

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting at Illinois College, January 19, 2018
Minutes approved February 16, 2018

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:

Michael Bathgate (St. Xavier)
Danelle Batterton (John Wood Community College)
Paul Bialek (Trinity International)
Amy Carr (Western Illinois University)
Julie Clemens (Illinois Central College)
Diane Dean (ISU)
Marie Donovan (DePaul)
Adrienne Hacker Daniels (Illinois College)
Andy Howard (at-large, IIT)
James Marshall (Illinois College)
Matt McCarroll (SIUC)
Gay Miller (UIUC)
Matt O'Brien (Bradley University)
Lucy Park (UIC)
Mike Phillips (Illinois Valley Community College)
Devi Potluri (CSU)
Steven Rock (WIU)
Linda Saborio (NIU)
Phillip Schaefer (Lincoln Land Community College)
Shawn Schumacher (at-large, DeVry)
Phyllis Soybel (College of Lake County)
Gilliam Stewart-Wells (Judson University)
Adam Tournier (at-large, McKendree)
Susan Wiediger (SIUE)

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Paulo Acioli (NEIU)
Cynthia Boyce (Lincoln Trail College)
Daniel Cortese (GSU)
John D'Anca (at-large, Oakton College)
Steve DePasquale (at-large, Kankakee Community College)
Doug Dowell (Heartland Community College)
Carol Gayle (Lake Forest College)
Susan Grace (Wilbur Wright College)
Rick Jones (at-large, South Suburban College)
Ronda Mitchell (UIS)
Kevin Sullivan (Illinois Wesleyan)
Larry White (EIU)

From IBHE:

Gretchen Lohman, Malinda Aiello

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. James introduced President Barbara Farley and Provost Catharine O’Connell. Farley is in her 5th year as President of Illinois College (IC). IC was founded in 1829 and is one of the two oldest institutions of higher education in Illinois. It has an abolition background; William Jennings Bryant was a graduate. IC focuses on all aspects of student success. Liberal arts education, which is a major component at IC, is being challenged by external forces. It is a national conversation. The liberal arts and career readiness go hand in hand.

At IC, student-faculty interaction (learning experiences, collaborative relationships) are paramount. There are a number of short term travel abroad opportunities (called “breakaways”). There is summer research support for students. Fundraising from donors is important. Under curriculum, there is a first year and a senior capstone experience. IC emphasizes writing, public speaking, diversity, and teamwork; in other words, a broad education. Students graduate “ready”; they know what is next for them. There is a student presentation day in April with classes being cancelled. These are ways IC communicates their values.

Michael noted the need to provide opportunities for faculty development and improve our “on-boarding” to emphasize the liberal arts. O’Connell added that liberal arts skills are essential for freedom. Adam said that students’ perceived needs versus what we think is best for them is a disconnect. O’Connell mentioned that financial security is the students’ focus. Phyllis stated that community colleges are more data driven than even. After a single class, how can that even be quantified? It’s hard to measure student growth in just one class. Liberal arts need to be seen as a total package. O’Connell concluded that we can’t give up the fight. Our democracy depends on it. We have to be very intentional.

Rebecca Spencer provided information on IC’s programs with Japanese universities. They began a partnership with Ritsumeikan University 30 years ago. That school is private, with 3 campuses and 35,000 students. The program’s success is based on faculty to faculty relationships. Symposiums are part of the exchange. Student-faculty travel goes both ways. A Luce grant has provided financial support. Opportunities include a 10-week research lab experience in the summer for students and a 4-5 week language intensive internship focusing on environmental issues. Relationships with two other Japanese universities have been developed. These experiences help students step out of their comfort zones. The student to student connection is stressed.

Paul: How could Trinity set something like this up?

Spencer: You need to have faculty connections to schools abroad.

Adrienne: These could be discipline based.

Devi: Are there visa issues?

Spencer: For the 4-week programs, Japanese can come on a tourist visa. It’s more complicated for visiting faculty.

Sue: What is the administrative support for the program?

Spencer: Just me for the February program; several others are involved for the other pieces.

