

HE.01.04
February 12, 2001

**University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign Senate
Final Information**

HE.01.04 Report on the IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting, December 8, 2000.

The Committee met with Keith Sanders, Executive Director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education at the Renaissance Hotel in Springfield. Scheduled for 90 minutes, the discussion lasted 3 hours. The business meeting was brief, as were the FAC subcommittee meetings.

Director Sanders stressed the importance of the IBHE hearing from faculty. In higher education, he said, there are two key groups—faculty and students—all others are facilitators.

He characterized the June FAC report on “Quality in Higher Education” as excellent. He asked the FAC to develop a report on the means by which creativity, problem-solving ability, critical thinking, communication skills, and ability to work with others can be assessed. He cited a statement: “A college education is what is left when you have forgotten all the facts you learned,” and noted items such as character, treating others with respect, love of learning. He is opposed to uniform measures via a standardized test that would threaten the distinct missions and stresses of individual institutions and unique foci of students’ majors. He also asked for guidance on the means to harness new technologies to help institutions, faculty, and students.

The state of Illinois scored the highest rating in the National Report Card on Higher Education, A study published by the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. Illinois scored 88.8, highest of the 50 states. We were graded A in preparation, college participation, and affordability. We rated only C+ in completion, B- in benefits to the state and no rating for learning. (No state was ranked on learning.) Sanders cited one statement on performance gaps: “This year, if all ethnic groups in Illinois had the same educational attainment and earnings as whites, total personal income in the state would be \$9.1 billion higher and the state would realize an estimated \$3.2 billion in additional tax revenues.” He agreed that the data on degree completion is very flawed. Also, stress on degree completion emphasizes the outmoded notion that completion of a degree is the relevant measurement of achievement.

Sanders noted the recent legislative resolution requiring public universities and community colleges “to provide a detailed report, with rationale, to the Board of Higher Education by November 15, 2001, regarding use and compensation of part-time and nontenure-track faculty” to go to the General Assembly by December 15, 2001.” Further, the IBHE is to consult with institutions and faculty organizations to consider policies “to discourage overreliance on part-time and nontenure-track faculty.” Finally the IBHE is to make recommendations “concerning the establishment of minimum salary and fringe benefits provisions indexed to tenure-track faculty compensation for part-time and non-tenure track faculty to ensure fair employment and consistent emphasis on quality instruction at all levels...” He asked the FAC for advice on the content of the survey which led to an extended discussion of issues relative to part-time faculty. Part-time faculty typically are paid at lower rates. On the other hand less is demanded of them:

they rarely participate in research, often do not engage in professional development, may not hold regular office hours, etc. Since their behavior is not that of typical full-time faculty, we need to recognize the differences and determine what we should do about them. A response will be developed by the Quality of Education Subcommittee for consideration at the February meeting.

The proposed budget to be presented to the IBHE was discussed. It calls for a salary program of 3%+2% +1%. (The final 1% is to come from internal reallocation; the 2% is for retention and hiring of critical faculty.) Those near the mean of their peer group in salaries have more flexibility in use of funds. The appropriations for the U of I reflect a 5.6% increase with UIC at 5.2%, UIS at 5.5%, UIUC at 5.7 and University Administration at 7.2%. No explanation was given for the larger increase for University Administration.

Sanders noted that profit-making proprietary institutions are increasing their enrollments and more of them are active in the state. Enrollment at community colleges is relatively flat and some public institutions are losing enrollment. Rhetorically, he asked, "What is the role of the state in protecting the 125 private institutions in Illinois given the current climate?"

During the business meeting a resolution was introduced focused on the fact that students can earn both college credit and high school graduation credit for the same course with both the school and community college receiving state funds for that enrollment. Hence the state pays twice for the one course and the student actually earns credit at two different levels for the same course. The resolution, referred to committee, will be before the FAC at its February 2 meeting.

There was extensive discussion of the factors to be considered in gathering the data on part-time non-tenure track faculty. The label "faculty" can be interpreted to exclude a large number of the people who should be included by the expedient of not terming them "faculty."

The subcommittees met briefly after the business meeting adjourned. There is extensive work to be accomplished by the quality subcommittee before the February 2 meeting to be held on our campus.

Copies of relevant materials have been shared with such Senate committees as the Senate Council, Educational Policy, and Budget. Copies are available to other committees or to Senators upon request to the Senate Office.

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Campus representative to the FAC of the IBHE