

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

Meeting at Oakton Community College, November 21, 2014

Minutes approved December 12, 2014

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:

Abbas Aminmansour (UIUC)
Sonya Armstrong (NIU)
Daniel Beach (at-large, Dominican University)
John Bennett (at large, Lake Land College)
Darcel Brady (Olivet Nazarene University)
Terry Clark (SIUC)
John D'Anca (at-large, Oakton College)
Steve Depasquale (at-large, Kankakee Community College)
Mike Gizzi (ISU)
Stan Hatfield (Southwestern Illinois College)
Ellen Hay (Augustana College)
Luisette Hernandex-Medina (Daley College)
Lisa Hollis-Sawyer (NEIU)
Andy Howard (at-large, IIT)
Les Hyder (EIU)
Rick Jones (South Suburban College)
Lisa Knecht-Sabres (Midwestern University)
Patricia McNicholas (Robert Morris University)
Julie Peters (UIC)
Devi Potluri (CSU)
Steven Rock (WIU)
Aida Shekib (GSU)
Sara Ray Stoelinga (University of Chicago)
Adam Tournier (McKendree)
Susan Wiediger (SIUE)
Renee Wright (Triton)

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Victoria Childs (UIS)
Marie Donovan (at-large, DePaul)
Hope Essien (Malcolm X)
Theresa Gilbert (Rock Valley)
Matthew Hurt (Parkland College)
Marjorie Johnson-Hilliard (Northwestern)
Duce McCune (Eureka)
Dawn Munson (Elgin)
Shawn Schumacher (DeVry)
Raymond Torralba (Truman College)
Kevin Weston (Rend Lake College)

The meeting began at 9:05 a.m. John D. welcomed us to campus and introduced President Peg Lee, who has served in this capacity for 20 years and will be retiring soon. Lee provided observations after being at OCC for 30 years. Higher education and the teaching profession is under attack. The escalating costs are unsustainable. Higher education is increasingly being credentials driven and commoditized; there is a loss of focus on what and why we do. We prepare students for jobs that do not currently exist. One finding of the Purdue-Gallup study is that the personal connection of caring during college is a major component of a student's feeling of succeeding. The challenge of the future is not just the what to learn but the how to learn. The same old way is not going to continue.

Devi noted that many of our newer administrators don't have a feel for the classroom; it is more of a business model. How do we win them over? Lee answered you build a personal and professional relationship with them. You need a Board that believes you are credible; this takes time. Dan added that faculty are split on the higher education model and goals for students. Lee responded that we can agree that our goal is student learning. Our students are much different in terms of skills than us. For example, does it make sense to still assign a 20 page paper? This is our biggest challenge. Adam indicated the pressure to have to keep our eye on the bottom line. Lee mentioned that we can change what is in our circle of influence.

Gloria Liu, Coordinator of the Center for Promoting STEM, presented "Retaining STEM Students Through Student Research". She discussed the role and challenge of research at community colleges. OCC has received NSF grants to do research in math and sciences involving students. The OCC Educational Foundation has continued this program with funding. For students, it is set up as more of an internship. There are an average of 8 projects per semester involving 25 to 40 students. Some of these projects have won awards. Students in the following semester often take more STEM courses or transfer to 4 year schools. This can help make a community college as a desired destination for students.

Michael Carr, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, presented "Broad Engagement for Student Success". Carr is a former chair of the Biology Department. OCC joined "Achieving the Dream" national program in 2013 to improve student success and eliminate achievement gaps. There are five principles: committee leadership, use of evidence to improve programs and services, broad engagement of constituents, systematic institutional improvement, and equity. Carr discussed 5 steps for student success and how students get connected to college and OCC. They are using longitudinal cohort tracking for students who began in fall 2008-2010.

What is the academic goal of OCC students? Why are students here? There are various reasons and the need to align student outcomes to student goals. Some come just to take couple of courses, while others get a credential or transfer to a 4 year institution. The goal is to establish a culture of continuous improvement. One intervention is a Persistence Subcommittee with criteria established and agreed upon; an outcome is the new student orientation program. Students who attend this seem to do better. Andy

suggested that there are other causal factors to consider before success can be attributed to the orientation. Steve R. agreed based on a similar situation at WIU. Devi wondered if all this gathering of data is useful; there is a concern that the time and effort in analysis by faculty could be better spent elsewhere. Renee asked if orientation will be mandatory. Carr indicated that they are moving in that direction. It is currently a one day process and an online option is available. The Lumina grant doesn't have any strings attached.

Abbas reported that IBHE Executive Director Applegate will be at our December meeting in Springfield. One topic will be Guided Pathways to Success (GPS). He attended a recent meeting of the Performance Based Funding (PBF) Steering Committee. The budget allocation devoted to PBF will remain 0.5%. The funding formula could be tweaked, but there was a recommendation to keep it the same for the next 3 years.

Caucuses met. Andy reported that the Privates discussed MAP, meaningful information on graduation rates, academic integrity issues, social media influence on students, and the possibility that Dave Tretter will meet with the Caucus in December. For the Publics, Devi announced that the Faculty Senate is back to being recognized by the administration at CSU. They are working on a resolution on shared governance as well as one on academic freedom. One idea is to document how budget cuts have affected quality on our campuses; we can come up with stories and specific impacts. John D. mentioned that the community colleges were concerned about the SURS 6% rule. Due to a large fine, OCC will no longer rehire retired faculty. This is detrimental to the institution and could easily be solved with some basic accounting. There is also the issue of students who enter with deficiencies and use up some of their financial assistance in taking remedial courses.

Following lunch, Michael Afolayan from IBHE provided a telephone report. There are three recent hires as assistant directors in their Academic Affairs division. There have been no applicants for Faculty Fellows positions. We need to go back to our campuses and publicize the program.

Steve R. provided a brief report on the implementation of the recommendations from MAP Advising Working Group. MAP eligible institutions are being asked to increase their retention rates by 5% over the next 6 years, mandate advising for MAP recipients and other at-risk students, and examine best practices in retaining students.

The minutes from our October meeting were approved. There was a discussion of ideas and topics for upcoming meetings and possible guests to invite. Thanks were extended to John D. and OCC for hosting. The meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Rock
FAC Secretary

