



Faculty Advisory Council
Illinois Board of Higher Education

At University of Illinois at Chicago

20 September, 2024

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions

In person:

Angela Antonou	University of St. Francis
Paul Bialek	Oakton Community College
Cynthia Boyce	at-large (Lincoln Trail College)
Amy Carr	Western Illinois University
Daniel J. Coles	Aurora University
John Cooksey	Truman College
Jubilee Dickson	Chicago State University
Marie Donovan	DePaul University
Allison Douglas	Elgin Community College
Greg Ferrence	Illinois State University
Sarah Garber	Rosalind Franklin University (MS)
Joao Goebel	National Lewis University
Jack Haines	Joliet Junior College
Sarah Hill	Lake Land College
Andy Howard	Illinois Institute of Technology
Dan Hrozencik	Chicago State University
Pratima Jindal	Waubonsee Community College
Brooke Johnson	Northeastern Illinois University
Mary Laundry	Adler University
Shaalein Lopez	Governors State University
James Marshall	Rockford University
Jessica McDonald	Olney Central College
Gay Miller	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Laura Murdaugh	Kishwaukee College
Devi Potluri	Chicago State University
Farid Peiravian	University of Illinois at Chicago
Mike Phillips	at-large (Illinois Valley Community College)
Tiffany Puckett	Northern Illinois University
Patricia Saleeby	Bradley University

Nicole Scherger	Elgin Community College
Mary Ellen Schiller	Roosevelt University
Shawn Schumacher	DeVry University
Lichang Wang	Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
J. Matthew Ward	Quincy University
Sue Wiediger	Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

On Zoom:

Jill Gebke	IBHE Assistant Director of Academic Affairs
Ken Nickels	at-large (Black Hawk Community College)

20 Sept 2024

Call to Order: 9:00 By Chair Shawn Schumacher

Introductions around the table

9:15 Welcome Message: Dr. Karen Colley, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Genetics; Presentation Topic “UIC Vision and Strategic Priorities”

Dr. Colley framed her remarks to the FAC around the values central to UIC’s mission

“To create knowledge that transforms our views of the world and, through sharing and application, transforms the world; to provide a wide range of students with the educational opportunity only a leading research university can offer; to address the challenges and opportunities facing not only Chicago but all Great Cities of the 21st century, as expressed by our Great Cities Commitment; to foster scholarship and practices that reflect and respond to the increasing diversity of the U.S. in a rapidly globalizing world; and to train professionals in a wide range of public service disciplines, serving Illinois as the principal educator of health science professionals and as a major healthcare provider to underserved communities.”

She noted that UIC, an R1 university, impressed its HLC accreditors, who experienced campus-wide dedication and constant mention of the university’s mission. Major priorities and current initiatives include student success, recruitment and pathways, college affordability, pre-matriculation programs, dialogic pedagogies, workshop models for developmental education, intensive advising (I-Advise), tutoring, success coaching, summer programs, etc. In addition to always looking for ways to scale these initiatives, Dr. Colley underscored her desire to create a hub/concierge service to make it easier for students to access all of UIC’s resources and services.

A short Q & A session followed Dr. Colley’s presentation. In that session, Amy asked about how the Illinois Articulation Initiative and the transfer in of early college courses was affecting conversation about the shape of UIC’s own Gen Ed program. Provost Colley

responded that this was something she was just starting to think about. The Dean of the Liberal Arts & Sciences college had come up with an interesting new proposal for Gen Ed, but she wondered how to integrate it for transfer students and those with early college course credits.

9:45 Dr. Robert Barish, Vice Chancellor for Health Affairs and Professor of Emergency Medicine, presented on matters concerning UI Health and UIC. In a highly inspiring discussion, he highlighted how UIC has unified a health corporation (and its governance structure) with a university. He outlined UIC's/UI Health's innovative collaborations, funding models, and CEO/Academic officer positions. After defining UI Health, he mentioned UIC's seven health sciences colleges, the UI's hospitals and clinics, a mile-square health center/complex, UI's cancer center, and a dental college whose students see patients while earning their degrees. In total, UIC and UI Health offer over 40 care locations around Chicago and the state. Dr. Barish stated that UIC has supplied 509 million dollars in research funding coupled with 375 million from UI Health. He ended his presentation with discussion of UIC's Discovery Partners Institute and their desire for more investment with both public and private partnerships.

