

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

Meeting at John A Logan College, January 17, 2014

Minutes Approved February 21, 2014

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:

Dawn Allred (MacMurray College)
Abbas Aminmansour (UIUC)
Sonya Armstrong (NIU)
David Bardack (UIC)
Daniel Beach (at-large, Dominican University)
John Bennett (at-large alternate; Lake Land College)
Lorelei Carvajal (Triton College)
Rick Deutsch (John A. Logan College)
Marie Donovan (at-large, DePaul)
Bill Hampes (Black Hawk College)
Stan Hatfield (Southwestern Illinois College)
Les Hyder (EIU)
Andy Howard (at-large, IIT)
Matthew Hurt (Parkland College)
Allan Karnes (SIUC)
Patricia McNicholas (Robert Morris University)
Devi Potluri (Chicago State University)
Dawn Sweeney Munson (Elgin Community College)
Kevin Weston (Rend Lake College)
Steven Rock (WIU)
Shawn Schumacher (at-large, DeVry University)
Aida Shekib (Governors State University)

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Darcel Brady (Olivet Nazarene University)
Victoria Childs (UIS)
Mike Gizzi (ISU)
John D'Anca (at-large, Oakton College)
Steve Depasquale (at-large, Kankakee Community College)
Ellen Hay (Augustana College)
Marjorie Johnson-Hilliard (Northwestern University)
Lisa Hollis-Sawyer (NEIU)
Dan Kies (College of DuPage)
Alejandro Mayer (Midwestern University)
Duce McCune (Eureka College)
Larry Modaff (Waubansee Community College)
Sara Ray Stoelinga (University of Chicago)
Raymond Torralba (Truman College)
Susan Wiediger (SIUE)

The meeting began at 9:05 a.m. Rick introduced Dr. Deb Payne, VP for Instruction, who welcome us to Logan (JALC), and Dr. Mike Dreith, President for the last 1½ years. Dreith noted that the challenges in Illinois are different than in other states. He expects spring enrollments at JALC to be down 4-5% and believes the cost versus the perceived value of higher education is responsible and will be an issue for all of us. Also introduced was the chair of JALC's Board of Trustees Jake Rendelman, who was past president of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Trustees Association.

Devi asked President Dreith whether a 5% enrollment decline in the spring is typical. Dreith noted it's not so much head count which is down but number of hours taken. If we price students out of the market, higher education will not be pursued. David noted we need the public to understand the value of higher education. Abbas asked if the transition from high school to college can be improved. Payne responded that there are crucial transition points for elementary and secondary students. To focus on college and career readiness requires working with the high schools and emphasize that a fourth year of high school math is needed. Dreith added that there is now a closer relationship between high school and higher education. Andy inquired about the percentage of incoming students that require remediation. Payne answered that the numbers were 75% (or higher) for Math and 50% for reading. Dreith commented that measuring success at a community college is difficult. Also, students taking developmental courses have a lower probability of success. Allan suggested more intrusive advising to keep students on track. Payne noted that student roadmaps/pathways are important. Rendelman mentioned that the ICCB has spent a lot of time on this. Payne felt that working together on 2+2 is valuable and improving. Kevin suggested the need to make better transitions in technical fields.

Abbas reported that he will invite the new IBHE Executive Director James Applegate to meet with the FAC at a future meeting. He spoke with Amy Sherman, Associate Vice President for Policy and Strategic Alliances at the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning. That group is looking at helping veterans transition to higher education; one issue is offering college credit for veterans' experiences. Abbas invited her to attend a future FAC meeting.

Ocheng provided a report stating that Harry Berman's last day as IBHE Executive Director will be February 14th; James Applegate's appointment begins February 17. The Academic Affairs area has completed interviewing for a vacant position. Ocheng announced that he will be retiring in a year or so.

Marie informed us that Anthony Fiorentino from the IBHE Student Advisory Committee will not be able to join us today and will be rescheduled for March. Students are being pushed to fill out their FAFSA (applications for federal and state financial aid). Materials on PARCC and CCS will be provided to us. Andy noted that some do not feel that PARCC is appropriate and Marie responded that this voice needs to be heard. David wondered about how CCS relate to higher education success.

Allan informed us that the IBHE members are going to be more empowered under the new chair; he is encouraged.

Steve noted the schools that will be asked to host for the academic year 2014-2015: Robert Morris, Eureka, Governors State, SIUE, ISU, Oakton, IIT, and Dominican. He also provided an update on the MAP Working Group which is looking at requiring MAP eligible institutions to provide a minimum level of advising and student support services. The Group is in the process of hashing out the final report. More details are available on ISAC web site: www.isac.org. The Group was asked to keep in mind what is good for the students, what is good for the taxpayers, and what can ISAC administer. Steve indicated that his conclusions are that advising is essential (best is face to face with a single continuing advisor), especially for incoming students, more advising leads to better results, and other support services (such as road maps and early warning systems) are valuable. To what extent the report will mandate institutional requirements rather than recommendations are still unknown.

