

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

Meeting at Trinity International University, March 16, 2018

Minutes approved April 20, 2018

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:

Michael Bathgate (St. Xavier)
Danielle Batterton (John Wood Community College)
Paul Bialek (Trinity International)
Jasmine Chen (GSU)
John D'Anca (at-large, Oakton College)
Steve DePasquale (at-large, Kankakee Community College)
Carol Gayle (Lake Forest College)
Pennie Gray (Illinois Wesleyan)
Rick Jones (at-large, South Suburban College)
Nick Menhart (IIT)
Gay Miller (UIUC)
Matt O'Brien (Bradley University)
Lucy Park (UIC)
Mike Phillips (Illinois Valley Community College)
Steven Rock (WIU)
Linda Saborio (NIU)
Shawn Schumacher (at-large, DeVry)
Phyllis Soybel (College of Lake County)
Adam Tournier (at-large, McKendree)
Joy Towner (Judson University)
E. Anthony White (Illinois Central College)
Susan Wiediger (SIUE)

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Paulo Acioli (NEIU)
Cynthia Boyce (Lincoln Trail College)
Diane Dean (ISU)
Marie Donovan (DePaul)
Doug Dowell (Heartland Community College)
James Marshall (Illinois College)
Merry Mayer (Wilbur Wright College)
Matt McCarroll (SIUC)
Ronda Mitchell (UIS)
Devi Potluri (CSU)
Phillip Schaefer (Lincoln Land Community College)
Larry White (EIU)

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. Paul introduced Trinity President David Dockery who welcomed us to campus. Trinity was founded in 1897 in Chicago by Scandinavians. In 1960 it began a move to the Deerfield location. It enrolls about 2700

students including 1200 in their Divinity school (the largest in the US embedded in a university). It is an international and intercultural institution. The undergraduate focus is on liberal arts. They recently begun to offer a program at a Wisconsin prison supported by foundation funding.

IBHE Executive Director Al Bowman thanked us for our participation. He explained the recent change in the quarterly Board lunches which will now be used for their members to have more interaction. Perhaps every other meeting will include a constituency group at the lunches. The higher education sector is misunderstood so the role of the Executive Director is critical in interacting with the Governor and the legislature. Bowman's goal is to avoid another budget crisis and stop the declines in appropriations and reduce the pressure to raise tuition. The Board approved a modest (2%) increase in requested funding; there was some debate whether that was too low. Another request was a \$100 million increase in MAP funding; the goal is to increase that amount over time to cover 90% of eligible students. The pension ramp takes a big chunk of the State's budget and was enacted to make up for the pension holidays in past years.

Mike: The pension repayment should not be viewed as part of the higher education budget.

Bowman: The public doesn't understand the math. SUAA has proposed legislation to sell \$100+ billion in bonds to bring the funding levels up in the pension systems.

Adam: The savings would be lower interest payments.

Bowman: Rauner did not include decreased higher education funding in his budget proposal. There is an idea floating to create a merit scholarship program for students in the top 10% of their class; they are working with ISAC on a proposal. As this is an election year, it is more likely there will be a budget. It is less likely there will be a capital plan.

Paul: Are you okay with us interacting with Board members at our meetings?

Bowman: Yes. On the legislative front, there is concern about a religious exemption bill. This would allow an institution to be exempt from having to apply for operating authority or be covered by IBHE regulations. They would like to see consumer protection included as there has been fraud, particularly with small, vocational institutions. There is another bill to prevent public university and community college faculty from using state money to go to professional meetings.

Sue: Is accreditation understood by the public?

Phyllis: Firms that hire do.

Bowman: Not the general public.

Mike: What about the bill to merge ISAC, IBHE, and ICCB?

Bowman: Improving dialog between the agencies would be good. The Rose-Brady bill has some positives and many negatives. The biggest problem is that it would require IBHE to rank programs across the Publics. There are 2,000 academic programs and 5 staff in Academic Affairs.

