

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting via Zoom, December 18, 2020
Minutes Approved January 15, 2021

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:

Angela Antonou	University of St. Francis
Paul Bialek	at-large (Trinity International University)
Cynthia Boyce	Lincoln Trail College
Amy Carr	Western Illinois University
Julie Clemens	Illinois Central College
John Cooksey	Truman College (City Colleges of Chicago)
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
Pennie Gray	Illinois Wesleyan University
Andy Howard	Illinois Institute of Technology
Dan Hrozencik	Chicago State University
Rick Jones	at-large (South Suburban College)
Gay Miller	University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Constance Mixon	Elmhurst University
Nataka Moore	Adler University
Mellette Pearce	Black Hawk College
C. Lucy Park	University of Illinois – Chicago
Mike Philips	Illinois Valley Community College
Linda Saborio	Northern Illinois University
Shawn Schumacher	DeVry University
Peter Seely	Benedictine University
Dana Trunnell	Prairie State College
Lichang Wang	Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Larry White	Eastern Illinois University
Susan Wiediger	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

IBHE Members and Staff

Stephanie Bernoteit, Executive Deputy Director, Academic Affairs, IBHE
Jennifer Delaney, IBHE member
Jaimee Ray, Senior Associate Director, Legislative Affairs, IBHE

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Sarah Bilderbeck	Rend Lake College
Jose Lozano	Bradley University
Jennifer Martin	University of Illinois – Springfield
Linda Monge	Frontier Community College
Tatiana Tatum	St. Xavier University
Brian Vivona	Northeastern Illinois University

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Shawn Schumacher, FAC Chair.

Jaimee Ray, Senior Associate Director, IBHE, provided a legislative update. Attending the discussions with the Black Caucus has been useful to hear the views of the issues and what is not being addressed. There is one more meeting that got postponed but most of them have been finished. Now legislation is being debated. Don Harmon has been elected as president of the Illinois Senate and has asked those members to come back a week early – January 8-12 – for the lame duck session. No news from the House side, including any plans for lame duck session. Senate changed rules to allow for remote work, but House did not. No spring session calendar yet, so no idea of deadlines for drafts or votes and much is in a holding pattern.

Stephanie Bernoteit, Executive Deputy Director, Academic Affairs, IBHE, presented some reflections on the past year as well as thoughts for the future. Early in the pandemic, there was significant work done to support student success to finish as strong as they could and move effectively into summer and fall learning. This included guidance on pass/fail grading, specialty courses such as speech and labs, and transfer. Another major area was support for clinical and field experiences as well as access to licensure exams or waivers and variances for requirements, particularly for high needs areas such as the health professions, as well as educators.

IBHE and ICCB Joint report and Working Group on Transfer provided a four-year report with recommendations (<https://www.ibhe.org/star-act.html>), seeking continuing improvement of Illinois' transfer program. While people are working on pandemic adjustments, there is a temporary pause on this topic, but it is a consideration in the strategic planning process.

IBHE took a strong stand *against* the idea of a gap year as a response to the pandemic. The “Stay the course” campaign has been re-ignited this fall, and resources are available on the website: <https://www.ibhe.org/stay-the-course.html>. IBHE also sought ways to support student needs such as the WiFi hotspot map, and a range of emergency and student focused funds. Support for P-12 students and educators was provided in several areas, including remote learning and online learning skills as well as virtual college visits and salutes to scholars.

Dr. Bernoteit reviewed some of the data regarding equity (available interactively at <https://www.ibhe.org/equity.html>). Regarding overall concerns about whether higher education is worth the costs, she provided some “landscape” items – a Lumina Foundation report (<https://www.luminafoundation.org/our-work/unlocking-the-nations-potential/>) and Strada Education Network report (<https://www.stradaeducation.org/publicviewpoint/>).

In the strategic planning area, she shared the working vision statement for higher education: “Illinois has an equitable, accessible, innovative, nimble, and aligned higher education ecosystem that ensures individuals, families, and communities across the state thrive.” The P20 council has oriented itself fully on recovery from the pandemic, with a theme of “Build Back Better.” Two key aspects of this are academic renewal and social/emotional/overall well-being, each of which is structured with a committee with broadly distributed composition.

During Q&A, topics discussed included outmigration, the impact of the pandemic on outmigration, student and faculty mental health, the need to collect data about which calendar and adjustment options ended up being useful, and ongoing changes that the pandemic adjustments might produce in student expectations and faculty workload. Balancing what people (students, faculty, and institutions) think they want versus what they might actually need versus what can be done is an ongoing source of tension but also a learning opportunity.

