chairman
 Max McGee, P-20 Data Assessment and Accountability Committee

Absent
 President Geoff Obrzut, IL Community College Board
Lt. Governor Simon asked for a motion to approve the minutes. A motion was made by George Reid and seconded by Eric Zarnikow. Motion was passed unanimously.

**B- Presentation on the National Clean Energy Education Workshop held last Fall (Dean Debasish Dutta of the University of Illinois)**

Dean Debasish Dutta stated that in order for the country to have access to clean and sustainable energy, education on energy needs to expand. Over 100 people attended the National Clean Energy Workshop in October of 2011 at the University of Illinois. The workshop, developed by eight major science institutes, was funded by the National Science Foundation. To Dutta’s knowledge, it was the first ever national clean energy education workshop of its kind.

As part of the U of I’s clean energy initiative, starting in Fall 2012, the University will begin offering five Clean Energy Education Fellowships for doctoral students annually. The fellows will engage K-12 and do outreach as part of the program. To provide a framework for their grassroots effort, they want to develop a clean energy learning software for K-12 for which U of I is seeking federal and private funds.

Dutta indicated that the University applied for an energy STEM learning exchange, but did not get accepted. Jason Tyszko said that the energy sector was not targeted for the initial launch of exchanges.

Dutta mentioned that Germany and the UK are interested in organizing an annual global summit on clean energy education. He said this summit in the planning stages, and he hopes the first conference will be held in Chicago in 2013.

Dutta wants help establishing a framework for an initiative in clean energy at the state level. Julie Smith said she would talk to state agencies about having Dutta work with them.

Lt. Governor Simon indicated that a JELC agenda item on this topic would be added in the coming months to check back in.

**C- Update on ILDS governance (Director Reid)**

George Reid stated that the ILDS governance group is now called the LDS Governance Council, and that 20 people attended the last meeting. The group is seeking legislation to formally establish itself as the governance group for the ILDS in order to get the LDS running by the mandated date of July 2013. Reid said that there has been some trepidation with the proposed legislation due to the size of the group proposed. Concerns have also been voiced by IEA and IFT.

Chris Koch indicated that legislation may need to wait until veto session. Other JELC members agreed.

Max McGee said a conference call on the subject is scheduled for tomorrow morning, and all JELC members are invited to join in the conversation.

**D- Update on RTTT3 and the NCLB Waiver Application (Superintendent Koch)**

Chris Koch reiterated known issues with the Illinois RTTT3 and the NCLB Waiver Application acceptance. With RTTT3, ISBE was able to assuage some concerns from the U.S. Department of Education in regards
to JCAR action. With the waiver, there have been indications that the Department of Education would require Illinois to change the teacher evaluation timeline, so they are in negotiations.

Koch indicated that ISBE still intends to raise the Basic Skills Test cut scores. He said that Illinois is in the position to lead the nation in this regard.

Miguel del Valle said we have not done enough to get students ready for the test. He asked what we need to do help students succeed. Koch stated that he hopes ISBE will be able to provide the practice test for free to help get students prepared.

Bob Blankenberger and Elaine Johnson outlined IBHE and ICCB college programs that can help prepare students for the Basic Skills Test. Johnson mentioned that we could move the test up to the end of high school/beginning of college, when the knowledge applicable to the test will be fresher in their minds. This idea was met with general approval by JELC members.

Koch, Blankenberger, and Johnson will meet to discuss an action plan.

E- Update on Illinois Pathways (Jason Tyszko)

Jason Tyszko said that the IL Pathways Interagency Committee recently held a meeting where they decided which pathways sectors to move forward with for the first round of learning exchanges. Of the 9 STEM areas, they have selected 5 areas for implementation grants and 3 for planning grants. Agriculture, health sciences, research and development, information technology and manufacturing all received implementation grants. Finance, transportation/distribution/logistics, energy received planning grants. RFSP documents have been prepared by DCEO and ISBE. Those documents are now available and applications will be due in July. They hope to designate the first round of learning exchanges by August 2012. Given that this initiative is funded through RTTT, a one-time infusion of cash, they will be looking for ways to continue to fund the learning exchanges.

Tyszko asked that no offices or agencies write letters of support for those applying for learning exchanges in order to avoid conflicts of interest.

F- Update on Illinois Shared Learning Environment (Jason Tyszko)

Jason Tyszko stated that a scope of work has been targeted for one third of the $12 million capital program for SLE development. Once the SLE is online they hope to first connect with RTTT districts. Right now the learning environment is being developed, Illini Cloud system infrastructure is being built out, and potential data warehouses at the U of I are being identified. Tyszko said it will take about two years to get the SLE up and running.

