

Board of Directors Meeting

Minutes: September 19, 2025



Association for Institutional Research Virtual Board of Directors Meeting September 19, 2025

Attendees: Craig Abbey (Parliamentarian), Angie Bell, Vincent Castano, Bethany Crowell (Treasurer), Brent Drake (Chair), Ivana Fredotovic, Adrea Hernandez (Vice Chair), Liile Lekena-Bayaga, Jillian Morn, Debbie Phelps, David Rudden (Secretary)

Guests: Christine Keller, Jason Lewis, Miguel Pineiro Vigo, and Leah Ross from the AIR Executive Office

Absent: Yenny Anderson

Call to Order

Brent Drake called the meeting to order at 11:06 (EST). A quorum was established.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Angie Bell moved to accept the minutes of the August 26th, 2025 board meeting. Vincent Castano seconded.

There were no questions or comments related to the meeting minutes

The motion passed.

Board Committee Updates

Discussion of Rising Star Award Criteria

There has been confusion from the nominations review committee regarding the criteria for the rising star award. Last year's nomination review committee asked that the Board consider clarifying the award's criteria. There were two common areas of confusion.

From Overview: The award "recognizes institutional research (IR) professionals who are early in their careers and are emerging leaders." Questions from previous selection committees that arose: Is this limited to those with IR titles or working in IR offices, or should it include institutional effectiveness and other data professionals?

From Criteria: "A maximum of seven years of experience in the profession." Questions from previous selection committees that arose: Is the profession limited to IR, and should the 7 years refer to IR experience specifically, or to overall data professional experience?

Discussion focused on whether the award should consider only higher education experience or all "data-related" prior experience. The conversation included the many ways that institutions name their offices that serve institutional research functions/services (IR, IE, assessment, analytics, etc.) and the various possible reporting

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lines for each; that roles beyond “IR” should be considered because of recent addition of organizational membership option; and whether “rising star” is meant to be “early career” or “early in IR”.

The Board agreed to broaden the language to be inclusive of data roles in higher education and to specify that the award is intended to acknowledge professionals early in their data careers and future award nomination committees should be empowered to determine what that means. Brent Drake will draft language for the Board’s review.

Treatment of Stakeholders Monitoring Report

David Rudden moved that the Treatment of Stakeholders Monitoring Report was delivered on time, that the interpretations are reasonable, and that the data supports the interpretations. Debbie Phelps seconded. There were no questions for the executive director.

The motion passed.

Executive Director Updates

Christine Keller provided an update on AIR’s plan to respond to the revised IPEDS admissions requirements. AIR will continue to work in the advocacy space and elevate voices in response to these new requirements while also supporting individuals who report the data through educational offerings. Additional updates included new educational offerings, the AIR Forum call for proposals, and conversations with funders about their interests in light of new developments in higher education overall.

Colleagues at RTI are working to address the new reporting requirements; Christine shared two potential approaches with Board members for their reactions to provide to RTI.

A question from the RTI group to ask some questions. Wanted to ask us for feedback.

The committee moved into executive session at 12:22p (EST).

Adrea Hernandez departed the meeting at 12:23p (EST)

New Business

No new business was brought forward.

Adjournment

Brent Drake moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:24p (EST). Jillian Morn seconded.

The motion passed.