

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting at Northern Illinois University, November 15, 2019
Minutes Approved December 10, 2019

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:

Paul Bialek	at-large (Trinity International University)
Cynthia Boyce	Lincoln Trail College
Amy Carr	Western Illinois University
Julie Clemens	Illinois Central College
Marlon Cummings	Governor's State University
John D'Anca	at-large (Oakton College)
Diane Dean	Illinois State University
Marie Donovan	DePaul University
Randall Egdorf	John Wood Community College
Dan Hrozencik	Chicago State University
Rick Jones	at-large (South Suburban College)
Jennifer Martin	University of Illinois – Springfield
Gay Miller	University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Nataka Moore	Adler University
C. Lucy Park	University of Illinois – Chicago
Mike Philips	Illinois Valley Community College
Linda Saborio	Northern Illinois University
Iman Saca	St. Xavier University
Patricia Saleeby	Southern Illinois University Carbondale — via Zoom
Shawn Shumacher	DeVry University
Tatiana Tatum Parker	St. Xavier University
Kendall Tau	Northern Illinois University
Mat Timm	Bradley University
Brian Vivona	Northeastern Illinois University
Larry White	Eastern Illinois University
Susan Wiediger	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Steve DePasquale	Kankakee Community College
Thomas Dowd	Harper College
Pennie Gray	Illinois Wesleyan University
Andy Howard	Illinois Institute of Technology
Adam Tournier	at-large (McKendree University)
Doug Dowell	Heartland Community College

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 by Marie Donovan. Linda Saborio provided logistical information and thanked those who assisted with meeting organization.

Northern Illinois State University President Lisa Freeman welcomed us. She discussed generational differences among and between faculty and students, including tuition costs and how they are paid, the role of phones, major concerns, learning styles, and use of technology and social media. At NIU, they have seen younger alumni (1200 of them!) self-organize alternate homecoming events and invite administration to engage with them at their events. Younger generations seek to participate in creating the story and the experience. Universities need to provide a range of experiences and then foster the ones that engage the students and build connections. Examples at NIU include the mascot tracker, the NIU sculpture on the quad, and Touchdown Village. Sometimes we can get bogged down in the day-to-day, but need to step back and think about bigger issues as well to look toward the future and how we want to shape it. During Q&A, an example of students taking an active role in learning was community engagement projects where students go out and solve problems. To free up time to think about big issues, NIU is seeking to provide innovation funding as well as course releases or sabbatical work focused on curricular innovation – would like to see IBHE funding innovation again. Community colleges are feeling pressure to build two-year curricular pathways that streamline students' experience, which prioritizes credentials over learning, subject matter exploration, or free electives. The balance between providing student choices and providing parents and students with efficient pathways to degrees may be difficult to find. Addressing equity gaps in gateway courses and other aspects of the educational process is essential.

Marie Donovan (FAC Chair) reminded the council about the University Dialogue next week at DePaul. There is a new person coordinating them and making them more interactive. Next month's FAC meeting will be at the DePaul Lincoln Park campus, and will be truncated in length to allow for IBHE meeting attendance in afternoon. We will be joined at lunch by Kelly Burke, sharing her thoughts about the veto session that ends today. She asked caucuses today to consider whether last month's 'caucuses only' meeting was useful and should be repeated, and also whether other caucuses should adopt a vice/assistant chair like the public caucus uses. Marie will visit caucuses to talk about new member institutions joining us.

Marie met with John Atkinson, the new chair of the IBHE, for about an hour. He appears deeply committed to higher education and straightforward about where things are not working. Our advisory group has been fairly active, but he is not sure about the other advisory groups. He is looking into regular interactions, but needs to be careful not to have too many board members present (possible Open Meetings Act concern). Within 60 days from now, his goal is to pull people together to work on the master plan, and FAC will have a role.

While IBHE will look into having the FAC website through their site, in the meanwhile, there are concerns about university hosting due to branding requirements. Lucy Park volunteered to pay for an independent website. Mike Philips talked about how the ICCB website works. Marie suggested the Policies, Procedures, and Bylaws working group might discuss how this role fits into the FAC.