Marie indicated that the IBHE is no longer going to have lunches with their constituency groups at their quarterly meetings. The stated reason is so that the Board members have more time to interact with each other. We still want to have a yearly opportunity to make a substantial presentation to the Board; perhaps this can be arranged for what would have been our annual meeting with the Board on June 5th at the College of Lake County. We would also like the opportunity to make a brief presentation at each Board meeting. What do we want to present? There are likely to be fewer outside speakers at Board meetings. The hope is that Al Bowman, Tom Cross, and other Board members could be present at more advisory council meetings in the future. The consensus was to cancel our June meeting.

Gretchen indicated that administrative rules for Dual Credit were passed by IBHE and JCAR and are published on the IBHE website. They are working on a new application system that will help to streamline the procedure for program reviews. Stephanie Bernoteit is now Deputy Director for Academic Affairs.

Jaimee Ray phoned in the legislative report. IBHE is pursuing initiatives to:

- change the Truth in Tuition laws to allow opt in or opt out
- change the number on the board for diversification of higher education faculty from 21 to 11 and to get money distributed faster
- remove the budget recommendation request for the Graduation Incentive grant program since there is no funding
- expand slightly the scope of the Grow Your Own program (grants for additional certifications)
- change the grant language for the Quality Assurance fund and the Distance Learning fund
- draft language to extend the retention of student records resulting from school closures to public universities

HLC is concerned about the budget situation in Illinois. Without regular funding, accreditation could be in jeopardy. Higher education must be protected from a budget stalemate. This is a message that needs to be shared with the Governor and the legislature. It was decided that we should contact our faculty senates and prepare resolutions on this matter to be publicized.

Caucuses met. Devi reported that the Publics focused on budget issues and going to our faculty senates for a resolution about funding higher education. We should get our student governments on board as well. It was suggested that we personally contact Board members who live near our FAC meetings and invite them to attend. Interaction with Al, Tom, and Board members is even more important since there still is no faculty member on the Board. Ideas for presentation at the June Board meeting include general education and low performing programs.

Adam indicated the Privates discussed budget, outmigration of students, importance of MAP, and the need for a story detailing the consequences of a loss of accreditation. There needs to be united focus by all three caucuses. Other topics included: faculty recruitment and retention, the economic impact of our institutions, there is little uniformity relative to policies on campus speakers, low enrolled programs and the value of program reviews.

Mike, representing the community colleges, felt that as an advisory council we need to have a regular reporting slot at the Board meetings and more interaction with Al, Tom, and other Board members. Program reviews at community colleges focus on career and technical areas; it is low enrollments that lead to programs being eliminated.

After some discussion on free speech policies, cataloging them may be complicating. We are asked to send our campus policies to Andy.

Following lunch, we received a presentation by Kathleen Almy from NIU, on remedial math impacts of the Illinois Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act (PA 99-0674) which was signed into law on July 29, 2016. Transitional math courses in the 4th year of high school can help make students college ready. These courses would be structured to offer a different (more applied) type of experience than the math courses in the first three years. Students that pass with a C or better are guaranteed placement into college level math at Illinois community colleges. There is work going on to extent this to the public universities who currently can accept the results or not. College students needing developmental courses are less likely to be retained or graduate. Current placement exams can over-place or under-place students. Students would be evaluated during their junior year of high school utilizing multiple metrics. Three different transitional math pathways would be offered: traditional STEM, quantitative literacy/statistics, and technical math. They map to different areas in the community colleges.

Other slides spoke to:

- Transitional Math Logistics (course approval process similar to IAI)
- Factors Critical to Transitional Math Success (need a working relationship between high schools and community colleges)
- Competencies versus Standards
- Continuing the Work of the Common Core
- Statewide Policies
- Implementation (supported by ICCB)
- University Involvement (ongoing discussion; by end of June the Publics must adopt and publicize criteria for placement into college level math)

Feedback on the issue can be send to Almy at: kalmy@niu.edu. There is more information on this topic at: www2.iccb.org/iltransitionalmath/ where a copy of the handout we received can be viewed.

The minutes from our December meeting were approved with the proviso that Marie will add the discussion that took place on free speech. Thanks were offered to Jim, Adrienne, and IC for hosting. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Steven Rock, FAC Secretary