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**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
(Final; Information)**

HE.15.01 Report on the September 19, 2014 meeting of the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE

The [Faculty Advisory Council \(FAC\)](#) of the [Illinois Board of Higher Education \(IBHE\)](#) held a regularly scheduled meeting at Illinois State University (ISU) with 32 members present.

Vice Chair Marie Donovan called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. After introduction of members present, Provost Krecji welcomed the group to ISU. Provost Krecji noted that ISU has four interim vice-presidents at the moment. She added that the School has moved up in ranks among public universities. ISU has the largest freshman class in 28 years. ISU's graduation rate is 72%. Provost Krecji indicated that ISU is very selective in offering online programs and accepting students - - quality is very important, she said.

A panel discussion took place on shared governance with professors Lane Crothers of ISU; Steve Rock of Western Illinois University (WIU); Dan Holland, former WIU Academic Senate chair; and Al Bowman, former President of ISU. Professor Crothers outlined constituencies of academic senates. Professor Rock noted that the faculty at WIU are unionized and added that their senate consists of faculty only. WIU senate takes action on issues such as curriculum, university policies, and review of President and Provost. Other issues including salary, working conditions, faculty evaluation, program reorganizations, and faculty responsibilities are handled through the union contract.

Professor Bowman who was a faculty member for 17 years before transitioning to administration commented on financial aspects of universities and opined that most universities are poorly managed and offered related statistics. Bowman stated that ISU is doing well because it has capable administrators and added that holding senior administrators accountable is critical. He emphasized the significance of strategic planning and communication between faculty and administrators. Bowman was asked why at times administrators are not let go if they do not perform well as is done in the industry. Bowman stated that we do a poor job of identifying managerial talent and suggested that search committees need to pay more attention to appropriate criteria for the position in question.

Dr. Bob Bradley, Professor Emeritus from ISU discussed "Academic Freedom after the Salaita Case." He pointed out discussed the situation as well as the contextual considerations and described the differences between first amendment rights and academic freedom> Professor Bradley pointed out that courts have become more willing to get involved in internal higher education issues than before. Issues of the social media as well as the role of donors' interests and their potential influence on public institutions were also discussed.

The three caucuses of the Council (four year public universities; community colleges and private/independent institutions) met separately and reported back to the Council later in the day. Subject discussed by the caucuses included academic dishonesty, MAP funding, pension reform, Public Agenda vs. State's continuing decline in support for higher education, role of faculty in shared governance, dual credit, and the significance of the upcoming gubernatorial election on higher education.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM. The next FAC meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2014 at the Governors State University.

This report is prepared based on the draft minutes of the FAC meeting minutes prepared by the FAC Secretary, Professor Steve Rock of WIU. Credit is owed to him.

Respectfully submitted
Abbas Aminmansour