

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

Meeting at Dominican University, June 19, 2015

Minutes approved 9/18/15

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:

Abbas Aminmansour (UIUC)
Daniel Beach (at-large, Dominican University)
Terry Clark (SIUC)
John D'Anca (at-large, Oakton College)
Marie Donovan (at-large, DePaul)
Hope Essien (Malcolm X)
Ellen Hay (Augustana College)
Luisette Hernandez (Daley College)
Andy Howard (at-large, IIT)
Lisa Hollis-Sawyer (NEIU)
Matthew Hurt (Parkland College)
Les Hyder (EIU)
Marjorie Johnson-Hilliard (Northwestern, by Skype)
Rick Jones (South Suburban College)
Lisa Knecht-Sabres (Midwestern University)
Patricia McNicholas (Robert Morris University)
Lucy Park (UIC)
Devi Potluri (CSU)
Steven Rock (WIU)
Aida Shekib (GSU)
Paul Stoddard (NIU)
Susan Wiediger (SIUE)
Renee Wright (Triton)

Representatives/Institutions not present:

John Bennett (at large, Lake Land College)
Darcel Brady (Olivet Nazarene University)
Vicki Childs (UIS)
Mike Gizzi (ISU)
Steve DePasquale (at-large, Kankakee Community College)
Stan Hatfield (Southwestern Illinois College)
Duce McCune (Eureka)
Dawn Munson (Elgin)
Shawn Schumacher (DeVry)
Sara Ray Stoelinga (University of Chicago)
Raymond Torralba (Truman College)
Kevin Weston (Rend Lake College)
Adam Tournier (McKendree)

IBHE Staff Member present:

Gretchen Lohman

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Dan welcomed us to campus and introduced Provost Cheryl Johnson-Odim who is retiring at the end of the month. She has served on the Higher Learning Commission and is currently vice-chair and chair-elect. Dominican recently went through the accreditation process. Accreditation from one of the six regional accreditors is necessary for an institution to receive federal Title 4 funds. A newer method of achieving accreditation is open pathway which is completely electronic and consists of three parts: the argument (narrative, with a hard 30,000 word limit, emphasizing evidence, proof, and feedback loop to satisfy five criteria), the evidence file (submitted separately but tied to the argument, includes minutes, strategic plan, retention and graduation rates), and the compliance piece (showing the connection to federal policy, which itself is organic). Quality improvement is a key emphasis.

Devi: Is open pathway by invitation only?

Johnson-Odim: If the institution is in good standing, they will be able to choose it. With ten year accreditation there will be a team visit in year four.

Matthew: Open pathway is an improvement over the standard pathway and is more continuous.

Johnson-Odim: It is an appropriate method. Problems can be identified with plans to deal with them.

Ellen: Is the site visit any different?

Johnson-Odim: Not really.

Marie: What should faculty take away from this?

Johnson-Odim: You don't have to look perfect. Be honest and fold in how to deal with your problems. Work with your liaison for guidance.

Devi: Do budget cuts affect the process?

Johnson-Odim: The government has been more interventional in the last ten years. Financial issues are considered and need to be managed.

Andy: There is pressure to show improvement through assessment.

Johnson-Odim: The emphasis used to be on inputs but now is more on outcomes.

Margorie: Have qualitative studies (focus groups) been used?

Johnson-Odim: Yes. Student evaluations need to be paid attention to and there needs to be other methods to assess classroom teaching.

We were joined by 7th District State Representative Emanuel "Chris" Welch. He is in his second term after being on the Proviso School Board for twelve years. He is a graduate of John Marshall Law School and is passionate about education. He highlighted the legislative year relative to higher education and noted he is on the following committees: Elementary & Secondary Education Appropriations, Higher Education Appropriations, Higher Education, and others. Rauner wants "substantial reforms" before considering revenue increases. He distributed an article from Wisconsin Public Ratio entitled "Wisconsin has seen the largest middle-class decline of any state, study finds". Also passed out was a document specifying "Rauner's cuts that destroy the poor and working families across Illinois statewide" which take effect July 1.

Paul: What leverage does the Democratic side have relative to cuts?

Welch: The legislature can override his veto. But the governor doesn't have to spend the money. There are faces and names behind the cuts that can bring pressure.

Hope: What are the higher education cuts?

Welch: 31.5% for the public proposed by Rauner. This is untenable. But changes are needed such as pension reform.

Devi: Tuition has increased as state funding has decreased. Facilities have not been maintained.

John: Where is SURS going? We have paid in regularly.

Welch: The Court has made it clear that benefits cannot be diminished. We need to generate more revenue.

Paul: Could a constitutional amendment change this?

Welch: That is possible.

Lucy: What options are there to increase revenue?

Welch: Reinstating the higher income tax rate. We would still be competitive with neighboring states.

Les: Come July, with no budget, what is the impact on state services?

Welch: It will be dramatic.

Ellen: Would MAP be impacted?

Welch: Yes.

Rick: Would construction projects at my school be affected?

Welch: Yes.

Terry: Is anything going on behind the scenes?

Welch: Not much in the last two weeks. The legislature is still in session.

Les: Are the legislative leaders corrupt as Rauner indicated?