Marie referenced the report sent via email by Dr. Gretchen Lohman (Senior Associate Director and FAC Liaison, IBHE), which discussed SJR41, SJR22, Transitional Math & English, Institutional Closures, IBHE staff changes and Executive Director search. Marie was invited to

serve on Ad-Hoc Working Transfer Group (part of SJR22); she is the only faculty among a group that is mostly transfer specialists. They have met once. There is so much we do not know about transfer and dual credit in our state. A survey was sent to publics and public community college, with responses due by Monday before Thanksgiving.

Shawn Schumacher, Vice-Chair – DePaul meeting in December is on a *Tuesday*; info out by Monday. Sue Wiediger, Secretary – reviewed and updated working group membership.

Illinois State Representative Jeff Keicher (R-70) and former Representative Bob Pritchard talked informally with the FAC.

Pritchard served fifteen years in the legislature and is now on the NIU board, applying what he learned more locally and trying to advocate for higher education. We have to push the value proposition for the individual and for the state of Illinois. There has been a real focus on K-12 – reform bill in 2017 – need something similar in higher ed. In Springfield, you have limited time to build relationships; your best investment is in your district...invite legislators to your campus, take groups to them, build relationships. Then when you need to advocate for something, you have a relationship and a channel to get through. Last year’s funding has helped the publics, and maybe the privates a little through MAP and capital...have to advocate and stay focused on telling your stories. We should a talk about the paradigm shift in education – half of NIU’s students are low-income, first-generation. Responsibility as faculty to work with students to learn, stay, graduate. Need to be student focused, such as the program between Kishwaukee & NIU to foster dual credit and support the high school teachers offering it.

Keicher is on the Higher Ed Committee and Higher Ed Appropriation. He was raised by a single mother; he and his sisters worked their way through NIU – what a generational transformation, aided by a focus on underserved populations. He appreciates higher education and the support he has received from Pritchard. He’s a State Farm agent by trade, but does this because he feels it is important to give back. Working with Governor J.B.... you can disagree honorably, but still be friendly. 44 republicans, 77 democrats, so in a super-minority. They spent 22 hours on testimony and meetings to figure out cutting 185 million from the higher education budget in a bipartisan process. With windfall tax money, got to add, instead of cutting. Instead of adding money back based on where cuts had gotten to, instead ended up with ‘restore the cuts, then give everyone 5%’. He emphasized – build relationships, brag on good stuff that is happening, have forums, get faculty out into communities, look at winning back adults who did not get to complete their degrees.

Dual Credit was an extensive part of the discussion. Students’ exposure to diverse choices might be limited to what high school teachers can offer. Reducing hours at higher education can result in cuts to programs. Developmental issues mean students might not be ready for conversations in higher level courses or after graduation. There will always be those who want the four-year experience, or who do not take advantage of dual credit programs. We don’t want to let great stand in the way of good. We want to open as many doors as we can to get students through the process, while making sure that those offering coursework have proper credentials. Access to a college level advisor could be important to guide students, try to help them make selections that are productive, rather than only seeking to boost head count. You can never fully eliminate taking courses that do not count, especially if students change majors or schools, but you can try to reduce how often it happens. While amendments to the Dual Credit Quality Act focused on

credentials of those offering dual credit, but we haven't seen anything to set rules about who is eligible to take dual credit. Some places have data about how poor implementation of dual credit leaves students unprepared. The last thing we might want is more state mandates, rather than building local relationships and letting the best programs survive. We need more local accountability for dual credit programs that are failing students' needs rather than trying to make one rule fit everyone. Some programs are open admission. Test scores might not capture the full student, and perhaps passion and engagement with education should be considered.

Another topic was preparation and success. For community colleges, traditional four year institutions, independent or affiliated graduate schools... what kind of data are legislators interested in, relating to success and community engagement? Some legislators want data, some do not. The high school report cards and new higher ed report cards help with awareness of information. Legislators tend to go to IBHE, ISAC, ICCB, and ask for what they want to see. ISAC has some amazing resources online. There is some pushback about the number of reports and associated burden – data for data's sake rather than being good stewards. Higher ed suffers due to not working together and presenting a unified front on big issues such as capital bills, funding, and readiness.

