

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting via Zoom, April 17, 2020

Minutes Approved May 15, 2020

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)
Steve DePasquale	Kankakee Community College
Marie Donovan	DePaul University
Thomas Dowd	Harper College
Pennie Gray	Illinois Wesleyan University
Shelly Goebel-Parker	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville
Andy Howard	Illinois Institute of Technology
Dan Hrozencik	Chicago State University
Rick Jones	at-large (South Suburban College)
Jose Lozano	Bradley University
Jennifer Martin	University of Illinois – Springfield
Gay Miller	University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Nataka Moore	Adler University
Melette Pearce	Black Hawk College
C. Lucy Park	University of Illinois – Chicago
Mike Philips	Illinois Valley Community College
Linda Saborio	Northern Illinois University
Patricia Saleeby	Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Shawn Schumacher	DeVry University
Mat Timm	Bradley University
Brian Vivona	Northeastern Illinois University
Larry White	Eastern Illinois University – via Zoom
Susan Wiediger	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

IBHE Staff

Gretchen Lohman, FAC Liaison and Senior Associate Director, Academic Affairs, IBHE

Jaimee Ray, Senior Associate Director, Legislative Affairs, IBHE

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Diane Dean	Illinois State University
Doug Dowell	Heartland Community College
Randall Egdorf	John Wood Community College
Tatiana Tatum Parker	St. Xavier University
Adam Tournier	at-large (McKendree University)

Meeting was called to order at 9:01 by Marie Donovan, FAC Chair. She started recording the meeting and wished everyone a Happy Community College month. Marie congratulated Shawn, Julie and Sue on their election and thanked Cindy, Amy, Linda, and Adam for running. Marie thanked everyone for the rapid response to the request regarding pass/fail grading. She would like caucuses to discuss what type of online resource page or other resource would be most useful moving forward.

Shawn Schumacher, FAC Vice-Chair, reported that due to the pandemic, we expect virtual meetings for the next while, including in May (originally scheduled for Springfield). We do not know about the IBHE Meeting in June and whether that will be at NEIU.

Sue Wiediger, FAC Secretary, reported that term endings and hosting for next year will come up in bylaws and later discussions.

Gretchen Lohman, IBHE liaison reported that IBHE is addressing the MacMurray College closing. IAI pass/fail and other related guidance documents are up on the IBHE website. She thanked DeVry and UIS for webinars about online support. A virtual wi-fi map is being developed with aid from Eric Lichtenberger (IBHE CIO) to aid students with finding wi-fi if they are having connection problems.¹

Jaimee Ray, IBHE, provided a legislative update - working groups have been formed in the House and Senate to discuss budget and necessary legislative items. IBHE has been asked about legislation essential to higher education, but so far nothing has been identified.

During open Q&A, there was discussion about what college might look like in Fall 2020 due to the pandemic. When one school announces a decision (e.g. Boston University considering what they will do if they cannot open in the fall) sometimes students make plans as though every college will follow suit. If students take a gap year, what does that do to college planning for enrollment declines or subsequent surges? Some schools are planning for online summers and hybrid falls to reduce on-campus presence. There are concerns about maintaining quality – emergency remote teaching is one thing, but institutional standards for quality instruction, including online, should not be compromised long term. There are capacity issues and a need to evaluate carefully on a case-by-case basis. This is one reason the IBHE supported the webinars – responses are likely to be institutionally situated rather than state or agency level, although the IBHE might compile what people are doing; nothing legislative is expected in this area.

Another issue that was raised is whether any legislation previously passed is likely to be delayed in implementation as a result of the pandemic – such as the Student Mental Health bill. That particular item depended on funding that didn't get determined and thus is effectively postponed for a while.

Jennifer Delaney, IBHE Member, introduced herself. She is an associate professor at UIUC and holds the public member faculty seat on IBHE. She was a faculty fellow with FAC researching the fixed tuition laws, and her area of interest is budget, which is not looking great at the state

¹ After the meeting, Gretchen shared the link to the State of Illinois' new drive-up WiFi map tool: www.ildceo.net/wifi, a result of a recent collaborative effort that IBHE helped lead that involved the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, the Department of Innovation and Technology, the Illinois State Library, the Illinois Community College Board, and the Illinois State Board of Education. With students across the state now displaced and many needing reliable broadband access to fully engage in e-learning, this tool could have a lot of utility. The interactive tool provides users with the following information for each WiFi hotspot: general instructions for using; specifics for logging in; and turn by turn driving directions through a link to Google Maps.

level right now. Currently there is a strong student focus, particularly on those that are at risk due to issues such as insecure housing or tech limitations. We are in response mode at the moment, but will eventually shift to longer term thinking.

During Q&A, there was discussion about uses for the stimulus money from the government through the CARES Act. While the federal level is not offering specific guidance, the amount is partially based on the number of students receiving Pell grants, so focusing some on lower income students would make sense. Some universities are purchasing laptops for students with need.

February minutes from the meeting at DeVry were approved (John D’Anca motion, seconded by Mat Timm).

