

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

Meeting at Parkland College, March 18, 2016

Minutes approved April 15, 2016

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:

Abbas Aminmansour (UIUC)
Daniel Beach (at-large, Dominican University)
John Bennett (Lake Land College)
Paul Bialek (Trinity International)
Darcel Brady (Olivet Nazarene University)
Terry Clark (SIUC)
John D'Anca (at-large, Oakton College)
Diane Dean (ISU)
Steve DePasquale (at-large, Kankakee Community College)
Marie Donovan (at-large, DePaul)
Matthew Hurt (Parkland College)
Luisette Hernandez (Daley College)
Andy Howard (at-large, IIT)
Irene Jacobsen (EIU)
Rick Jones (South Suburban College)
James Marshall (Illinois College)
Dawn Munson (Elgin)
Lucy Park (UIC)
Steven Rock (WIU)
Shawn Schumacher (DeVry)
Paul Stoddard (NIU)
Adam Tournier (McKendree)
Raymond Torralba (Truman College)
Kevin Weston (Rend Lake College)
Susan Wiediger (SIUE)

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Paulo Acioli (NEIU)
Vicki Childs (UIS)
Dan Cortese (GSU)
Hope Essien (Malcolm X)
Stan Hatfield (Southwestern Illinois College)
Ellen Hay (Augustana College)
Marjorie Johnson-Hilliard (Northwestern)
Alejandro Mayer (Midwestern)
Devi Potluri (CSU)
Sara Ray Stoelinga (University of Chicago)
Renee Wright (Triton)

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Matthew welcomed us to Parkland and introduced Dr. Pamela Lau, Interim Vice President for Academic Services. She noted that these are bleak times for higher education in Illinois. However, we should not lose sight of all the good we do. It is the 50th anniversary for Parkland. Fall enrollment was 8,000. 60% of students are part time and 40% are minorities; there are a substantial number of international and University of Illinois students. More than 50% earn a credential; for the rest there is a three-pronged approach. For a focus on the classroom, the importance of academic and social interaction was mentioned. With 70% of students needing remedial math, there is a redesign of the course to make it more relevant and practical; improvements have been seen. There is also a co-requisite model for those with English deficiency. The second approach deals with student motivation. To accomplish this, there is: a first year experience along with mentoring, an aggressive dual credit program, support from employers, and a dual admission program with U of I where the Parkland student would take one course a semester at U of I and have full student privileges there. The final approach focuses on data, such as looking at key performance indicators at peer institutions.

Steve D. asked if faculty get extra course load credit for remedial English (they do) and mentioned how Kankakee deals with that. Dan wondered if UIUC limited the pathways program (yes, but there is hope to expand it).

Parkland President Thomas Ramage was introduced. He has been in that position since 2008. He referenced an Illinois Policy Institute report on higher education and pensions. The State is now spending more on pensions than on post-secondary operations. The report also touched on administrative bloat and tuition increases. He detailed the development of Parkland's reactions to the lack of a state budget. SB2059, which would fund higher education and MAP grants has passed the Senate; the Governor said he will veto it. With a structural deficit of \$10 billion, and more money going into K-12, what is this going to mean to higher education? State support was 9% of their budget. They are preparing budget scenarios for this to be zero, and he specified what some of the resulting cuts would be.

Marie queried about the reaction of local employers and others. Ramage responded that unless you are in the higher education system, no one cares. Abbas asked how Parkland was coping. Ramage answered that tuition is up, the labor force is down by 50, administrators have been reduced, and there are no longer any paper towels in the bathrooms. They have not closed any programs. Marie asked about advice for faculty. Ramage suggested changing the conversation and focusing on outcomes (graduation rates, economic impacts). Steve D. suggested that people will need to decide if they want a community college in their area. Ramage agreed it would be up to the community. Terry inquired about assessing the Governor's position. Ramage noted that Rauner was initially supportive of community colleges, but no longer; he is on a mission. Abbas mentioned that if we can survive on zero state support, that could be good news in the long run. Sue added that we would still be subject to state mandates and Ramage added that the state would still own the facilities.

