

**ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Meeting at Kaskaskia College 2/15/2013

Minutes approved 3/15/2013

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:

Abbas Aminmansour (UIUC)
Gisele Atterberry (Joliet Junior College)
David Bardack (UIC)
Daniel Beach (at-large, Dominican University)
Jim Betts (Monmouth College)
Jonathan Boehning (Kaskaskia College)
Len Bogle (University of Illinois Springfield)
Rick Deutsch (John A. Logan College)
Bill Hampes (Black Hawk College)
Andy Howard (IIT)
Les Hyder (EIU)
Calvin Jarrell (SIUE)
Allan Karnes (SIUC)
Barbara Mackey (Lewis University)
Patricia McNicholas (Robert Morris University)
Larry Modaff (Waubansee Community College)
Pam Moriearty (Lincoln College)
Sally Field Mullan (College of DuPage)
Douglas Okey (at-large, Spoon River College)
Devi Potluri (Chicago State University)
Steven Rock (WIU)
Phyllis Sander (Shawnee Community College)
Andy Schott (Prairie State College)
Shawn Schumacher (at-large, Devry University-Addison)
Aida Shekib (GSU)

From IBHE: Ocheng Jany, Alan Phillips

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Dawn Allred (MacMurray College)
Sonya Armstrong (NIU)
Steve Depasquale (at-large, Kankakee Community College)
Marie Donovan (at-large, DePaul)
John Frendreis (Loyola University)
Mike Gizzi (ISU)
Judith Gouwens (Roosevelt)
Lyle Hicks (Danville Area Community College)
Lisa Hollis-Sawyer (NEIU)
Donna McCauley (Moraine Valley Community College)
Duce McCune (Eureka College)

Abbas called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Jon introduced twelve year Kaskaskia College (KC) President James Underwood, under whose leadership enrollment has grown to 12,000. Underwood noted that KC's district serves 5 counties and many students are place bound and time bound. That is one reason for the University Alliance, where area institutions offer courses at KC. Their Veterans Tribute project going up on campus is privately funded. A priority is enrollment management where the goal is to keep enrollment at the current desired level. There are new program and degree offerings as well as constructing a new nursing building and an agricultural arena. There are 5,000 on-campus students; the rest are off-campus. Allan raised a concern that many students in the southern Illinois area don't stay after graduation. Underwood responded that economic development in the region is important so there will be local jobs. KC is unique in that they provide a full 2 year scholarship for every GED graduate; this is one of their success stories. They have 17 high schools in their district and all have Dual Credit programs with KC.

Abbas reported that he attended a meeting as a member of Team Illinois, which included legislators, business leaders, and academics. He will be making plans for someone from FAC to attend the next P-20 Council meeting. An election committee will be constituted at our March meeting. Regarding the proposed Faculty Fellowship program at IBHE, Interim Executive Director Berman's preference now is to wait until his position is permanently filled before proceeding.

Ocheng announced that Dan Cullen was appointed as Deputy Director of Academic Affairs at IBHE; this leaves a staff vacancy and the position will be advertised shortly. Cullen will join us at our March meeting. Alan Phillips indicated that a search firm is being solicited to help with the IBHE Executive Director position. The time line is to fill that position by July 1. Due to a retirement, ICCB is also looking for an executive director with the same time frame.

Caucuses met. It was decided that election of representatives to serve on IAI panels would be put off until our March meeting so more information can be distributed. Aida noted the Public Caucus discussed Les' paper on the history of Illinois public pensions and that the value of higher education paper is being constructed. Shawn indicated that the Private Caucus discussed the rotation schedule and the role of the "big 6". Gisele reported that the Community College Caucus considered contract negotiations (Spoon River and DuPage have settled) and the importance of Board of Trustee members who are qualified and interested.

Dr. Lynne Haeffele, Senior Policy Director for Education in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, outlined Sheila Simon's tour of all Illinois community colleges and public universities. The findings were presented to us under the title "Game Changers: Affordability, Persistence, Completion, and the Critical Role of Faculty". Haeffele then asked us to consider how faculty can contribute to various innovative practices. Under "awarding the most credit and credentials for time and money spent" Sally suggested promoting 3 + 1 agreements, where the 3rd year would be taught at a community college

by 4-year institution faculty, under a blended tuition rate. Considering “streamlining time to degree”, Gisele noted that we don’t want to cut out the soft skills such as communication. Andy H. added that reducing hours for a major may dilute the degree, even though looking at degrees is important and required. Sally stated that employers are often looking for more skills, requiring more hours. Bill referred to a PBS program suggesting focusing on specific remediation needs rather than complete courses.