Bylaws discussion. Julie Clemens sent out the most recent version with comments yesterday.

The information about how often the IBHE meets needs to be updated. There is also the question about the wording for meeting frequency, and how meetings of the whole versus meetings of part (e.g. meeting as separate caucuses) count toward the total number of meetings. Marie had sent out a possible schedule that reduced the numbers of meetings of the whole and timed them to coordinate better with IBHE meetings, interspersed with meetings by caucus.

With regards to the Open Meetings Act, the general consensus is that we should follow ideas and practices but that the FAC is advisory only and thus not subject to all the requirements. A particular issue to keep in mind is that private institutions are not always open to the public, so when meetings are hosted by institutions not used to having public meetings that needs to be considered.

Some items might be removed from the Bylaws and put into a policies and procedures document that is referenced – for example, how representatives are appointed, or details of officer job descriptions. Keeping the monetary support information in the bylaws is important because it gives that an official status that makes it clear what institutions are committing to for their members. There are often concerns about cost that make it harder to recruit members from community colleges and private institutions. There was discussion about language that might permit electronic participation, limit costs, etc.; however there were also concerns about whether institutions might then leave participation costs on the faculty member, or only fund virtual participation when face-to-face has been found to be very important to facilitating FAC work.

Officers need to send job descriptions to Julie. The Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures working group hopes to have a more finalized bylaws document in May to vote on in June.

Representative Jeff Keicher, (R-70), joined the FAC for informal conversation. He is on seven committees, including Higher Education and Higher Education Appropriations, but was invited today to address Mental Health issues, as he is also on that committee. Yesterday was the first time legislators gathered in working groups to figure out what will be essential for the shortened session. They hope for consensus to reduce conflict and get the critical components approved for next year. Where FAC and faculty could be most helpful is to identify “pinch points” – areas where we feel there are over-requirements for reporting, etc., where we can try a two-year pilot or exception to increase efficiency and get done what we need to get done. His goal in higher education is to trust the experts (us) and allow us to flourish in the classroom. The FAC Mental

Health working group had sent Rep. Keicher some questions in advance, so he started with those topics. Jaimee Ray had also participated in some of the discussions around the bill (HB2152, introduced February 2019, signed by Governor Pritzker as Public Act 101-0251 in August 2019, called the Mental Health Early Action on Campus Act), and provided some context as well.

The budget for implementation in July 2020 was subject to appropriation in December, and none was made. While input was favorable because we want to support students, for robust networks we need more input from the university community. We did not want another unfunded mandate, and the language in the bill specifies not just an appropriation, but CGFA (commission on government forecasting and accountability) specifying an amount that the legislation then has to provide. This also affects provisions for emergency situations such as COVID-19 or shootings. We can anticipate ongoing difficulties with funding because of the upcoming budget shortfalls anticipated due to the pandemic. A sincere hope is that federal programs will help, but there are still going to be holes. In the next 4-6 weeks...Rep. Keicher hopes to see before that legislative session: governor's office priorities; more about the federal package; more info from higher ed about what could be saved by streamlining or cutting things, at least temporarily.

The ratio in the Act (1:1250) was somebody's best idea. We need more diligent and thorough dialogue about what would be workable. His recollection is that the ratio was based on FTE, not headcount, but the bill is not specific in that regard. Some universities are already close to the desired ratio, but others are not. Mental health in rural communities, in particular, has come up to the committee before. All things being equal, we would roll out much more opportunity than currently available.

On the topics of peer support and potential liabilities, that is a concern. We may need some model legislation to consider, as there could be liability issues if untrained people provide advice to folks in crisis. Peer training can be additionally tough for community colleges where folks are gone so quickly.

Private institutions, while not subject to the law, are likely to be very interested in the progress and resources.

The Technical Assistance Center will be housed with IBHE; Rep. Keicher is thankful that there is leeway in the bill to allow the experts to have input on crafting this information – but again, there will not be implementation until there is funding.

Rep. Keicher shared some relevant links:

<https://capitolfax.com/2020/02/19/select-budget-address-react/>

<https://codcourier.org/12379/news/new-mental-health-law-gives-specific-guidelines-for-illinois-college-counseling-services/>

<https://younginvincibles.org/gov-pritzkers-budget-address-neglects-young-adults-mental-health-crisis/>

The dialogue about the act may not have been as robust as would have been helpful, and there are deficiencies in the legislation, but it was felt better to get it on the books than to have nothing. Funding and availability was increased recently, and there is work on telehealth.

To move forward and advocate for change or improvements, Rep. Keicher suggested working with Jaimee to put together guidance for corrective legislation. Realistically, this won't happen this year, but looking at spring 2021 we have time to work with professionals and clarify the document. Get an official opinion in writing that our institutions can rely on. Be experts and advocate for changes that would make our lives easier and more efficient. Build consensus and

work through organizations – more singular voices that have been vetted and crystallized, rather than many small voices pulling in different directions, leads to ideas more likely to be adopted. The broader issue of mental health for more citizens was also raised². This is an international issue, not just a state issue. Rep Keicher felt that the Affordable Care Act from 2010, which gave more parity to mental and physical health, helped; hospitals that have eliminated mental health beds, etc., have eroded that support. We need more providers, more ways to get folks into the field, but there are barriers of increasingly extensive training. There are issues with health care in general, but this has federal issues as well and needs a thorough discussion. As the FAC we need to be careful about diluting our organization's mission, although we can reach out to other organizations or take other actions as individuals or in other groups.

