

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting at Eureka College, March 20, 2015
Minutes approved April 7, 2015

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:

Sonya Armstrong (NIU)
Amy Carr (WIU)
Terry Clark (SIUC)
Lane Crothers (ISU)
Steve Depasquale (at-large, Kankakee Community College)
Michael Gizzi (ISU)
Ellen Hay (Augustana College)
Luisette Hernandex-Medina (Daley College)
Andy Howard (at-large, IIT)
Rick Jones (South Suburban College)
Alejandro Mayer (Midwestern University)
Duce McCune (Eureka)
Patricia McNicholas (Robert Morris University)
Ray Meredith (Parkland College)
Lucy Park (UIC)
Devi Potluri (CSU)
Shawn Schumacher (DeVry)
Sara Ray Stoelinga (University of Chicago)
Raymond Torralba (Truman College)
Traci Van Proooyers (UIS)
Susan Wiediger (SIUE)
Renee Wright (Triton)

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Abbas Aminmansour (UIUC)
John Bennett (at large, Lake Land College)
Daniel Beach (at-large, Dominican University)
Darcel Brady (Olivet Nazarene University)
Dan Cortese (GSU)
John D'Anca (at-large, Oakton College)
Marie Donovan (at-large, DePaul)
Hope Essien (Malcolm X)
Stan Hatfield (Southwestern Illinois College)
Lisa Hollis-Sawyer (NEIU)
Les Hyder (EIU)
Marjorie Johnson-Hilliard (Northwestern)
Dawn Munson (Elgin)
Adam Tournier (McKendree)
Kevin Weston (Rend Lake College)

Andy called the meeting to order at 9:02 am and provided a few introductory remarks to the council. He then asked to go around the room and have all council members introduce themselves.

Andy then introduced Dr. J. David Arnold, President of Eureka College to speak to the council. Dr. Arnold provided us with a brief history of Eureka College, indicating the college was founded by abolitionists prior to the Civil War. He also spoke about the college's most famous alum, Ronald Reagan. He told us also that the college is listed on the National Historic Record.

Andy opened the floor for questions for Dr. Arnold. Renee asked about the college's enrollment, and Dr. Arnold responded that the college currently has just over 700 students. He also added that 60% of the student body are first generation college students and that 45% of the students are eligible for MAP and Pell Grants.

Ellen asked Dr. Arnold about some of Eureka's main challenges, and Dr. Arnold replied that the biggest challenge is to face the need to prepare to educate a diverse student population. He also discussed the challenges of online education at EC, the challenge to recruit new students, and the challenge to keep college affordable. He also pointed out the continuing challenge to connect with graduates and the challenge to hire quality faculty at EC.

Devi asked Dr. Arnold about the diversity in Eureka College's student body, and Dr. Arnold mentioned that EC currently has 12% students of color, and he also indicated that there is a high transfer rate of students from community colleges. He also commented that EC's Education Department has the highest number of transfer students due the quality of the program.

At 9:25 am, Gretchen Lohman and Candace Mueller from IBHE phoned into the meeting to deliver their reports. Gretchen provided us with IBHE staff updates, reminded us of IBHE moving to a new location, and told us that IBHE personnel searches were progressing. She also indicated that the IBHE Faculty Fellowship has been awarded and that she is currently in contact with the individual. Gretchen discussed the April 7 IBHE meeting in Springfield and told us that there is limited space at Lincoln Land College for the Board meeting which begins at 11:30 am. She discussed hotel arrangements at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and dinner on Thursday evening at 6:30 pm at the Crowne Plaza Hotel restaurant.

Candace provided us with a Legislative Update. She discussed bills that have been sent to committees including a dual credit bill which is in discussion and progressing. She also told us about the current budgetary discussion, including assessing how to fund FY 2015 and FY 2016 budgets; she indicated these are being discussed in the House Higher Education Committee and the Senate Higher Education Committee. Candace also shared with us a few new bills such as a regulatory bill, construct cost increases, and cuts to the IBHE grant program.

Andy asked for questions for Candace, and Devi raised a question about the current budget. Candace replied that budget cuts are creating a greater strain on top of money already owed to the public universities from FY 2015.

Terry asked about the current political atmosphere in Springfield, and Candace responded by stating that everything is “gossip until somebody reads what Madigan says”. She discussed the problems with the budget cuts with no new revenue increases.

Candace also updated us on several current bills in the legislature, including the Veterans Bills (SB 1457 and HB 3692) , House Joint Resolution 52, and House Bill 3428.

Upon completion of the IBHE reports, Andy called for a break at 10:05.

At 10:20 am Andy called for us to reconvene and introduced Sara to present and discuss The To and Through Project of the Urban Education Institute at the University of Chicago. Sara noted that this program is comprised of four units: research on Chicago Public Schools, research on K-12 Charter Schools, research on students entering into higher education, and the training of teachers.

Sara indicated the program has a \$50 million operating budget and includes 500 employees. Sara noted the key objective of the program is to link high school data with college graduation rates and outcomes. This includes three key components: a district overview, school reports, and an interactive tool. The program examines 25 years of data including test scores, grades, disciplinary issues, and links these to national clearing house data. Within the program, individual high schools provide reports with trend data, linking students from high school through college.

