

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting via Zoom, March 19, 2021
Minutes Approved April 16, 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
Lane Crothers	Illinois State University
Steve DePasquale	Kankakee Community College
Marie Donovan	DePaul University
Thomas Dowd	Harper College
Pennie Gray	Illinois Wesleyan University
Joao Goebel	National Louis University
Andy Howard	Illinois Institute of Technology
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
Constance Mixon	Elmhurst University
Nataka Moore	Adler University
C. Lucy Park	University of Illinois – Chicago
Mellette Pearce	Black Hawk College
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

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

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Sarah Bilderbeck	Rend Lake College
Diane Dean	Illinois State University
Jose Lozano	Bradley University
Linda Monge	Frontier Community College
Tatiana Tatum	St. Xavier University
Brian Vivona	Northeastern Illinois University

Meeting was called to order at 8:49 a.m. by Shawn Schumacher, FAC Chair.

Representative Katie Stuart (D-112) joined the FAC. She has many roles in the House, currently including chair of the House Higher Education Committee. She extended Speaker Chris Welch's regrets that he could not join us. She talked about her varied experiences and roles in K-20 education prior to running for office. The legislature does not always have someone with higher ed experience leading the Higher Education Committee and those are perspectives she's excited to bring to the position.

One of the difficult things is that she and her husband were encouraged by their parents to become involved in education, which were their own careers. But now, that isn't necessarily a career path she would recommend for her own children. What is best for students is often what is best for teachers. Profit isn't the only thing, when considering a career, but you do have to earn a living. So higher education (and K-12) must also consider what is good for the community. The working group focuses on what are the goals we all want to achieve, and what are practical ways to get there.

Some common goals include access and support for first generation students. However, reducing outmigration also leads to focusing on retaining and serving high-achieving or wealthy students. How do you rank needs and priorities and come up with a mathematical model to figure out how to achieve as many of your goals as possible?

During discussion, a number of issues were raised.

There was discussion about dual credit. Dual credit can help with affordability and accessibility, particularly when gen ed requirements can be met early. However, it can lead to students taking part two of a two-course sequence with a different structure and rigor than their part one. There is a need to watch out for mission creep and to ensure that quality is present. Differential access, particularly when compounded by teacher shortages, can lead to fewer opportunities for rural students, who might then have a more coherent four-year college experience. The discussion seems more focused on the economic side rather than the academic side.

There is an intersection between dual credit and the differential funding of different fields in the university. Some fields (for example STEM) often have more grant funding opportunities that enable research experiences, etc., than the humanities do. This can compound issues related to the migration of gen eds to the high schools. While the value of higher education is more than job training, the increasing expense of higher education increases the pressure to see a return on the investment. We may need to walk back the narrative that everyone needs a four-year degree, including restoring robust career and technical education (CTE) to high schools. This is a bigger society question, and relates to exposing young people to a range of career opportunities.

K-12 teacher preparation and teacher shortage are issues that have a few different bills pending. Rep. Stuart agrees that there are some problems with using the edTPA as the licensure exam. There needs to be attention to mentoring and keeping people on the teaching job, in addition to getting people into the teaching profession initially. There are people who want an outside, objective assessment of teacher candidates. One option might be using the edTPA as a requirement for tenure rather than for initial licensure; the expense and the requirements would both be easier to meet when actually working in the schools. Incentivizing national board certification might be of interest also – and putting the number of board certified teachers on the school report card would draw attention to that. With regards to the struggle to get certain place-bound candidates through licensure... partnerships with community colleges might be a good

option to explore. However, this doesn't increase the pool of teachers, necessarily, just changes the competition for those potential students, and can contribute to mission creep.

Discussion about funding for students touched on several issues – the marketing of particular high-paying fields; shifting of expenses to students if college is for personal benefit; how long it takes to pay off student loans, and the resulting delays in other investments such as a home; are students keeping their costs low.

The strategic planning process has so many aspects: jobs, general education, preparing our students to deal with issues such as anti-racism and homophobia. All majors relate back to humanity and relationships. Looking at issues with an equity lens is important; each person has only lived their own personal experience, but have to respect others' experiences. If general education requirements are stripped out, we can lose the conversation space for equity topics. Many are familiar with the STEM acronym (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) but MESH (Media literacy, Ethics, Sociology, and History -- Tim Wise, <https://medium.com/our-human-family/forget-stem-we-need-mesh-43ab6f6273cd>) is also important.

Shawn Schumacher, FAC Chair, reported that since the last FAC meeting he attended the presentation for future-ready learning, hosted by IBHE but given by Jobs for the Future and the Competency based Education Network. You can and look at the powerpoints at the IBHE website and stream the video (https://www.ibhe.org/board/strategic-planning/2021/February/Future_of_Work_2.22.21.mp4). The following day was the strategic planning meeting (https://www.ibhe.org/board/strategic-planning/2021/February/02_23_20_IBHE_Board_Meeting_Final.pdf). The March 9th IBHE meeting did not have much related to strategic planning (the agenda is available online), although there was a presentation from the CSU Equity Working Group (https://www.ibhe.org/board/strategic-planning/2021/CSU_Equity_Working_Group_Presentation_IBHE-03.12.2021.pdf). The next strategic planning meeting, which is not open to the public, is March 21st. Julie Clemens, FAC Vice-Chair, and Susan Wiediger, FAC Secretary, had no additional reports.