Caucus summaries from the March meetings (full reports sent via email):

Two-Years (Cynthia Boyce): We spent a lot of time talking about the shift to online format, sharing concerns and ideas and best practices: synchronous meetings to maintain similarity to existing class; concerns about courses such as music and labs; what about courses for students half-way through that now cannot complete (e.g. cadaver anatomy); and questions about ensuring academic rigor... Respondus lock-down, etc., but some don't work on Chromebooks. Discussed bylaws changes. Talked about Pritzker's proposal for free tuition, and Amy Carr's Dual Credit document (emailed yesterday).

Publics (Amy Carr): Talked a lot about COVID, bylaws, mental health, reaccreditation... see our document with notes. Concern about the proposal about tuition free community college, and whether tuition free for all publics is more relevant and better for students. Gretchen Lohman suggested that perhaps Ginger Ostro (IBHE Executive Director) can come to FAC in May to discuss, but much has been derailed by COVID, and with a budget shortfall this may not be an issue of concern.

Privates & Proprietaries: No report-out or notes yet.

In new business, the question was raised of how high school seniors are being recruited and what virtual means are being pursued. Several places are doing virtual tours and online conversations or interviews; some specific links shared include SIUC's <https://siu.university-tour.com/> and NIU's <https://www.niu.edu/admissions/visit/virtual.shtml>

Working groups met and then reported out:

This We Believe (Paul Bialek). Crafted a letter to the editor talking about how hard faculty are working; still in rough draft form.

² Through the Zoom chat function, the following was shared:

The Illinois Department of Human Services' Mental Health Division has launched a free-of-charge emotional support text line, Call4Calm, for Illinois residents experiencing stress and mental health issues related to COVID-19. Individuals who would like to speak with a mental health professional can text "TALK" to 5-5-2-0-2-0, or for Spanish, "HABLAR" to the same number: 5-5-2-0-2-0. Call4Calm is free to use, and individuals will remain anonymous. Once a resident sends a text to the hotline, within 24 hours they will receive a call from a counselor employed by a local community mental health center to provide support. Individuals can also text 5-5-2-0-2-0, with key words such as "unemployment" or "food" or "shelter" and will receive information on how to navigate and access supports and services.

Mental Health (Cynthia Boyce): We talked about the info from Rep. Keicher today. Going to get our ideas together and would like to meet in May with Jaimee Ray to get more guidance about our document. In May or June, could meet with mental health professionals around the state to get some feedback and guidance from them about our ideas, and their endorsement of the document.

IAI/Dual Credit/transfer (Amy Carr): Draft of faculty concerns about dual credit courses was sent out last night to the working group plus a few folks. We'd like to get it out to everybody and see if it could be on the agenda for discussion in May if there's room. Steve is going to draft a proposed bill to address some of the concerns about dual credit, such as violations of the Dual Credit Quality Act. Marie will share some documents she came across on the COA site.

Steve and Melette shared concerns about pass/fail during the working group time. Black Hawk created a recommendation to allow it but advising first, and haven't implemented it yet. No one is completely sure about the implications, and there are concerns about athletes, employers, etc. Some places are allowing a drop after finals. Marie shared an article from InsideHigherEd <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/04/13/how-will-passfail-affect-students-future>. We might hope that everyone would be understanding about this semester, but some things happen automatically. A document within Illinois, like the IAI guidance, might not apply out of state. Marie has heard something will come from the governor's office today about teacher preparation requirements.

P-20 (Linda Saborio): Robust conversation about how to categorize our faculty initiatives. Marie will be sharing some data that her GA is inputting. Pennie might have a student for the fall that can assist.

Performance Based Funding (Mike Philips): Pretty much on hold until summer – not going to be anything happening and people are very busy. Spent our time discussing how we might repurpose the group to think about what funding will look like for the next few years. Maybe, despite the budget cut, higher ed could be held harmless...not a cut due to loss of enrollment. IF folks take a gap year in 2020-2021, so we see a decline in enrollment, might we see a surge in 2021-2022 as those folks return?

Marie reminded groups like Mental Health or PBF to contact Gretchen (and cc Marie) before approaching Jaimee Ray, as that smooths communications.

The Two-Year and Private & Proprietary Caucuses do not need to meet; the Public caucus will meet after the main meeting ends.

Steve DePasquale thanked Marie for hosting and ably directing the Zoom meeting.

Shawn Schumacher thanked Steve DePasquale, Dan Hrozencik, and Mike Philips for election committee service.

Adjourned 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Wiediger, FAC Secretary