

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting via Zoom, May 15, 2020
Minutes Approved June 9, 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
Marlon Cummings	Governor's State University
John D'Anca	at-large (Oakton College)
Diane Dean	Illinois State University
Steve DePasquale	Kankakee Community College
Marie Donovan	DePaul University
Thomas Dowd	Harper College
Randall Egdorf	John Wood Community College
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
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
Sophia Gehlhausen Anderson, Academic Affairs Assistant Director, IBHE

Jennifer Delaney

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Julie Clemens	Illinois Central College
Doug Dowell	Heartland Community College
Pennie Gray	Illinois Wesleyan University
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. After introductions, Shawn Schumacher, FAC Vice-Chair, reported that June and future meetings are still undetermined. Sue Wiediger, FAC Secretary, reported that minutes were sent.

Gretchen Lohman, IBHE liaison, responded to a question about IBHE guidance for re-opening by indicating that work is in progress. A planning committee is in progress, and a press release is planned for later today. Virtual board meetings are still expected because we will likely be in Phase 3; even in Phase 4 meetings might be more than 50. Jennifer Delaney, IBHE member, pointed out that virtual meetings still have public comment time available. Gretchen stated that work is underway for how to support high school students to transition to post-secondary learning for summer and fall, and guidance is forthcoming; reach out to Gretchen if you have input. She shared two links: <https://www.ibhe.org/IBHE-DG-Institutions-Covi19.html> for general IBHE info related to COVID-19, and the WiFi hotspot link shared last month: <http://illinois.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=23e8046edd2940bc8ad3ad1725e47cd0>

Jaimee Ray, IBHE Senior Associate Director, reported that a lot has been going on since the legislature came back into town midweek. Things are getting done, but on a very limited legislative calendar. For example, there is work on the budget implementation bill, hospital assessment for Medicaid, and one big Covid-19 omnibus bill (anything identified by agencies as needed for any changes will be in one big bill). Some higher ed things that might be in that: Illinois Articulation Initiative (courses offered P/NC/S, anytime during pandemic, spring, summer, fall, same credit as normal – not just the spring. This is core curriculum, not special courses for pre-meds, etc.) and Aim High changes. There are rumors about directions for higher education and student assistance budget, but nothing consistent.

Mike Philips, Legislative Liaison, discussed a letter circulated by IFT local last week. He took the bones of that letter, got it down to one page and focused on faculty and funding and the role of higher education in the recovery; he would like FAC input and approval. Some suggestions were made in the full group and Marie directed caucuses to discuss the letter.

Jennifer Delaney, IBHE member, shared two social media pushes currently underway: The Illinois Higher Education Network has started some social media campaigns to support funding for higher education. If you have stories to share about ways Illinois colleges or universities have stepped up to serve students or address the COVID-19 crisis, please share them on social media this week, using the #ILHigherEdMatters and encourage your higher ed partners to do the same. Another social media push has been to advocate for additional student support. #SupportStudentsNow by investing in financial aid and emergency grants. You can use the hashtag or send an email to your elected official – simply enter your address here: <https://bit.ly/2yVhadz>.

Nancy Latham, Executive Director, Council on Teacher Education, UIUC, shared a presentation regarding the Illinois Educator Vacancy Data Report. She will share the slides with us. This work represented her deep dive into ISBE's vacancy data in Feb 2020, trying to better

understand the problem. ISBE surveys schools once a year in November about vacancies they have not been able to fill. Vacancies have been trending upwards over the last four years. There is a difference between the total number of vacancies in an area and the ratio of vacancies to students. For example, Cook County has the most vacancies total, but Cass County has 83 students per vacant teaching spot, which means they are “bleeding” the most. Bleeding counties are not in the Chicago area, but scattered in central and western Illinois. When vacancies are broken down by type, the areas of highest need can change (e.g. paraprofessionals are most needed in the northern area). Some data is unclear, such as how disciplines are defined. Merging these data with the Illinois Report Card and census information could provide added insight.