In regards to the ongoing shared learning collaboration with four other states and the Gates and Carnegie Foundations, a major goal is to create learning maps tied to the Common Core Standards which would tag resources from all over the web to assist with the personalization of learning. DCEO and Southern Illinois University’s Illinois Work Net division are working to develop learning maps of Common Core Math for CTE programs.

G- Discussion of the OAG management audit of the College Illinois! Prepaid Tuition Program (Director Zarnikow)
Eric Zarnikow said that College Illinois! is the state’s pre-paid tuition program which was started in the late 1990s. From June 2007 to June 2009 College Illinois! went from over 90% funded to under 68% funded when the stock market crashed. To try to make up the shortfall, the administration at the time moved to more aggressive alternative investments, and they made some bad choices with those investments.

Due to bad press surrounding the program, the legislature directed the Auditor General to do a management audit of College Illinois!, who looked at ISAC’s finances for six fiscal years. Fifteen recommendations were made and ISAC has accepted all of them. Almost all of the ISAC board has been replaced, as have much of the staff. Zarnikow and the board are committed to fixing things and hope to eventually reopen the program, though legislation may be needed to do a more comprehensive fix to the program, mainly in regards to risks surrounding tuition.

Zarnikow indicated that the plan is funded until 2021 with no immediate liquidity issues.

Del Valle said that we need to communicate with people currently enrolled in the program that there is nothing to fear and that the program will be funded.

**H- Update on ISAC initiatives to advance the 60-25 goal (Director Zarnikow)**

**FAFSA Completion**

Eric Zarnikow said that FAFSA completion is highly important because it allows students to receive federal PELL grants, state aid, and school aid. Illinois brings in about $1 billion a year for PELL. Studies have shown that FAFSA completion is highly correlated with college attendance, and that 95% of people who complete the form go to college.

Right now ISAC has a pilot program going on where they match names of students who have completed FAFSAs to high school seniors so that ISAC is able to tell a school who has completed it and who hasn’t, which helps schools focus efforts on getting students to file the form. This pilot has been taking place with CPS since FY 2007, and over the last six years they have had great success. They have been able to increase FAFSA completion from 58% to over 87% and those receiving MAP grants from 27% to 41%. The program has been scaled up statewide and now includes more than 200 high schools serving over 80 towns. They have seen that during the first year of participation in the program that high schools tend to see 5-8% growth in the percent of students completing the FAFSA.

The U.S. Department of Education has used this pilot program as a model to roll out nationwide in the next few years.

A setback in this area is that the MAP cutoff date has moved from August to March, which disproportionally hurts at-risk populations.

**2+2**

Zarnikow stated that the 2 +2 program tries to help reduce the student debt burden by allowing well-qualified students who are on track to attend a 4-year institution attend a community college and bank the additional funds they would have received if they went to the 4-year school for their junior and senior years of college. It is still to be seen how successful this program will be. Strong articulation
agreements are integral in this program. 18 community colleges and 9 or 10 4-year institutions are now participating. ISAC needs more 4-year schools to buy-in.

MAP Student Graduation Rates
Zarnikow indicated that there is a lot of confusion around MAP and MAP student graduation rates, especially in the General Assembly. He said for full-time students at public universities the graduation rate is about 60%, which compares favorably with national graduation rates. For MAP recipients beginning at community colleges, the graduation rate is about 35%, which is actually higher than the national and statewide rates of around 32%. From a public policy perspective, the MAP program is highly successful as many MAP recipients are the first in the family to go to college and/or low-income students.

Currently, there are several discussions taking place surrounding MAP allocation which will be addressed in the new MAP Task Force.

I- Discussion on the change in federal Pell Grant eligibility-effects on Accelerating Opportunity and other programs (Director Zarnikow, Karen Hunter Anderson)

Eric Zarnikow said that a change to the federal PELL “ability to benefit” rule will now exempt some students from receiving PELL grants. This affects a small population, about 2.3% of all FAFSA filers or 1.6% of MAP recipients.

Karen Hunter Anderson said that though this change affects a low percentage of all PELL recipients, it has a large impact on some student populations, such as those in adult education programs at community colleges. In some adult education programs, this change will affect up to 90% of students. Anderson has been working with U.S. Senate staff in Washington to get funding restored so that these students don’t fall through the cracks. The change would affect the Accelerating Opportunity program greatly.

Jason Tyszko said that DCEO’s Workforce Bureau, which works to meet wraparound needs of adult student populations, would also be affected.