A short Q & A session followed Dr. Barish's presentation.

10:30 FAC members were treated to a highly technical presentation by Dr. Yuri Polikanov, Professor of Biological Sciences, entitled 'Dual Action Antibacterials That Target the Ribosome and DNA Gyrase and Evade Multiple Resistance Mechanisms'. Dr. Polikanov's cutting-edge research addresses the problems of infectious diseases, which are the 2nd leading cause of death world-wide. He explained pathogenic microorganisms, where they come from, the role of antibiotics in fighting them, and the challenges of identifying targets, which must be present in bacteria but not present in the host. Adding to those difficulties, targets in pathogens and eukaryotic hosts must be sufficiently different; however, Dr. Polikanov demonstrated how ribosomal chemical research, particularly protein synthesis in bacteria, has improved antibiotic resistance. By studying ribosomal complexes, including tRNA substrates, Dr. Polikanov aims to discover "how the ribosome functions, how antibiotics inhibit it, and how resistance mechanisms develop to overcome drug action."¹

A short Q & A followed.

11:15 Reports

Chair – Shawn mentioned that today's meeting constituted the best attendance of FAC meetings in years, with 34/36 of members present

He stressed the need and importance to have this robust attendance and thanked members for their representation and physical attendance.

¹ [Polikanov, Yury | Biological Sciences | University of Illinois Chicago \(uic.edu\)](https://www.uic.edu/biological-sciences/yuri-polikanov)

Shawn noted that it had been a busy summer for the executive council. He reflected that the IBHE presentation went well (with his thanks to Chairs of caucuses), in August. He reminded the FAC that Roosevelt is next month's meeting host, and November's meeting will be hosted by Rosalind Franklin University. Shawn related information about the meeting in the 3rd week of August, at which work was done with the transitional team for new executive council members. He noted that in September he and Jill (Gebke) are trying to plan for additional speakers to visit the FAC, for which Shawn expressed gratitude to Jill. Late in spring 2024, onboarding meetings of new FAC members went well; however, any questions about onboarding are welcome since did a formal meeting was not held over the summer. Toward of the end of the Chair's report, Shawn thanked Farid for a great location and meeting set up, and it was mentioned that an invitation was offered for Pranav (Kothari) to join us anytime he wants to come. Dan Hrozencik and Amy Carr were nominated for the public university faculty member position on the IBHE Board.

Vice Chair -- Dan noted that next month's meeting is at Roosevelt University and clarified that it is at the downtown Chicago campus. He mentioned that the FAC Executive Council will provide new members with information about our next meeting in the next few weeks. It was also noted that because of Rosalind Franklin's proximity to the Great Lakes Naval Academy and their frequent graduation ceremonies, FAC members should make hotel reservations early for the November 15th meeting.

Dan reported that new name plates for everyone are on the way, and he mentioned SB 3965 meetings to discuss the bill's issues. He said he would resend out information about days, times, and locations for those discussions via email.

Devi also mentioned that Chicago State University is having informal conversation about graduate school recruiting in the new landscape of higher ed. He urged FAC members to talk with colleagues about what challenges they face with respect to getting students to graduate school, and he offered to field any questions we may have. He plans to make a presentation on these matters to the FAC at its November meeting.

Dan also mentioned that Chicago State University is having informal conversation about graduate school concerns – the new landscape in higher ed **sees recruiting from Grad schools to CCs** (Dan – there must be a better way for me to phrase/capture this.). He urged FAC members to talk with colleagues about what challenges they face with respect to getting students to graduate school, and he offered to field any questions we may have.

Secretary – No report – per se.

