

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

HE.02.13 Report on the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Meeting, June 21, 2002.

The June 21 FAC meeting at the downtown Chicago Loyola University Campus opened with a welcome by Father Michael Garanzini, S.J., President.

Debra Smitley of the BHE updated the group on the current status of the budget. She stressed that this has been a most unusual year starting with the mid-year recisions, asking the public four-year institutions to absorb a \$45M portion of the health insurance costs, the passage of a budget followed by the Governor calling a special session in which higher education took some additional very severe cuts. The public 4-year universities took a 6.1% cut (\$91.19M) not including the \$45M in health insurance costs they must continue to pay. Hence, the actual cut is some \$136M. The only increase in the higher education budget was 8.9% for the State Universities Retirement System, an appropriation mandated by law. Community colleges were cut 4.1% and the Illinois Student Assistance Commission was cut 9.7%. There were a massive number of changes in the budget and priorities this year. Until the special legislative session the BHE did not anticipate the magnitude of the final reductions. Higher education took a larger proportionate cut than elementary and secondary education. The old \$2 to elementary and secondary education and \$1 to higher education weakened in the last few years is gone. HECCA grants were reduced from \$13M to \$5M with funds for access and diversity and workforce and economic development set at 0. She is worried that politicians are now making the decisions rather than the educational community given the opportunity to balance priorities.

The Illinois Student Assistance commission will meet on June 28 to decide how to deal with the cuts. The legislature prohibited ISAC from giving aid for the 5th year of undergraduate education. Options to deal with the cuts include no summer aid, no increase to meet increases in tuition and fees and either reducing all awards by 5% or to stop processing applications at an earlier date. Institutions were now working on developing their budgets given the state's actions. Tuition increases set earlier this year are being adjusted upward.

A number of important concerns emerging during this session demand attention. State revenues for June, July and August will likely continue to fall. There may be a post-election session or it may fall to the next governor and legislature to make additional cuts. The budget outlook of 2004 does not look good in the absence of revenue enhancement (taxes) which seems doubtful. The AFSME contract to be negotiated in the next 18 months may involve cuts in health benefits in some form. The BHE and educational institutions are not included in those negotiations. It appears that the legislature is challenging its commitment to a state controlled student aid program. We are no longer a low tuition, high student aid state, formerly a source of pride. Some legislators believe that in raising tuition institutions are exploiting the student aid program. Legislators cannot understand why students take 5 years to graduate and believe that is the fault of poor advising, lazy students not taking education seriously, etc. They do not believe 12 hours

constitutes a full load—a standard set by the federal government, not the institutions. Legislators believe faculty need to spend more time in the classroom, do not understand what faculty do, want more accountability, and want students to graduate in 4 years. Although the BHE has not fully assessed what happened, they believe issues related to time-to-degree, faculty productivity, accountability, and affordability are issues that must be addressed by the entire higher education community.

A variety of issues were raised in discussion: the likelihood of a higher than expected funding level for SURS in 2004, greater pressure from rising enrollments, the need for and problems in assessing and communicating the damage done by this year's drastic cuts, the likelihood of increased health costs being passed on to individuals, the need to explain why some fields of study require 5 years to complete, the need to communicate to the general public the importance of higher education if one is to have a meaningful career and acceptable income.

The afternoon business meeting followed the Council's committee meetings and a shortened lunch period. Election results were announced: the Executive Committee of the 2002-03 Council includes Ken Andersen, UIUC, Chair; William Haskins, McKendree College, Vice-Chair; Tod Treat, Parkland Community College, Secretary; Allan Karnes, SIU-C; Michael VanderWeele, Trinity; and Mike Mullen, Rend Lake Community College.

The major action was adoption of a statement on "Making All Faculty Count," the BHE report on nontenure-track faculty in public institutions. The group voiced concern that the survey did not differentiate between those with outside full-time employment serving as adjuncts and those who do not have full-time positions outside the academy likely to teach introductory courses. The FAC supported the policy recommendations in the report but urged that differences in types of part-time faculty be acknowledged, tenured senior faculty be involved in implementing recommendations and that the policy recommendations be extended to private colleges.

The FAC voted to establish a fifth standing committee to devise ways for the FAC to develop more effective links to faculty, including those at institutions not currently represented on the FAC, and to reach out to the BHE, the legislature and general public to expand their understanding of the importance of higher education in enhancing our society, economically, culturally, ethically.

The calendar for 2002-03 was reviewed and adjusted and several meeting sites identified. A survey detailing the methods of selecting and supporting FAC representatives was presented and the year's activities favorably reviewed in terms of priorities established at the start of the year.

The meeting concluded with resolutions of appreciation to Loyola for hosting the meeting, to the 11 members leaving the Council with the expiration of their terms, and to the secretary and the chair for their work. In turn, the chair expressed appreciation for the many contributions and hard work of the members during the year including an increase in participation and far greater Council productivity.

Ken Andersen, Campus FAC Representative
Chair FAC 2001-03