J- Briefing on the IERC “Report on College Readiness and Postsecondary Outcomes of Illinois High School Students” (Brenda Klostermann)

Brenda Klostermann said the report looks at college readiness through ACT benchmarks with the cohort of 2003 high school graduates. IERC studied at the distribution of readiness associated with gender, race, and parental income and readiness effects on bachelor’s degree completion. They found that 35% of students were not ready in any subject, and that only 18.4% of students were ready in all subjects. They also found that meeting the science benchmark often drove the meeting all benchmarks. Broken down by race, African-Americans and Hispanics had very low all-benchmark achievement (3%; 5%) and had high percentages of no-benchmarks met (61%; 57%) when compared with Asian and White students (29%; 24% all-benchmarks, 23%; 24% no-benchmarks). Also, a disproportionately high number of non-Asian minority students fell into the lower income categories (roughly 80%).

The IERC found that White students meeting none of the ACT benchmarks had a higher rate of college completion than African-American students meeting two of the benchmarks, so it is clear that some supports are missing for that student population. Poverty seems to be a factor.
In the most highly competitive schools, students of different races who have met all four benchmarks complete bachelor’s degrees at similar rates, closing the achievement gap. Rates of completion for students meeting all four benchmarks remain relatively close in very competitive and competitive institutions, however in less/non competitive institutions, Hispanic (30.8%) and African-American (52%) students complete degrees at lower rates than Asians (73.3%) and Whites (65.0%) despite their level of college readiness.

**K- Briefing on the Classrooms First Commission draft recommendations (Lynne Haeffele)**

Lynne Haeffele said that the Classrooms First Commission has released its draft recommendations. She indicated that many of the recommendations are on improving shared services and have a P-20 approach. One such recommendation proposes the elimination of seat time/Carnegie units. There is also a billion dollar “jackpot” recommendation which could help districts save on operating costs through a web-based resource management service. If districts in Illinois save 5% of operating costs through shared services initiated by this resource management service, a billion dollars could be saved and redirected into the classroom. A pilot of a similar service in Ohio showed that participating districts on average saved about 5% in operational costs, but some business officials in Illinois think our districts could save up to 10-15%.

Final recommendations will be released at the end of June. Haeffele asked that anyone with suggestions contact the Lt. Governor’s Office.

Chris Koch said that he is glad to see the Commission recommended a rework of the school district reorganization incentives, in addition to some other great recommendations. He indicated that he is excited to get working.

**L- Legislative update (Julie Smith)**

Julie Smith asked that everyone call their local representatives in the next week to help fix Medicaid and pensions. A legislative update document was distributed.

**M- Discussion of Lumina grant opportunity (Lynne Haeffele)**

Haeffele said that an RFP has been released by the Lumina Foundation for a grant to look at the concept of “reverse transfer.”

Elaine Johnson indicated that ICCB would like to pursue this grant for several reasons. First, reverse transfer pilots have already been started in northern Illinois. Also, the Higher Learning Commission is putting out new guidelines stating that the last 15 hours of an associate’s degree must be completed at the degree-granting institution and the last 30 hours must be earned at a bachelorette-granting institution. This could be a major problem. However, the Higher Learning Commission may give waivers to states that are actively pursuing reverse transfer implementation, though it must be a statewide policy. The new guidelines may come out in July and will have a huge impact.

Brenda Klostermann said they would be interested in helping submit the RFP.
Johnson said the due date for a submission is June 27, so ICCB, IBHE, and IERC will coordinate to complete the application.

N- Discussion of P-20 letter on improving our lowest performing schools (Lizanne DeStefano)

Lizanne DeStefano stated that on May 2nd, the P-20 Council sent a letter on lowest performing schools to Superintendent Koch urging ISBE to examine what works in those schools through research or examination studies. She said there is a need for data analysis at those schools.

Chris Koch said that the U.S. Department of Education is doing some analysis and he is encouraged by Illinois’ numbers, though he will be investigating how to make further improvements.

O- Notice for “Tomorrow’s Teachers, Today’s Standards: Summit on Integrating Common Core Into Educator Prep Programs” (Bob Blankenberger)

Bob Blankenberger said that ISBE, ICCB, and IBHE will be holding a summit on revisions to teacher education programs on June 6th in Bloomington. Over the next few years 900 educator prep programs at 68 institutions in Illinois will need to integrate the Common Core through vertical curriculum integration. Best practices for integration will be shared at this summit. Everyone from the JELC is welcome to come. Registration is online.

P- Discussion of mid-year update on P-20 recommendation progress to take place at the July JELC meeting (Maria Capoccia)

Maria Capoccia stated that the JELC will review deliverables which were committed to in the January 2012 JELC Report during the July meeting. More information on that review will be distributed at the next meeting in June.

Q- Other business

Lynne Haeffele indicated that she had recently attended a conference with 850 college admissions and high school guidance counselors. She said they are a very dynamic group who can be a great resource for the P-20, so we should get them involved however we can.

R- Next meeting is Thursday, June 21st

S- Adjournment