Shawn Schumacher, FAC Chair, reported that he sat in on the strategic planning meeting and reviewed the top working priorities. Dr. Marlon Cummings will be serving on the advisory council. Shawn also reported that there was a great presentation on preliminary enrollment trends at the IBHE meeting. He also mentioned that the FAC will continue to seek to engage with legislators at our meetings. There was some discussion of how the strategic planning process is proceeding. Marlon explained that there has been one meeting with a lot of discussion, and the next meeting is January 12th.

Julie Clemens, FAC Vice-Chair, reminded everyone that the next meeting is Friday Jan 15th; the same Zoom link, but it will be virtually hosted by Harper College. Sue Wiediger, FAC Secretary, reported that further corrections to minutes or the membership list are welcome.

Mike Philips, FAC Legislative Liaison, reported that the governor has released 700 million in cuts. Not to higher ed, but with the big deficit and debt, could get a cut in the spring, which would be a rescission. The easiest cuts are when no one objects; next easiest is when there is an objection but no foundation for it; the letter draft that was circulated is something we want to build on with solid arguments against cuts – discuss in caucuses and working groups.

John D’Anca is retiring – his long and valued service was recognized and appreciated, as this will be his last official meeting.

The November minutes (Marie Donovan motion, Rick Jones second) were approved.

Working groups and caucuses met.

Working groups reported:

Equity: Racial issues: (Julie Clemens) Worked on document to share with Stephanie Bernoteit. Thoughts on equity from a faculty perspective to be included in the strategic plan: hiring practices, esp. for minorities (Black, Hispanic); support for faculty that are doing diversity work (fear for job security or other repercussions); professional development for all faculty related to diversity and equity on campuses; support services for students related to diversity and inclusion.

Also discussed budget cuts and diversity issues... essentially cuts are bad, can have opposite effect from closing gaps (e.g. due to raising tuition). They are working on inviting Ben-Simone (co-author of *Equity Talk to Equity Walk*) from USC to an FAC meeting, maybe in January.

Student Mental Health: (Sue Wiediger). Discussed next steps for the legislative response, although it is less pressing due to the budget issues. Hope to wordsmith language in January and get input from Jaimee Ray in February. Also worked on possible bullets for the budget letter.

P20: (Linda Saborio) Due to the pandemic, our project is on hiatus a bit. We’ll need to update the data. Between the pandemic and the potential associated budget issues we expect some changes. Set a deadline for our project – August 2021.

Dual Credit/Online & Remote Learning: (Melette Pearce, Dual Credit; Gay Miller, Online & Remote Learning). Dual Credit... paper submitted last month, so now looking at expectations moving forward and talking about differences in how our individual institutions are handling dual credit and dual enrollment. In addition to linking to working group documents, potential budget letter language was drafted. Online...wide-ranging discussion of what needs to be done. Online is here to stay and will be a prominent part of higher education, regardless of pros and cons. Still need to articulate the advantages and disadvantages. How do you proctor, how do

faculty improve, etc. There are a lot of issues to explore and discuss. A potential bullet for the budget letter was drafted.

Performance Based Funding: (Mike Philips). Developed a list of metrics – or maybe metric categories, such as enrollment, or student persistence. The group is filling the resulting table with descriptions of metrics and where/how used, and will then add critiques. Rounding that out will be discussion about avoiding unintended consequences and what happens when institutions don't meet goals.

Caucuses reported:

Community College Caucus: (Cyndi Boyce) A description of some of the Covid-loss issues, responding to the questions framed by Amy Carr and Marlon Cummings, was provided, and potential budget language was drafted.

Public Caucus: (Amy Carr) About 40 pages of input regarding Covid-loss has been received from various individuals, and there is a lot of processing that will be needed to produce a paper. Moving forward, we need to consider what to do with these anecdotes? We also talked about the strategic plan and what we want to be mindful of in that regard. Perhaps we can share the draft of the strategic plan? How do items in the current six core principles (such as research) connect to the three priorities of: increasing attainment & developing talent to drive the economy; closing equity gaps; and improving affordability & access while managing costs? The caucus also talked about the UPI letter (an MOU with WIU about adjustments related to Covid-19) that had been shared, whether there were retirement/buyout plans being offered, and potential language for the budget letter.

Private Caucus: (Paul Bialek) Discussion about Covid-loss was reviewed.

Shawn and Mike will work on revising the budget letter and get it out to people hopefully next week, then pass it on to the Board.

The next meeting is Friday January 15th, with Harper College as the virtual host.

Meeting adjourned (Rick Jones motion, John Cooksey second) 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Wiediger, FAC Secretary