Mike: If we could reverse outmigration it would fill up our institutions.

Bowman: There are two basic problems: enrollment and declining operating budgets.

There is also a smaller pool of high school seniors. It takes money to reverse these.

Gay: What can we do to help?

Bowman: Have conversations with legislators. Out of state institutions are not really less expensive for the average student.

Adam: The Big 10/Big 12 out of state schools offer many enticements to our students, especially top performing students.

Bowman: Students don't understand that their actual price is often lower than the sticker price. That needs to be disseminated.

Adam: A merit based scholarship program provides self-esteem and is important in a student's decision on attending. It could help keep students in state. The sticker price deters students from applying. How do we inform about the actual net cost?

Caucuses met. Sue mentioned that the Publics discussed some ideas for our one page revitalization document. Do we need training on passing information on to legislators and their staff? We should accentuate the positives and not whine. The Caucus document supporting the importance of Gen Ed will be distributed to all for input. Also considered were: tuition, fees, in-state/out of state tuition, providing timely scholarship information such as the Western Commitment Scholarship, and the importance of disseminating information about net prices. John reported for the Community Colleges. They discussed the situation at Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the importance of liberal arts in higher education. Merit scholarships would be valuable in keeping student in-state. According to Adam, the Privates talked about the higher education revitalization paper, attracting students from other states, and making students feel wanted. We should highlight the strengths of the higher education system in Illinois. Employers want students steeped in the liberal arts. There is a need to separate pensions and operating budgets when considering higher education.

Following lunch, the minutes from our February meeting were approved. The target is a May vote on the draft statement regarding higher education revitalization through focused funding. A motion was approved to endorse Steve Rock in his candidacy for the SURS Board.

There was a discussion of a Public Caucus proposal supporting liberal arts and general education. It was suggested that general education be the focus. A bulleted summary of key points should be placed at the beginning. Comments are solicited. It was noted that low enrollment does not mean underperforming; numbers do not mean efficiency. Many institutions are financially driven rather than value driven. More context was suggested in the third paragraph.

We were joined by State Senator Julie Morrison. She is here to listen to us and share what she learns. Education is an economic driver.

Mike: As support for higher education has fallen, out of state migration has increased. Higher education is a good investment with a high return.

John: Our top students are heavily recruited by out of state institutions.

Morrison: Legislative focus is on immediate payoffs.

Mike: Students frequently change their majors. They need options.

Phyllis: Increased specialization will harm general education, which is essential for a mobile, flexible workforce.

Linda and Steve D.: There are a number of place-bound, non-traditional students.

Lucy: At medical school, they look for well rounded applicants. Higher education is a step above vocational training.

Michael: We don't think this way (specialization) at the high school level.

Adam: Employers want students with diverse skills. Liberal arts needs to be the shared vision at all levels of higher education.

Morrison: We need to provide something innovative to keep students in-state.

Mike: The uncertainty of higher education funding drives students out of state.

Morrison: Should community colleges offer four year degrees? Should general education be shifted to the community colleges?

Phyllis: Many wouldn't have the funds to do this.

Steve D.: It would cost a fortune to gear up community colleges to four years. Raising taxes is a four letter word. Yet, people want services.

John: Community colleges have a different mission.

Nick: Illinois should become a destination.

Morrison: Chicago is a draw.

Sue: Every institution has its own character. General education provides a supporting role for more specialized programs. What information do you need to make a good decision?

Morrison: My constituents carry more weight with me. We need innovation, pilot approaches.

Mike: Community colleges don't have the faculty or the resources to offer specialized courses. Easier transferring would be helpful.

Adam: What do you suggest to us?

Morrison: Meet with your legislators in regions around the state.

Mike: The specialization at the Chicago City Colleges has created problems.

Thanks were offered to John and his wife for hosting the Thursday dinner at their house. Appreciation was also extended to Paul and Trinity for hosting. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Rock, FAC Secretary