On the subject of performance based funding: The higher ed working group has seen significant turnover and relationships will need to be rebuilt. We need to allow experts to be experts, allow competition at all levels of society, and not fund mediocrity or programs uninteresting to millennials. Need to remove some barriers to creativity and innovation and be responsive to the next generation. Individual programs should spotlight work done locally. People with research sometimes specifically bring reports they think will be relevant to the committees he (JK) is serving on.

Returning to the subject of program efficiency when students do not know what they want initially...what kind of product do we want? This led to some discussion of competency based programs and personal accountability, as well as how to engage first-generation families to understand the process.

There is a house resolution to separate Chicago from the state, which is gaining some traction in the southeast. Not even all the Republicans in the southeast support the resolution. The issue speaks to the divide between the northern and southern parts of the state, but Illinois needs Chicago. We're a family, with problems, but with a lot of resources and attractions. We have to take personal responsibility to work our way out of our current situation through a shared commitment to what needs to be done.

Caucuses met. Working Groups met. Minutes from September were approved (motion by Linda Saborio, Paul Bialek seconded).

Caucus reports from October meetings:

Publics (Diane Dean): October minutes will be circulated via email for approval. Reviewed working groups to make sure each had at least one public member and to identify key public caucus issues. Also identified additional topics that might need discussion: dual credit with a different focus than last year, and rebuilding public universities with an eye to outmigrations but also intrastate issues. Three communication issues were discussed: 1) how do our reps communicate to our campuses (shared as round-robin) 2) intra-FAC communication, which the website might fix; and 3) with Jennifer Delaney – would like to have regular dialogue with her,

maybe invite her to phone in or provide a report but also provide info the other way. Encouraged folks to think about upcoming executive committee elections

Privates (Paul Bialek): Noted old web domain name is available. Talked about what schools we would invite to get back to 12 members. Talked about mental health on campus; Gen Z issues are up, staffing is inadequate – recommended is 1 per 1000-1500, now is closer to 1 per 1600.

Two-years (John D'Anca): They were joined by Erin Volk, coordinator of academic advising at Lincoln Trail College, talking about what they are doing to attract more students: having a two year plan from the beginning for courses to take; faculty as agents of change; and reducing barriers to academic success (e.g. responsiveness to student needs). Some schools are closing mental health centers, but Kankakee's is growing. Talked about working group assignments. Julie talked about IAI for English 111: two syllabi requirements, so there are concerns about grade inflation; suggestions were provided. Discussed more about dual credit and about openings on the caucus.

Caucus reports from today's discussion:

Two-years (John D'Anca): Julie Clemens now vice chair, Cindy Boyce is secretary. If there is a future 'whole caucus' meeting, if the date is matched with a CCFA (Community College Faculty Association) meeting then they might meet with that group instead of as a caucus.

Privates (Paul Bialek): Paul is now vice-chair. Talked about whole group and caucus: we lose some continuity if we don't meet as a whole group, so don't want two in a row without a whole group, but could do half and half. They came up with some possible schedules.

Public (Diane Dean): Talked about the website, including that it needs to be accessible. Proposed some items for our December discussion with Representative Burke (performance based budget views; dual credit views; rules and regulations related to sexual harassment). Also talked about greater intentionality with caucus agenda items which would mean communication with Marie about how much time might be needed.

Discussion of possible changes to FAC schedule to balance working group and public caucus work with whole group discussion. One proposal is: January whole group, February as working group, March as caucus, April/May/June whole group. Fall 2020: September, whole; Oct caucuses; November half working/whole, December whole group Julie Clemens, Diane Dean, Amy Carr, and Paul Bialek volunteered to work on a proposed schedule.

Announcements

Lucy Park and Jennifer Martin will work on the website, including contacting Andy Howard. Shawn Schumacher said there will be an email from the P20 working group for each of us to send in 3 initiatives for the interactive map.

Shawn and Marie extend thanks to our host, Linda Saborio and NIU

Adjourned 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Wiediger, FAC Secretary