

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

HE.01.10 Report on the IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting, June 8, 2001

The Dean of Augustana College welcomed the group. Speaking of the values and tensions of shared governance, he argued that shared governance, “a hard thing to pull off,” works more often than not. Comparing it with German efforts to partner faculty and administrations he noted similar patterns. While public and private institutions have different structures the effort at communication and regulating, of partnering and enfranchisement is hard work at both. We must constantly ask: “Are you outside the decision making structure, are you in it, are you buried by it?” Augustana is in the second of a four-year effort to restructure/reform general education—one of the “most difficult tasks in shared governance.”

Presentation on MERLOT: Terry Weech of UIUC, State of Illinois Project Director for MERLOT, and Kent Elwood of Illinois College and Jacky So of SIU-E who are active in the project made the presentation. MERLOT is a “Multimedia Educational Resource for Learning and Online Teaching.” Originating in the California State University System it focuses on instructional improvement and teacher development, providing the opportunity to share teaching materials on a worldwide basis. The focus is small units of material that can be integrated into courses, not full courses. MERLOT is software: a searchable database of online learning materials, pedagogical support, and people, including both peer reviewed submissions and non-reviewed materials.

The presenters traced the history of MERLOT, congratulated the IBHE for joining the cooperative, and demonstrated the use of MERLOT. Currently, the peer reviewed subject matter areas are: biology, business, physics, teacher education, chemistry, history, psychology, math, music, information technology, languages, engineering and health sciences. Several of the areas have recently been added, engineering just this year. Anyone can submit materials in any discipline, not just the author. However, the materials must be available for use free of charge provided the creator is given proper credit for the material. The author is given the opportunity to withhold use of the material.

Among the goals of MERLOT are: providing materials for all disciplines, encouraging faculty to create and document online teaching and learning materials to be studied/used by others, and providing quality control through the review process. (This may have value for purposes of merit evaluation and promotion.)

For information, go to www.merlot.org/aboutMERLOT

Election of 2001-2002 Officers: Ken Andersen, UIUC, Chair; Jayne Rose, Augustana, Vice Chair; Bill Haskins, McKendree College, Secretary. They assumed their responsibilities at the close of the meeting.

Business Meeting: The motion to increase the number of community college representatives on the FAC from 8 to 12 was the subject of extended debate. The motion ultimately carried by a

vote of 13 to 6, including one proxy vote. The mechanism by which the expansion will be accomplished is unclear. Since 7 of the 8 community college members are due to rotate off the FAC, several of those current members are pressing to have their terms extended. This issue was not resolved. The urgency of developing a clear set of procedures for the FAC was demonstrated. Some questioned the need to have a quorum; others argued *Robert's Rules* did not apply because the FAC has no bylaws.

A statement to be forwarded to the IBHE entitled "Competing Values in Serving the Student: Access, Degree Completion and Student Outcomes" was adopted. It challenged the view expressed in the IBHE Report "Time to Degree: a Report on the Conference" that failure to complete a degree represented a waste of resources for the student, institution and society. The statement agreed that there is a loss to the student and society if the student's potential is not realized. However, it urged that "A sound approach is to take students as far in the educational process as they are willing and able to go given their unique circumstances using a reasonable investment of societal resources to do so."

A preliminary draft of a set of by-laws for the FAC was distributed for comments. The revised draft of by-laws will be discussed at the September meeting.

The next meeting of the FAC will be September 7 at Malcolm X College in Chicago. New members will be joining the FAC at that time although some were in attendance as observers at the Augustana meeting. Several members will be rotating off.

Copies of handouts at the meeting and reports adopted are on file in the Senate Office.

Ken Andersen
Campus representative to the FAC of the IBHE