

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

Meeting at Robert Morris University, February 20, 2015

**Minutes approved 3/20/2015**

**FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:**

Daniel Beach (at-large, Dominican University)  
Darcel Brady (Olivet Nazarene University)  
Victoria Childs (UIS)  
Terry Clark (SIUC)  
Dan Cortese (GSU)  
John D'Anca (at-large, Oakton College)  
Steve Depasquale (at-large, Kankakee Community College)  
Marie Donovan (at-large, DePaul)  
Hope Essien (Malcolm X)  
Stan Hatfield (Southwestern Illinois College)  
Luisette Hernandex-Medina (Daley College)  
Lisa Hollis-Sawyer (NEIU)  
Andy Howard (at-large, IIT)  
Dan Hrozencik (CSU)  
Les Hyder (EIU)  
Marjorie Johnson-Hilliard (Northwestern)  
Lisa Knecht-Sabres (Midwestern University)  
Patricia McNicholas (Robert Morris University)  
Ray Meredith (Parkland College)  
Dawn Munson (Elgin)  
Lucy Park (UIC)  
Devi Potluri (CSU)  
Steven Rock (WIU)  
Shawn Schumacher (DeVry)  
Aida Shekib (GSU)  
Catherine Stark (Robert Morris University)  
Raymond Torralba (Truman College)  
Adam Tournier (McKendree)  
Susan Wiediger (SIUE)

**Representatives/Institutions not present:**

Abbas Aminmansour (UIUC)  
Sonya Armstrong (NIU)  
John Bennett (at large, Lake Land College)  
Michael Gizzi (ISU)  
Ellen Hay (Augustana College)  
Rick Jones (South Suburban College)  
Duce McCune (Eureka)  
Sara Ray Stoelinga (University of Chicago)  
Kevin Weston (Rend Lake College)  
Renee Wright (Triton)  
Rock Valley College

**From IBHE:**

Gretchen Lohman  
Amanda Winters

Marie convened the meeting at 9:04 a.m. Pat welcomed us to campus and introduced Provost Mablene Krueger, who will be RMU's next President. RMU focuses on experiential learning and has ten locations in Illinois. They offer 2-year, 4-year, and master's degrees. They require internships and career management courses. 44% of students are first generation and 61% are Pell eligible. Students have a very low loan default rate and a relatively high graduation rate. Advising is very intrusive. Teaching is the focus of faculty and there is no tenure.

Gretchen mentioned that the IBHE offices are moving in April. Jonathan Lackland is leaving and Candace Mueller will be the interim government relations director. There will be a March 27<sup>th</sup> meeting at UIUC about textbooks. Alan Philips has left and a search is on for that position. Amanda noted that rules about Dual Credit are being developed; drafts will be sent to us and comments are welcome. These will be similar to the handout we received at our December meeting. Currently, there is no statewide list of Dual Credit courses and they have been regionally based. Oversight, transferability, quality, and consistency issues are concerns. FAC members provided some of their perspectives and specific suggestions. Gretchen suggested that issues that overlap IBHE advisory groups could be coordinated; one of these is workforce development. There is a hope that a closer relationship between the IBHE liaison and the FAC can be developed.

Caucuses met. We were joined by Illinois state senators Kimberly Lightford and Martin Sandoval. Lightford has her undergraduate degree from WIU and a MPA degree from UIS. She is a strong advocate of higher education. She noted some highlights from last year's legislative session: community college involvement in a public-private partnership, some MAP funds set aside for later applications, and ISAC asked to do an analysis of "pay it forward". How do we serve today's students best? We don't want to leave this up to the legislators. She introduced SB 688 which would require gathering information from institutions of higher education about procurement from non-majority firms. She commented on Rauner's budget proposal, highlighting some of the specific cuts and how tuition has ramped up over time (this increase is unsustainable). There is a need to keep students in Illinois and when they graduate. Other concerns are affordability, the role of vocational training, and preparing students for the workforce.

Senator Sandoval suggested that these are awkward times. Rauner was elected to "shake things up". Sandoval supports working people, building more schools in underserved areas (including charter schools), and expansion of City Colleges. Affordability and accessibility are increasingly problems.

Lightford indicated that generating more revenue is critical. Discretionary funds have not grown and are being fought over. Comparing corporate tax breaks versus jobs created need to be looked at. The State needs an educated workforce.

Following lunch, Ellie Sullivan, President of University Professionals of Illinois met with us. The UPI represents faculty at five public universities (now six with UIS) plus a retiree chapter. The UPI bargains working conditions and engages in legislative work. We need to build coalitions to oppose the Rauner proposed budget cuts, which would be devastating, and show the importance of what we do. We need to “educate” the legislators and the governor. Education has to be the number one priority and is underfunded. A conversation followed.

Steve D: There is a new reality out there. Illinois is one of the top states for collecting revenue.

Andy: What will the real budget look like?

Sullivan: This will be a long and drawn out process.

Adam: Some employees in southern Illinois draw a big salary and this creates negative publicity.

Sullivan: We need to be creative and transparent. We need to better explain what we do.

Dan H.: Which legislators should we contact?

Sullivan: The ones in your district and in their home offices. You need to personalize and localize.

Aida: What can we say or do as faculty?

Sullivan: We need to get funding restored.

Sue: Salary and pensions are part of a package. Has this been looked at?

Adam: Federal student loan availability and rules drive higher tuition and student debt. Can this be dealt with at the state level?

Sullivan: This is a federal issue. Talk to your congressmen and senators.

Steve D.: If the state Supreme Court finds the pension bill unconstitutional, what happens?

Sullivan: This is likely. I will send my contact information to the FAC.

Devi reported that the Public Caucus talked about budget strategies in the short, medium, and long run. We need to speak with one voice. We should liaison with the Student Advisory Council, talk to our faculty senates and student government associations. We can look for states that have good higher education models. We want to collect talking points for legislators. Dual Credit and its transferability is also of interest.

Shawn mentioned that the Private Caucus talked about topics for our April meeting with IBHE. We need to support the Faculty Fellowship program and encourage the IBHE liaison to attend our meetings regularly. How can we partner better with the IBHE on topics such as Guided Pathways, conferences, and faculty development. We also should participate on the IBHE action teams that are being formed around the Public Agenda.

John D. noted that the Community College Caucus considered the issue of faculty needing to pass background checks when teaching Dual Credit in high schools. Other topics of interest include: continuing problems with Dual Credit, four year degrees offered by two year schools, and the relationship between 2-year and 4-year schools.

There was a discussion of how many credit hours are appropriate for a 4-year degree and how this impacts IBHE, ISAC, and our institutions. Andy, Adam, and Sue will bring ideas on this to our March meeting.

The minutes from our January meeting were approved. Ideas for our April meeting include: Dual Credit, Faculty Fellowship, and budget. Steve D. and the nominating committee will solicit nominations for officers. Marie has expressed a willingness to run for President, Devi for Vice President, and Steve R. for Secretary. If any positions are contested, there will be a chance for each candidate to speak at our April meeting.

Andy suggested that we devote 10-15 minutes at future meetings for a legislative report. There was general agreement. Pat and RMU were thanked for hosting. The meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Rock, FAC Secretary