

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

HE.01.02 Report on the IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting, October 3, 2000

N.B. A brief explanation of the IBHE-FAC: The Faculty Advisory Committee to the Illinois Board of Higher Education is a 33 person representative group of faculty from public and private institutions. Each of the 12 senior public universities is always represented by a delegate serving a 4-year term. Representatives from the universities of Chicago, Northwestern, DePaul, Loyola, Roosevelt and the Illinois Institute of Technology are members 3 out of 4 years. Nine representatives serving 3-year terms are drawn from the other private institutions on a rotating basis. Eight community colleges representatives rotated among the colleges serve a 3-year term. The Committee meets ten times a year, usually the Friday before the IBHE meets in order to review and discuss the agenda for the IBHE meeting. The Committee responds to IBHE requests for advice and comment and often develops position papers or recommends policy or procedural changes with the FAC chair reporting at each IBHE meeting.

The October 3 meeting: The Committee met at Highland Community College in Freeport in conjunction with the Illinois Board of Higher Education. (This is an annual joint event at the October Board meeting.) A Board/FAC reception was held Monday evening on the campus.

The IBHE meeting: The morning was given over to the IBHE meeting. Following introductions by Chairman Philip Rock and Highland Community College President Ruth Smith, Keith Sanders, Executive Director of the IBHE, briefly updated the Board. He noted that Illinois had risen sharply in the use of technology in education in comparisons to other states. Columbia College of Missouri has contracted with Highland Community College to provide a "baccalaureate completion program" in technology. He indicated that the Board is considering ways to encourage community colleges to enter into baccalaureate completion programs with Illinois senior colleges and universities.

An hour was given to presentations of "best practices and innovations" at four institutions selected on the basis of the required annual reports on efforts to achieve the statewide goals of *The Illinois Commitment*. The six goals are: economic growth, improved teaching and learning at all levels, affordability of higher education, increased access and diversity, high expectations and quality of student performance, and improved productivity, cost-effectiveness and accountability by the institutions. (The reporting requirement applies to both public and private institutions including community colleges. Budget requests and priorities are also evaluated in terms of these six goals)

The remainder of the meeting highlighted continuing and emerging emphases of the Board: A resolution was adopted to earmark incentive funds in the FY 2002 budget for public universities "to develop and offer Internet-enhanced baccalaureate completion programs in high demand disciplines for community college students" and to provide priority funding for "initiatives

designed to improve student persistence and graduation rates.” This resolution stems in part from a concern that groups external to the state are moving in to offer such programs through community colleges in high demand areas. The incentives may involve issues of matching funds. The difficulty of identifying such funds—given the amount of previous and continuing reallocations--and moving them from on-campus needs was noted. The background material stressed the increasing monetary return to the state and individual of increased levels of education, the need to increase the rate and speed of degree completion, and the problem of place-bound students.

A report on college readiness stressed the urgency of increasing the level of achievement students bring to college and ameliorating the need for remediation by encouraging more students to complete the college preparation core curriculum requirements rather than just meeting the high school graduation requirements. A report of access and diversity summarized material shared with the FAC at the September meeting. (See that report.)

The Board reaffirmed efforts to partner with the State Board of Education and Community College Board to improve student preparation for colleges and the workforce, improve the quality of teachers, and implement new learning technologies. Following a report by Director Sanders on the impact of the effort to increase the availability of information technology personnel, the Board reaffirmed its commitment to address the need for trained information technology professionals.

Approval of the consent agenda and various brief information reports concluded the meeting. A representative of the proprietary (profit-making) institutions asked that they be included in the same category as the non-profit private institutions--a very significant policy change.

The FAC meeting: After lunch, IBHE Chair Rock and three other members met with the Committee. In a wide-ranging discussion, FAC members commented on budgetary needs and shortfalls; the disappearance of a focus on a liberal education prominent in early drafts from the final version of *The Illinois Commitment*; assessment by means other than objective tests; the need to upgrade outdated facilities and technology; difficulties posed by continued internal reallocations; the problem of finding qualified faculty in high demand areas; the loss of tenure/tenure-track faculty positions and the need to focus on education as preparation for a lifetime rather than training for a specific or entry-level position. IBHE chair Rock stressed the need for faculty to know their legislators and actively urge them to support budget requests.

Ken Andersen,
UIUC Representative to the IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee

N.B.: Because *The Illinois Commitment: Partnerships, Opportunities, and Excellence* is the focus of much of IBHE’s activity, faculty should become familiar with it. It has specific relevance for those serving on such Senate committees as budget, admissions, educational policy, and general university policy. The IBHE has an excellent web site where many relevant documents are posted: <http://www.ibhe.il.us/>