Mike Phillips, FAC Legislative Liaison, briefly discussed a few of the bills from the list he had shared via email of those relevant to the FAC. He has heard that the one we talked about last month, related to resources for students, is being revised. There are a couple of shell bills on Dual Credit to keep an eye on; a shell bill has to be on the same section of the law, but they can change the content. Senate Bill 1624 adds agricultural science to the possible courses that would count for science in high school, which could change the background of students proceeding to college. There was also discussion about a bill to change when family members are eligible for reduced tuition at 4-years (currently 7 years, but at community colleges it is right away). There is a bill related to adjunct faculty – 60 days notice before the semester of if a class is cancelled. Also, buried in a complicated bill about pathways is a section called “open education resource adoption incentives” that would create a panel to encourage OER adoption with recommendations by December 2022.

Gretchen Lohman, IBHE Senior Associate Director and FAC Liaison, requested that anyone not on the FAC listserv notify Shawn or Sue. The Strategic Planning Advisory group meets Monday the 22nd from 11-1; that is not open to the public. The next board meeting is open to the public

but is not yet determined. Marie will be presenting on behalf of her group, and Marlon is the FAC rep. Those would be good people to highlight points we think need to be elevated to the strategic plan. Reports will go from the Design Groups to the Advisory group, but there will be consolidation. There will be more opportunity for public engagement at a later point.

Jennifer Delaney, IBHE member, talked a bit about the strategic planning process. The Design groups are wrapping up their work, and the work at the next stage is coming clear. Groups are at different levels of specificity and detail in their recommendations, and experiences across groups have been different due to different facilitators and consultants. She has been pushing that there should be evidence-based decision making. There has been a lot of thinking but the outcome is still not known. Written comments are helpful as people can read and reflect on them.

February minutes were approved (Marie Donovan motion, Lucy Park second).

Steve DePasquale agreed to run the elections for FAC officers. He reviewed the process: email nominations period, followed by an email ballot to the Elections Committee. Amy Carr (Publics) and Andy Howard (Privates) agreed to also serve on the Elections Committee so that all the caucuses are represented.

Andy Howard mentioned that he has been contacted by someone who wants to talk about online publishing options, so he may be bringing more information on that issue to the FAC.

Working group met.

The FAC members that are involved in the Strategic Planning process (Marlon Cummings, Marie Donovan, Julie Clemens, Shawn Schumacher) shared the current discussions of their groups. Several of the Design Groups (Financial Aid and Student Debt; Manage Costs; High School, College and Career Connection; Meet State's Workforce; Serving Adults; and Meet Students Needs to Close Equity Gap) have presented their reports, while others (Educated Workforce; Adequate and Equitable Funding; and Future of Learning, Future of Work) will present at a future Advisory group meeting. Groups are presenting updated strategies, outstanding questions, and raising other areas of concern or discussion. Some topics have a lot of discussion. There are questions about the longer term aspects of phasing in change due to recognition that so much can happen that would affect the ability to implement the full plan – including revenue availability. Many groups have overlapping areas of focus, such as use of evidence, importance of equity and accountability, the importance of collaboration. Amy Carr reported on UPI response to the draft of the strategic plan.

Due to the robust discussion around the strategic plan, caucus chairs agreed that caucus business regarding member rotations could be handled via email and at the next meeting.

Working groups reported:

Equity: Racial issues: (Julie Clemens) Did collaborative writing during working group time to produce a press release about anti-Asian actions and sentiments that have been developing.

Discussion and further wordsmithing occurred in the full FAC. The final statement was approved for release after sharing it with the IBHE (Rick Jones motion, Gay Miller second). Julie emailed the final wording to everyone.

Student Mental Health: (Nataka Moore). Several members were not present this month. Started a draft of a new document and will email group.

Dual Credit/Online & Remote Learning: (Melette Pearce, Dual Credit; Gay Miller, Online & Remote Learning). Group has developed a number of questions about online and remote learning. Members will gather what we can and bring it back to our next conversation. For dual credit, noted that the more dual credit increases, the fewer of the students with dual credit courses who go on to enroll at those community colleges for two-year degrees.

Performance Based Funding: (Mike Phillips). Dan is working on restructuring the existing information they have gathered into two documents: a list of principles and potential formula items that might be included by various institutions to meet their goals, and a summary document that could be forwarded to Rep Stuart.

Institutional Closures: (Shawn Schumacher) Met for the first time, some good introductory comments, focused primarily on faculty issues. Will move forward focusing on the student perspective, including considering after graduation issues (e.g. references, transcripts). Hope to produce an article.

Thanks to Shawn for arranging things with Katie Stuart.

The next meeting is Friday April 16th, joined by IBHE Chair John Atkinson.

Meeting adjourned (Gay Miller motion, Rick Jones seconded) 2:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Wiediger, FAC Secretary