FAC Legislative Liaison -- Mike Phillips reported that the legislation session is over. Any bills that didn't pass are mostly dead but could come back. None of bills passed were vetoed by Governor Pritzker. With respect to the Higher Education funding bill, it would be helpful to have other members look over the bill. Mike reminded the FAC that the bill is a draft, but it's long, complicated, etc. State Representative Carol Ammons is sponsoring the bill. Mike suggested that we investigate what's in it that we like for faculty and anything

that seems confusing and needs clarification. We can put together a list of concerns and positives. Mike explained the history of development of working groups and subcommittees to develop the 2-year funding bill and mentioned that The Partnership for College Completion is pushing for more funding for 2-year colleges. Finally, Mike reminded us that it's election season, so if a senator or representative comes to our door, we should engage them about their position on general issues regarding higher ed. He ended by recommending that if candidates have questions, we can direct them to the FAC.

Amy spoke with Senator Mike Halpin, chair of the Higher Education committee, who said there was starting to be more conversation about Community Colleges taking more power of dual credit back from the high schools; she found that interesting.

Dan asked if Mike has heard about the prospects of the bill (SB 3963) getting through? Mike said that it's too early to tell. He stated that we can make the case to legislature that more money is needed, and it is not going to waste. The formula shows how much money is needed and where it's going to go. He said that the extent of underfunding is data-backed (with good data) to show there is a basis/need for the formula.

Marie asked whether we should be talking with Union reps and other reps about the bill, formula, etc. Mike said that the more eyes on the document, the better. Unions represent lots of parties, and we should all work together to improve funding for higher ed. Dan suggested that more faculty eyes are needed – part of the bill sets an oversight implementation team, and it's important that faculty are on that team. The bill could contain specific language to ensure this, but it is not there presently. He noted that the language in the bill is more vague – it could be anyone associated with unions, lobbies, etc. A question was raised about who would appoint that faculty member.

Asst. Director for Academic Affairs, IBHE Jill Gebke – Jill reported that hers had been a busy summer, and she took some time away from work for health-related matters. She noted that Daniel Abankwa is no longer with us, and Jamie Ray departed this summer. As a result, the IBHE is undergoing new hires in staff, including a new Senior Director for the agency in a new combined role (also chief of staff).

Jill informed us that the IBHE's next Board meeting is in December and that the IBHE's notices of intent are available on their website if we want to see what IBHE is working on. She recounted details on the latest FAFSA debacle. The 2025/2026 form has been pushed back to Dec.1 because of bugs having to do with processing records and batch updates. She mentioned that the Gainful Employment reporting deadline is 15 Jan 2025. Finally, the State Generative AI Taskforce, which Jill represents for IBHE, is working on a report right now, but FAC members can reach out to Jill with any questions, comments, and/or recommendations.

With respect to Government Liaisons, Marie asked if when David Helm replaces Jamie Ray, can we funnel questions through Jill to him or reach out to David directly. The matter of Gainful Employment edicts was raised, which led to short discussion about schools having

to report on how they prepare students for employment in other states; NCSARA is group that coordinates between states for licensure and gainful employment issues. Within this milieu, articulation agreements between 2-year institutions and universities can be impacted.

Devi noted that the HLC has a minimum number of hours for various degrees, and wondered whether the IBHE has any thoughts on HLC guidance? Jill responded that state law determines what we do, so IBHE is looking into how HLC's recommendations interface with IBHE and our laws.

12:30 Business Meeting

New Business – before the approval of last meeting's minutes, minutes, Amy alerted the FAC that she had added information to the minutes about “focused juggling scholars”. Jack moved to accept the minutes, and Marie seconded the motion. With six abstentions, the motion passed.

1:30 Caucus Meetings

Before dispersing the various caucus groups, Shawn directed caucus leaders to update newer members about their particular caucus and to focus on ensuring representation is correct. He also welcomed any new goals that the caucus may identify.