During Q&A, programs such as Teach for America and Teacher Rising were discussed. Preparation of candidates is a key issue, since less prepared students are more likely to leave teaching, contributing to the attrition problem. Over the years, there has been a shift away from many teacher candidates being the children of teachers; teachers no longer want their children to go into their fields. Money is always helpful, but now is not a good time for that option; loan forgiveness in bleeding areas could be a real plus. Making becoming a teacher easier may not always be a good choice, since preparation is key to persistence. Trying to meet the needs of getting working adults through licensure in areas of needs has been very challenging due to the Memorandums of Understanding and negotiations involved, especially if numbers are small.

From Jen Delaney on chat:

“The Student Investment Account Act has directed the State Treasurer's Office in Illinois to issue state-supported student loans. This might be a pathway of expanding loan forgiveness for teachers. The State Treasurer's Office is working on designing loans or loan alternatives that will be offered by the state now, so this is a good time to become involved in that conversation. https://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/Individuals/Student_Loans”

Caucuses met. Working groups met. Caucus reports:

Public Caucus: Talked about rotations and which four institutions need to (re-)appoint their representatives for next year. Talked about the memo shared by Amy before the meeting and word-smithed the letter from Mike Philips. Amy Carr was elected as the caucus chair and Linda Saborio as caucus vice-chair. We talked about plans for the fall and which institutions have made decisions already versus still planning.

Community College Caucus: 1) Discussed the formation of working groups at the IBHE and ICCB to provide guidance for the Fall semester during the COVID-19 pandemic; ICCB has included faculty while IBHE has not; the caucus is concerned with the lack of faculty in the IBHE working group. 2) Discussed institutional plans for the fall. Plans are to have most classes online (synchronous and asynchronous). Plans for courses that need to meet face-to-face vary from meeting with smaller classes that allow student and faculty to maintain distance to potentially putting some courses (and programs) on hold until face-to-face can resume. 3) Discussed recruiting members to caucus to fill open positions. 4) Will elect at-large member (John D's position) and leadership in June

Private Caucus: We still need the MAP money. Some private institutions are really struggling. Many professors at research-intensive schools are not able to do research because they cannot get into their labs. And the grad students they are supervising are in the same boat. We discussed membership rotation this year. We talk to the IBHE next month about inviting private schools to join FAC.

Working group reports

This We Believe – disbanded for next year

Mental Health – dividing into specific areas to write over the summer: Peer Support, Strategic Partnerships, etc., with the goal of having something before budget requests go in December

Performance Based Funding – Important to advocate for level funding, rather than PBF – which is less relevant now, but will come back. Need help from members of the whole body about awareness of what is happening with regards to PBF.

Dual Credit/Online and Remote Learning: Need to finish dual credit issue, but also want to shift focus to online and remote learning. is there already a mechanism for quality control? Could take more folks. We could do simple surveys, but there's already folks working on this, so what is FAC's role? Mike mentioned having a few slots in an online course for dual credit, due to dispersed nature of students that were ready for the course.

P20 outreach – Looked at data Marie's grad student had uploaded. The group received a plethora of data from several institutions and will begin to comb through it. They've picked some themes, e.g. STEM. Might have a student color-code over the summer. How to organize this for the FAC website was discussed; some support is needed in the design and implementation of our interactive map.

Bylaws, Policies, and Procedures. Tiny details getting moved to policies and procedures to make bylaws simpler. Defined how to change bylaws and such this morning.

Minutes from April were approved (Julie Clemens motion, Dan Hrozencik second)

Notes from Public Caucus meeting on 17 April were approved (Shawn Schumacher motion, Andy Howard second). No notes are available for the March Private/Proprietary Caucus meeting.

Bylaws discussion. Most recent version went to everyone today. The most recent changes were reviewed – addition of info about amendments and approval, addition of “or designate” to secretary, cleaning language of majority, and spelling items – bylaws will be voted on in June.

Planning for June board meeting. Unknown whether Marie will be able to present or report, or whether she might provide a voice thread with PowerPoint deck for the board to view ahead of time, or whether she will sign up for public comment. Possible meetings via breakout room is also being explored. Watch for an email asking about FAQs.

Letter from Mike Philips discussed. Some minor changes had been suggested by caucuses; the revised document was shared. The motion to approve the transmittal of this letter of the legislature and other appropriate bodies through the IBHE staff (Andy Howard motion, Randall Egdorf friendly amendment, John D'Anca second) was approved unanimously.

Thanked Marie for hosting and ably directing the Zoom meeting.

Meeting adjourned 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Wiediger, FAC Secretary