Sara also shared the 2006 Chicago Tribune headline: 6 in 100 CPS students will graduate from college in at least six years. From this headline, Sara discussed with us some figures relating to graduation rates, including statistics from other urban areas. She told us that the college graduation rate for CPS students has improved from 8% in 2008 to 14% in 2014, and that CPS 4-year college enrollment rates have increased moderately. College qualifications for CPS students have also improved slightly among graduates, including an average ACT score of 17.6 in 2006 to an average ACT score of 18.4 in 2013. While the cumulative GPA for CPS students in 2006 was 2.3, in 2013, the cumulative GPA for CPS students improved to 2.5.

Sara noted that the program’s interactive tool is reporting to high schools and includes six significant sections; the tool reports on freshman on track, all students on track, high school graduation, college enrollment, college persistence, and college graduation. Sara provided examples of how the tool works by showing us screen shots of FAFSA examples and On Track examples. She showed us how the tool links trends and provides comparatives to other schools. She also provided us with examples of how the tool links to what is happening to students in high school and when they progress to college. She described the need for administrators to understand both short- and long-term outcomes.

Andy opened the floor for questions for Sara. Traci asked if interventions were tracked, and Sara replied that they track higher education institutions as well as collect high school anecdotal data.

Andy asked if there is a potential for abuse such as hacking by reporters. Sara responded that there is tremendous IT effort to reduce the possibility of abuse by authenticating current users.

She noted that there are rules on confidentiality, and that IT has provided multiple levels of encryption and added security to the program.

Lucy asked if the tool identified financial factors such as a student's use of scholarships or other resources or if the tool provided a summary of a student's financial aid package. Sara replied that the tool does not provide much of this data but that it can provide an average financial aid amount as shown through a FAFSA.

Rick asked how the tool gathers college data and track a student through college. Sara replied that students are tracked through a national clearing house with data that includes details on enrollment rates, persistence, and graduation rates.

Shawn asked if the tool tracks gainful employment after college. Sara responded that certain labs can all link this data through the databases, but it can also be a possibility for abuse by hackers. The tool can link this information through the state employment databases however.

After Sara's presentation and discussion, Andy called for the council to meet with caucuses at 11:00 am. Caucuses met in three break-out areas.

At 11:50 am, Andy called for a lunch break.

At 1:00 pm, Andy reconvened the council, and Gretchen Lohman from IBHE rejoined us via telephone.

Andy then asked for Caucus Reports.

Devi provided the Public University Caucus Report, and he mentioned the caucus discussed the budget cuts from perspectives of the current situation and into the future. Devi indicated that the caucus is currently working on a 14-point white paper on students' needs (ie. disillusionment, cancelled classes, program cuts, etc.) and quality teaching. He also questioned how the public agenda goals would be met with current budget cuts.

Ray provided the Community College Caucus Report, and he noted that the caucus discussed dual credit and dual enrollment issues. He reported that there was a concern regarding the distinction between the two. The main concern regarding dual credit is the possibility of oversight on the quality of courses at the high school level; he also mentioned that there is an expectation from community colleges that the high schools use the same textbooks, syllabi, and provide the same rigor. He also noted that there is the possibility of inconsistency at four year institutions for dual credit.

Shawn provided the Public and Independent Caucus Report, and he noted that the caucus focused on preparing and defining discussion topics for the April 7 IBHE Board Meeting in Springfield. He reported that the caucus will formulate and will provide two key concerns at the IBHE meeting: 1) the need for IBHE to continue to fund the Faculty Fellowship Program, and 2) the need to fund travel expenses for the IBHE Liaison to the FAC for at least 7 of the 10 FAC meetings throughout the state. Shawn reported that each of these programs is valuable to the

FAC and should be continued to be funded. The caucus also discussed the logistics of an at-large alternate at upcoming meetings.

After caucus reports, the council discussed the order of the questions/comments for the IBHE Board meeting on April 7, and it was decided that the Private/Independent Caucus would go first with Shawn commenting, followed by the Community College Caucus with Steve commenting, and concluding with the Public University Caucus with Sue commenting.

Further logistics relating to the April 7 IBHE Board meeting were provided by Gretchen.

At 1:30 pm, Andy brought forth the Vice Chair Report, indicating that Marie had previously shared material regarding MAP and Pell Grants.

At 1:35 pm, Andy opened the Business Meeting. Minutes from the February 2015 meeting at Robert Morris University were approved.

Andy opened up the floor for Old Business, and Steve provided an update from the Nominations and Elections Committee regarding current nominations and the upcoming elections for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

Andy then opened the floor for New Business, and Sue provided hotel and transportation information in regard to the upcoming May meeting at SIUE.

Andy and the council formally thanked Duce and Eureka College for hosting the March 2015 FAC meeting.

Gretchen reminded the council of the Student Advisory Council meeting on March 27 at UIUC; Andy will see if Abbas can attend and represent the FAC. Sue asked if there was a membership list for SAC and if we could receive a copy.

Andy also asked if Abbas was still handling the FAC website and noted that the FAC Membership List was outdated and needed to be changed.

At 1:45 pm, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Shawn Schumacher
Acting FAC Secretary