Welch: The US attorneys would be on their case if it were so.

Devi: What can we do to help?

Welch: Engage your constituents and contact your legislators.

Dan: Education is an economic engine. It is important for business.

Welch: Yes. The Governor is getting to know legislators.

Marie: Is higher education and PreK-12 being pitted against each other?

Welch: On paper, yes. Rauner did not propose a cut in PreK-12.

Renee: With no budget, what happens to education?

Welch: The budget is actually 16 different bills.

Lucy: Do public universities overspend?

Welch: I haven't seen this. In my Committees higher education has been fair and reasonable.

Les: Unfunded mandates have caused an increase in administration and staff.

Welch: I completely agree.

Marjorie: Are there any caucuses or new voices that are helpful?

Welch: Student government leaders.

Abbas: Faculty salaries are market driven in recruiting and retention.

Welch: That is true and the university presidents have done a good job highlighting this.

Sue: Cuts appear to be part of the final budget. Are there any areas where there has been agreement?

Welch: There are not areas with bipartisan agreements yet. It will be up to the universities to decide how to operationalize a budget cut.

Devi: Would you support having faculty on university Boards of Trustees?

Welch: Yes.

Candace Mueller call in with a legislative report. The budget process has been described by some pundits as “a war zone”. The General Assembly Democratic leaders and the Governor don’t seem to be talking, although staff may be having some preliminary discussions. On Tuesday, June 16th, the Senate held a Committee of the Whole discussion on college affordability. All three higher education agency directors testified, along with UIUC Professor Jennifer Delaney (past FAC Fellow) and college financial aid officers for Danville Community College and WIU, Phil Hale from Loyola, the President of Spoon River Community College, and the student government leader from UIUC. Recently passed legislation includes: HJR52 (creates a commission on the future of the workforce), SB1457 (creates a military prior learning assessment task force), HB3428 (requires credit by community colleges and public universities be given to students with Advanced Placement scores of 3 or more), SB806 (provides junior status for students transferring after completing community college), and SB760 (up to 30 credits from PBVS schools with national accreditation would be accepted by community colleges with a review process by ICCB).

Les: Is it worth having these task forces?

Candace: Which ones are you referring to? Many (like the Public Agenda Task Force) have been successful.

Les: There has been a lack of follow up on providing the necessary investment to reach the 60 by 2025 goal.

Marie: Can we get Applegate’s response to administrative bloat. [answer=yes]

Candace: The SAC and Proprietary IBHE advisory groups have new officers and more collaboration between the groups would be good.

Marie: Textbook affordability is a topic of focus for the SAC.

Sue: How do we find the membership of the SAC?

Candace: I will look into this.

Gretchen’s report: She will provide more information on military prior learning assessment. She will be talking to the new Faculty Fellow next week. She also mentioned administrative rules for the distance learning approval process and dual credit. Devi raised some concerns about the wording of part 2 of IBHE Common Messaging Points.

Marie passed out a document about concerns with the new ISBE teacher licensure examination (edTPA). There are unintended consequences with high stakes testing scheduled for implementation this fall. She asked for support with recommendations to delay implementation, changes in the rules, and creation of a task force.

Caucuses met followed by lunch. Caucus reports were presented. Devi noted that the Publics support Marie’s edTPA document with a request to add an additional bullet point:

ask the IBHE to request that universities give faculty credit for the increased work load this will present. Devi was reelected as Caucus chair for next year. Other issues of interest: banning firearms on campus (there is a legislative bill on this), rape/violence on campus and reporting requirements, academic freedom and censorship of free speech, and having a Faculty Fellow research the economic impact of higher education. Devi is willing to interact with the SAC. Abbas was thanked for his service to the FAC.

John reported that the community colleges considered the “compass” assessment tool for Math and English being withdrawn and what would replace it. There was concern about the link between the edTPA exam and a student’s graduation. Marie clarified that she would like IBHE to influence ISBE on this issue relative to the effects on higher education. Temporarily lowering standards for one year as a transition seems inappropriate.

Andy was reappointed as an at large member of the Privates. Their caucus chair will be determined in September. They will work with Steve on their rotation plan. Proposals were offered to encouraging frequent participation by the IBHE staff liaison and support for the Faculty Fellows program.

Marie indicated that the SAC wants to work with faculty on textbook issues. Devi, Renee, and Marie volunteered in this regard. Les commented that the SAC has great lobbying power with legislators and catch their attention. Marie, Steve, and Shawn will meet later in the summer for FAC planning. Following up on the Responsible Budget Coalition letter of support from last meeting, Marie felt that the RBC was rather disorganized and is not communicating with us. The task force on prior learning assessment for veterans will survey our institutions.

The FAC website is still in limbo. Andy will inquire if IIT can take it over. Marie’s edTPA document was approved with a friendly amendment to add one bullet point (see above). Steve noted that hosts are needed for the September, October, November, March, May, and June FAC meetings. He will contact members who are due to be hosts for this purpose. The minutes from the May meeting were approved. Members who are leaving the FAC were recognized: Pat, Les, Abbas, and Lisa H-S. Les talked about his 15 years on the FAC. Thanks were offered to Dan and Dominican for hosting. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Rock, FAC Secretary