For “providing student support programs with intensive financial/academic advisement”, Dan indicated that his school sends out online notification of early warning grades along with recommendations. Jim’s institution has various triggers for notification, with copies going to the student affairs office; this becomes problematic in courses with large enrollments. Pam’s notification includes the contributing factors, such as attendance, along with recommendations. Devi felt that poor students don’t change after being given this information. Aida suggested that tutoring works best. Len added that changing demographics means more intervention is necessary. Andy H. mentioned that FERPA rules can limit knowledge about our individual students. At Richard’s college, if a student misses 4 classes he/she is administratively withdrawn. Ocheng noted that quality is a concern; Haeffele said that what it is and how it is measured is unclear. Sally asked why is the focus on the number of students not achieving completion. Phillips responded that is something that is countable, sounds good, and is what legislators want. Calvin stated that higher education is a qualitative experience; now the focus is on a degree, not an education. Phillips added that the emphasis now is on results and performance, which requires objective measures. Aida felt that effective results should be the goal. Andy S. mentioned that more demands are being placed on faculty and institutions while at the same time funding is decreasing.

Under the topics “providing textbook rental programs, online e-books, and ‘book scholarships’” and “partnering to create paid internships”, Pat noted that faculty can play a lead role with publishers to push back on increasingly more frequent new editions. Robert Morris requires internships in many majors; students who participate often get hired at these firms afterwards. Bill added that bookstores may have profit margin requirements. Allan indicated that the start up costs for a book rental program can be substantial. Sally stated that in some cases a textbook may not be needed if sufficient online resources are available. Abbas added that to get scholarly credit for writing textbooks, requires a reputable publisher, even though self publishing could be done at one-quarter of the cost. Andy H. felt that securing internships for international students are more complicated.

After lunch, Phillips handed out documents, including the IBHE FY14 higher education budget recommendations and budget talking points. Regarding the state budget, revenues are up, but are more than consumed by pension and Medicaid costs; it appears that \$1 billion needs to be cut from the budget to compensate. This year, the payment to SURS was \$1.5 billion compared to the \$1.2 billion appropriated to the public universities. We can thus expect further cuts to education to pay the pension bill. Allan suggested not using the phrase “pension problem”. David asked about the implication of the university presidents seeming to agree to the cost shift. Phillips responded that this is better than

leaving it up to the legislators to decide without our input. Andy H. asked about the impact of sequestration. Phillips noted that the IBHE is looking at this.

We were joined by 54th District Republican State Senator Kyle McCarter. He will be on the Higher Education Committee this session. He is a small business owner of two manufacturing facilities. He noted that we can't take advantage of opportunities given the state's budget. He believes the budget situation can be fixed and has a plan to do so. This would involve going back to 2010 funding levels and then hold this flat for 5 years. Steve asked how this could be done with the ramping up of the required pension contribution and rising Medicaid spending. McCarter suggested stronger verification of Medicaid eligibility and some reforms. The pension system also needs reform; there is a need to switch to a 401(k) type system. A pension cost shift would be combined with removing unfunded mandates. Aida asked whether McCarter would support adding in Social Security. He responded that a hybrid plan is needed. Allan inquired about Martire's analysis of pensions. McCarter stated that the state has bonded everything it can. If everyone gives a little bit, it can make the system solvent. Les, noting that taxes have been raised only once in the last 12 years, and asked at what point do we put taxes on the table. McCarter felt the last tax increase was substantial. He doesn't believe we have a revenue problem. If something is not working, don't fund it or replace it. David suggested that it is more than just looking at dollar signs; 2002 would be a better base year. Jim asked the Senator about the traction for his ideas. The answer was "very little". He wants to be as fair as possible. Pieces of his bill may move on. Devi wondered how the Senator would educate the rest of the legislators. McCarter answered that he has been showing the numbers to his caucus.

The minutes from our January meeting were approved. The Community College Caucus nominated John D'Anca and John Bennett to serve as alternates for at-large members; these were approved by the group. The Private Caucus nominated Pan Papacosta (with Andy Howard as backup) to serve as alternate for at-large members; these were also approved. The issue of a legislative recommendation giving IBHE authority for more rigorous review of for-profit institutions was delayed to March. The initial Faculty Fellowship Steering Committee will include: Pan, Aida, and Bill. Gisele has distributed information about our next meeting.

Jon and KC were thanked for hosting. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Rock, Secretary