Caucuses met.

Dr. Valerie Barko, Dean of Academic Affairs at JALC, presented a PowerPoint on “Goal 2025: Perspectives from a Rural Community College”. More jobs in the future will require higher education credentials and a variety of employee skills will be necessary. Benefits of higher education include higher income, lower unemployment rates, reduced crime, and increased political participation. The educational attainment rate in the JALC district was noted along with barriers to meeting the (60% of adults having higher educational credentials by the year) 2025 goal. The federally funded TRIO program at JALC was described and is successful as is academic fields involving cohort groups. The need for remediation was touched on along with the use of Dual Credit (the Higher Learning Commission has just issued a report on this topic) and its barriers.

Marie asked who does the Dual Credit here. Barko responded that it is the high school teachers. They are brought in for professional development. Dan wondered about attracting males to nontraditional fields. Barko noted that whenever there is business closings, workers come in. There is a push to bring them into nontraditional male fields. Allan added that there is a need in Southern Illinois to retain the students that we educate. Barko added that this is not the situation for community college students. Pat inquired about whether transportation costs and logistics in the area were a barrier. Barko answered that there are options provided to help with this. Andy wondered about reaching unprepared students who are in their 30s. Dual Credit will not reach this group.

At lunch, we were joined by Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon. Simon recently visited all community colleges and public four year institutions in the state. She mentioned that our campuses are not learning well from one another. One observation from an October conference is that guided pathways are a goal along with more intrusive advising. A discussion followed.

Les: What’s wrong with the Illinois political system?

Simon: One idea is term limits for political leaders but not for individual legislators. There needs to be a longer run focus. Taxpayers need to be provided with information on how the state spends its money.

Les: I have two additional concerns: that there are so many levels of government in Illinois and the redistricting process.

Simon: The State Comptroller can facilitate talks about consolidation and sharing. But people are invested in their local units. On redistricting, a coalition is building for a change.

John: What is the state's role in supporting higher education; are we moving in the right direction?

Simon: There is a good understanding of the importance of higher education and MAP. But what can we pay for?

Steve: With the sun-setting of the income tax increase, the state is going to be losing several billions of dollars. What is the likelihood of a graduated income tax system being implemented?

Simon: The graduated income tax system proposal will be introduced in the legislature. The time is right for a conversion.

Andy: There is legislation to require that students who get a score of 3 or more on AP exams get academic credit. Is it appropriate for the legislature to set this mandate and be proscriptive?

Simon: We in higher education need to have a sound bite response. The external mandates are not the way to make the best decisions.

Allan: Fracking is coming. Money will flow into small counties. A grant program or plan for wise spending would be good.

Devi: There are too many school districts.

Simon: This is not as much of a waste as first glance.

Devi: More students, especially minorities, are dropping out of higher education.

Simon: We need to help students stay on track.

David: How can the public understand the benefits of higher education?

Simon: It is important to look at the big picture. Our educational system was set up to give people upward mobility. We need sound bites to connect with the public and emphasize opportunities higher education creates.

Bill: Can fracking dollars raised get contributed back to the counties affected and promote economic development?

Stan: Will funds freed up from pension reform be spent wisely?

Simon: The pension changes will not have much short run impact. They may help the long run economy and create more confidence in the state.

Allan: Many for profit institutions want to operate in Illinois and they are low quality with small rates of student success. IBHE doesn't have the authority to deny their applications. A new statute is needed.

Simon: Please send me suggestions for this.

Abbas: Do you have any advice for us?

Simon: It is good to look at education as a continuum. This is an especially good time to discuss concerns with legislators, given the November elections.

Caucus reports followed. Bill indicated that the Community Colleges nominate Donna McCauley to be an at-large alternate, since John D'Anca is moving to an at-large representative. They are looking to bring in someone from the Illinois Community College Faculty Association to meet with the caucus. An issue of concern is bankruptcy protection for federal student loans; there is a need to look at an Illinois Senate resolution and the IBHE Student Advisory Council position. Sonya reported on topics discussed by the Public Caucus: financial issues, declining enrollments, university mission statements, and duplication between institutions versus specialization. For the Private Caucus, Marie noted the concern about legislation such as AP mandates creeping into the classroom, the role of advising, the 60% by 2025 goal, and CCS and their impact and differences with PARCC.

The minutes from our December meeting were approved. A motion was approved to appoint Donna McCauley to be an alternate at-large representative for the community colleges.

David told us that SURS has a 27 page analysis of the pension bill; it is very complex with many components. He will send this out to us.

Thanks were offered to Rick and JALC for hosting. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Rock, FAC Secretary