



Faculty Advisory Council Illinois Board of Higher Education

Meeting through Zoom for December 17, 2021
Minutes Approved on January 21, 2022

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
Julie Clemens	Illinois Central College
Marie Donovan	DePaul University
Laura Ferrell	Saint Xavier University
Andy Howard	Illinois Institute of Technology
Dan Hrozencik	Chicago State University
Pratima Jindal	Waubonsee Community College
Rick Jones	at-large (South Suburban College)
Jim Kulich	Elmhurst University
Jennifer Martin	University of Illinois – Springfield
Gay Miller	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Nataka Moore	Adler University
Laura Murdaugh	Kishwaukee College
Lucy Park	University of Illinois – Chicago
Melette Pearce	Black Hawk College
Kate Perkins	Highland Community College
Mike Phillips	Illinois Valley Community College
Linda Saborio	Northern Illinois University
Patricia Saleeby	at-large (Bradley University)
Shawn Schumacher	DeVry University
Peter Seely	Benedictine University
Dana Trunnell	Prairie State College
Brian Vivona	Northeastern Illinois University
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
John Cooksey	Truman College (City Colleges of Chicago)
Lane Crothers	Illinois State University
Gene Dunkley	Greenville University
Joao Goebel	National Louis University
Linda Monge	Frontier Community College
Serena Wadhwa	Governors State University

Topic	Discussion
Call to order/ Introductions	9:00 a.m. (S. Schumacher) Welcome to all, followed by FAC member introductions.
Executive Reports:	<p><u>Chair (Shawn Schumacher)</u> Two web links were shared from the IBHE meeting on December 14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Durham presented an Economic Impact Study at the IBHE Board meeting. Here is a link to that study: http://www2.iccb.org/data/illinois-community-colleges-economic-impacts/ • YouTube link to the video on the Common App. https://youtu.be/cQYQmyHr6uU <p><u>Vice Chair (Linda Saborio)</u> No report to share.</p> <p><u>Secretary (Melette Pearce)</u> Email invites are being sent out for members to join the FAC Canvas course.</p> <p><u>IBHE and FAC liaison Report (Gretchen Lohman)</u> Springfield staff will be returning to the office on January 10. Working days in the office will vary and the Chicago staff will remain remote. The board meeting dates for 2022 are March 15, June 29, August 16, and November 15. The Early Childhood Consortium for Equity met December 8. Full details are available – including a recording of the 12/8 meeting on the new ECACE website – ecace.org. Details are also available under IBHE website (www.ibhe.org) under “Work Under Way” (regarding the strategic plan). To date, there are 12 private institutions in Illinois that have formally joined the consortium. More information about these and consortium representatives will be added to the consortium website in the coming days. Finally, the ECACE scholarship launched in November (https://www.ecace.org/assets/board-meetings/2021/December/ECACE-video.mp4). Full details are available on the ISAC website: https://www.isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/ecace.html. A pilot has started for the Transfer Boost Project, which consists of eight institutions: three public universities (Chicago State, Governors State, and SIUC) and five community colleges (Olive-Harvey, South Suburban, Moraine Valley, John A Logan, and Shawnee). They will be developing a program for affordability guarantees for a selected transfer pathway. It will target a pathway for a specific number of years at a fixed cost.</p> <p><u>Jennifer Delaney, IBHE Board Member, Public Univ. Faculty Rep.</u> The December 14 meeting included a six-month Strategic Plan update. A presentation of that update can be viewed on the IBHE website. Common App was launched statewide for all of the public universities. Applications are up by 306.4 percent. The hope is to keep more residence of Illinois in Illinois. A concern was expressed regarding the many private companies that are focusing on curriculum design, an area which has been a purview of faculty. While it may be good to have help from these private firms, there is often a lack of oversight, which reduces transparency in how these companies operate. The concern is that the growth of this hasn’t been sufficiently researched and can have real implications on faculty. This topic is something the FAC should discuss and may want to consider having a dedicated working group to conduct further research.</p> <p><u>FAC Legislative Liaison (Mike Phillips)</u> No legislative updates to share.</p>
Guest Speakers	<p>Welcome to the University of Saint Francis Guest Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Beth Roth, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs • Jennifer Ethridge, Registrar • Dr. Rob Manzer, Co-Founder and Chief Academic Officer at Acadeum <p>This group’s presentation, “Course Sharing Partnerships that Enhance Student Progression and Completion”, focused on the advantages and support for “high-quality, peer reviewed” online course sharing offered through Acadeum. They highlighted how their partnership with Acadeum has helped to bring back and increase student enrollments. They also showed how course sharing can help in the areas of student progress, academic innovation, process efficiency, and increased revenue. Thank you to all our guest speakers for an engaging and instructive presentation.</p>