Candace Mueller from IBHE presented the legislative report. No higher education budget will happen in March, because neither the House nor Senate are in session again until April 4. The Senate is having appropriations hearings. SB3023 reinstates HECA grants. Terry inquired about Director Applegate's impact on the hearings. According to Candace, Dr. Applegate spoke of his grave concern for the dismantling of the higher education system during this budget impasse, the Senators engaged in questions and comments for a while, and it was a constructive discussion. Abbas mentioned that U of I has the highest rate of faculty leaving or retiring ever. Paul asked what we can do as faculty to resolve the crisis. Candace responded that it is all about winning politically. Keep presenting data and stories to our legislators. Andy noted that administrative bloat is due to government regulations. Is there any data on this? Gretchen Lohman indicated not exactly; this came up at hearings involving state mandates. Candace added that procurement savings has been discussed. Marie wondered if the longitudinal data system is intact and in position to grow. Eric Lichtenberger answered that the higher education information system is under testing and is progressing. Dan queried if institutions will be able to use the system for tracking their students. Eric answered "yes". Andy asked about the security of the raw data. Eric responded that IBHE is partnering with ISAC to assure confidentiality.

Eric then presented "Community College Transfer Student Success Report". Slides included: present national studies (showing Illinois does very well), getting better information on success, pilot feedback report, questions that will be answered, and what are we missing. Andy asked if students transferring from community college can really finish in two more years. Dan suggested a need to look at cost to degree for transfer students. Are 2+2 agreements working?

We were joined by State Senator Scott Bennett (D-52nd) whose term started in January 2015. He outlined the history of the budget situation, noting that higher education and social services are the only areas not being funded. The Governor's office has indicated that there are no more FY16 funds available. Uncertainty is pervasive and has consequences. Steve D. offered that our best high school graduates are leaving the state in larger numbers. There are currently three bills for funding higher education in FY17 in the legislature. One would mean 20-25% cuts with the Governor moving funds around. A second would apply a 20% cut and include procurement reform which would only provide a modest amount of relief and mostly to schools with a medical center. The third is his bill and would match FY15 funding levels. There is a need to start a conversation. Only half of the budget is discretionary. Higher education needs to be viewed as an investment.

A conversation followed.

Paul: What are the chances for the FY17 budget?

Bennett: The best hope is if the K-12 funding bill doesn't move. That will increase pressure.

Abbas: Can savings in procurement replace GRF funding?

Bennett: The savings estimates have been inflated and exaggerated.

Lucy: Any revenue option ideas?

Bennett: There is a bill to close tax loopholes which would bring in \$600 million. The votes aren't there for a tax increase without the Governor's support.

Marie: The P-20 Council system was supposed to bring sectors together instead of being pitted against each other.

Adam: What does the Governor want?

Bennett: Workers Comp reform, court reform, term limits, changes in redistricting, and a property tax freeze. Each of these has several components and the Governor is insisting on all of them being passed.

In response to a question, Bennett sees a 50% chance of no FY16 budget for higher education.

Steve R. read a resolution of appreciation for Abbas Aminmansour for his work on the FAC and serving as chair from 2010-2015. It was approved unanimously.

Following lunch Dave Tretter commented on his perspective of the situation in Springfield. He is not as pessimistic as Senator Bennett relative to the FY16 budget. States that we do well have a strong higher education system. Both sides think they are winning. The level of trust is nonexistent. What kind of disaster is going to be needed to change this? There is no good solution. Abbas noted that even with a budget, there still isn't the money. But Tretter suggested that would be a start. Business leaders have to step forward. There needs to be a dedicated funding source, such as a 1/3 of 1% portion of the income tax.

Marie sent a letter to the new IBHE chair, Tom Cross, about the need to help in naming a current faculty member to the Board. We have also not had any response to our volunteering to participate on the IBHE Action Teams. Gretchen will follow up. FAC will meet with the Board at their June 21st meeting at Illinois State. How do we want to structure our lunch with them? Any ideas for homework assignments for Board members? [Subsequently, the idea of homework assignments was replaced with topic ideas.] We should follow this up at our April meeting. Kevin serves on an advisory group for the ICCB and it would be useful to have linkages/liaisons between our two groups. Due to some issues with publishers, we will use part of our April meeting to continue planning on this subject. Shawn will send out logistics on our next meeting shortly. An Election Committee is needed.

Caucuses met. Reporting for the Publics, Terry indicated that much time was spent in a therapy session assessing the current situation at our campuses. Devi was elected chair of the caucus for next year, if he is willing and able. Sue will serve on the Election Committee. There is support for a linkage between FAC and ICCB. John D. stated that the Community Colleges also support the linkage. They have concerns about an idea to merge IBHE and ICCB. Steve D. volunteered for the Election Committee. For the Privates, Andy will participate on the Election Committee. That caucus is considering a change in its composition. The current thinking is to eliminate the three slots reserved for the "big six" institutions and increase at-large slots by one. Feedback from the big six will be solicited. The Caucus is also concerned about getting faculty onto the Action Teams and reviving the Faculty Fellows program.

The minutes from our February meeting were approved. Matthew and Parkland were thanked for hosting. The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Steven Rock, FAC Secretary