Community College Caucus – Members talked about rotation/representation. They are waiting to hear from Olive Harvey, and next on rotation would be Morton. Also discussed was working groups; someone from a Community College should help with the funding working group, but it was noted that Jessica has joined that group. The caucus identified important issues, including Developmental Education, Dual Credit, our need to be more proactive than reactive, our need to write our own legislation, and how high schools seem to have more control over Dual Credit than colleges do. Also discussed was the matter of co-requisite classes v. Developmental Education classes and all other ways/methods of dealing with Developmental Education. Cyndi asked that FAC members either email her or bring thoughts to next meeting. The caucus dedicated itself to focusing on Dual Credit issues this year. Finally, Lake Land, ECC, and Oakton all volunteered to host FAC meetings in the 2025/2026 term.

Public University Caucus -- Amy reported that librarian-related issues, tenure track faculty, and literacy issues are major areas of concern. She asked how many schools provide retired faculty with continued access to library databases. The caucus is also concerned about whether more layoffs happen similar to Western's are prone to occur.

Independent University Caucus -- Andy reported that their caucus welcomed two new members, and the caucus is not worried about rotation until later in the academic year. He indicated the caucus' desire to propose two new working groups: 1. Faculty Status Issues (including adjuncts, teaching v. research, & 2. Graduate education. He pointed out that we all have a stake in Graduate education (including topics such as finances, Masters v. PhD,

distinctions between UG and G faculty, etc.). He suggested that the topic could be featured for discussion in future FAC meetings as opposed to being discussed solely in a working group. He argued that we should give some more attention to the issue whatever we do.

2:00 Working Groups

Shawn reconvened the FAC's working groups, each of which reported out to the committee of the whole about the following concerns/areas of focus:

Amy -- *Early College Consideration* will investigate academic freedom issues, mixed enrollments (Dual Credit and non-Dual Credit students in the same classes), faculty qualifications for teaching Dual Credit classes, and the phenomenon of high schools having undue control over Dual Credit classes and policies.

Laura -- *Technology in Higher Education* will investigate whether policies on best practices with AI in classes already exist. The group's future directions may include discussing ADA and compliance, different Learning Management System platforms and their (in)effectiveness, environmental effects of AI/Tech, the phenomenon of more online and fewer Face-to-Face courses starts to affect scheduling, workloads, etc. The group is also interested in addressing accessibility and access issues with respect to international students and their unique experiences. At the September FAC meeting, this working group shared its white paper on Artificial Intelligence and its concomitant concerns, about which FAC members are invited to share comments. Those thoughts will be posted on our website and forwarded to Jill, who will forward them to her colleagues at the IBHE. At the October meeting, the group will decide on its next topic of focus from those listed above.

Dan -- *Higher Ed Funding* will continue to address SB 3965, including review panels. He noted that an accountability panel has one person representing faculty interests while the transparency panel has no faculty representation. The group will also engage with adequacy and equity groups for the ICCB, funding formulas, and general funding issues. More discussion and movement on SB 3965 is expected after the national election, but the group will continue its work to ensure faculty representation.

Marie -- *Prior Learning Assessment* has drafted a survey about institutions' PLA/credit for prior learning, policies, and activities. The survey will be brought to the next meeting for distribution to FAC schools. The group plans to further elucidate how prior learning assessment is done and is developing a survey about issues pertaining to prior learning assessment.

Sue -- *Mental Health* is preparing an FAC survey needing IRB approval focused on faculty mental health issues. The question was raised about what we may be able to learn from other high-stress professions. Its work for the year having been largely completed, Sue asked whether this should still be a group, and if there is anything else the group has to offer.

James -- *Equity* is halfway through compiling a list of DEI officers in the state, which it will bring to October's meeting. Future activities include gathering resources for teaching equity in higher education.

2:45 Shawn reminded FAC members that the October meeting will be at Roosevelt's downtown campus, and Thursday's dinner will be at the Gage. He reiterated our appreciation for Farid and the success of this first meeting of the 2024/2025 term.

2:50 Shawn sought a motion to adjourn, which was made by Jack and seconded by Gay.