Topic	Discussion
Business Meeting	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Old Business <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Approval of minutes from the November 19, 2021 Motion to approve (R. Jones/G. Miller) b. Approval of Open Letter on the Mental Health Action on Campus Act from the IBHE FAC Motion to approve (N. Moore/P. Bialek) 2. New Business <p>No agenda items for New Business.</p>
Caucus Reports	<p><u>Two-years (C. Boyce):</u> The group discussed the institutional COVID plans for the upcoming spring semester. There is no consistency across the state regarding COVID policies being put into place at community colleges. Some colleges are requiring the use of apps to verify COVID vaccine or testing status. Some colleges are policing the doors, while other colleges do not have checkpoints set up. While colleges without checkpoints may have policies in place for vaccinations and testing, there is generally no one enforcing those policies. In some cases, faculty, as opposed to administration, are being held responsible for enforcing mask policies. Some schools are instituting 50 percent capacity in the classroom with the rest of their enrollment online. Some colleges are reporting an increase in online enrollments over in-person enrollments due to the number of students who do not wish to be vaccinated. There was also a discussion regarding courses with labs and the cost of lab materials, which again highlights the lack of consistency across institutions. Some colleges are offering a hybrid format with the lecture portion of the class online and an in-person lab. Some instructors are creating their own lab materials as a way of lowering the cost to students. Instructors requiring students to purchase lab kits can increase the cost to students by \$300+. Other institutions are covering the costs of those lab kits in an effort to keep the cost down for students.</p> <p><u>Publics (D. Hrozencik):</u> The group discussed that the spring semester may be handled in a way similar to this fall; however, it may be too soon to know. There will perhaps be more information and direction coming out before the spring semester begins regarding any changes that need to be made. There are still uncertainties regarding Omicron and its long-term effects. Federal employees are still working remotely, even though schools are being required to return to in-person instruction. The group discussed the morning Acadeum presentation. There is a concern that when these companies are working directly with administration, it may give administration a justification not to fill faculty positions. There is also the concern that these types of consortiums may prevent faculty from knowing important academic background information about students' skill levels and the courses they have had. The group also discussed the role that student evaluations play in the evaluation of faculty. The weight of these student evaluations varies across institutions. Student evaluations can be biased and provide very little valuable information about how a faculty member can improve their instruction. The group is going to be collecting and looking at the questions used in student evaluations. The group started a discussion on grading systems and will continue discussing this topic in January.</p> <p><u>Private & Independents (P. Bialek):</u> The group discussed the differences in modality due to COVID. It was noted that changes in policies, such as holding all classes remote for the first two weeks, are often done without consulting faculty. The group has noticed an increase in the unruly behavior of students, which started before COVID. It's important to establish rules or norms for behavior expectations in class.</p>
Working Group Reports	<p><u>Student/Faculty Mental Health (S. Wiediger):</u> Once the official FAC logo and an approval date has been added to the group's open letter, the group would like for the official version to be sent back out to the FAC as well as to L. Park to post on the FAC website. The group will be reaching out to M. Phillips for suggestions regarding distribution to specific legislators. IBHE has not provided any feedback on the letter; however, it is recommended that the group touch base with IBHE before wider distribution. The group would like to put together a survey through Canvas in order to gather feedback from the FAC on campus environments for faculty with regard to mental health issues.</p>

Topic	Discussion
	<p><u>Dual Credit/Online Learning (G. Miller):</u> The group focused on online learning. The morning presentation from Acadeum prompted a discussion related to faculty workload with the potential of increased enrollment through course sharing. Course cap numbers for maximum enrollment within courses will help to control this. The group focused on the positive effects of course sharing such as reducing the number of course cancellations due to low enrollment. There was a concern that the online course sharing may decrease the enrollment of in-person course sections. There was a discussion on branding. Once students take courses from other institutions through course sharing, there was a question about whether the skill level/credentialing expectations from the degree granting institution would be met. The group discussed the increased flexibility for students that online courses provide, especially during COVID. The group discussed the monetary implications of a company such as Acadeum where 25 percent of the money being paid to Acadeum comes from the teaching institution. The home institution has an advantage by charging a higher tuition than the teaching institution, even though it may help the teaching institution if they do not have to cancel a course because of the increase in enrollment that course sharing generates. There are many pros and cons to consider.</p> <p><u>Performance-based Funding (D. Hrozencik):</u> The group would like to widen their scope to consider more general funding, as opposed to just performance-based funding. They would like to look at what's currently being done to fund universities and whether there is a specific formula in place or whether it is more dependent on legacy funding and factors such as changes in enrollment. They will be gathering more information on what measures are part of the general funding formula versus what should be part of the performance-based funding formula.</p> <p><u>Institutional Closures (M. Donovan):</u> The group will be waiting until the January meeting to decide if their initial position needs to change. While this is an important topic, the question becomes whether the group can affect change and what role the group should play.</p> <p><u>Equity, Racial Justice, and Diversity (J. Clemens):</u> The group's goal is to have a rough draft of their position paper by the January meeting. They want to make sure they reference the IBHE Strategic Plan, specifically the section on equity. Once this document has been completed, the group hopes to create additional documents targeting specific audiences and action plans.</p> <p><u>Student Debt & Affordability (P. Seely):</u> The group is deciding on what data is needed to help support their assertions as well as where they should obtain that data. The group wants to narrow their scope by focusing on key reasons that have contributed to increased tuition rates. The group want to look at data involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sources for funding for colleges and universities, either across the U.S. or state by state. • The costs for running particular programs. • The drop-out rates. • The employment rates of those receiving a college education. • The factors within higher education that affect the cost of doing business (course materials, equipment, technology, etc.) <p>The group also discussed the lack of funding support for private institutions. Additionally, they discussed the issue of state funding and balancing that with the increase in taxation and the value the institutions bring to the communities they serve.</p>
Next Meeting	The next meeting will be January 21, 2022, through Zoom.
Adjournment	Motion to adjourn (R. Jones/M. Donovan) – 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melette Pearce, FAC Secretary