

HE.02.01
October 29, 2001

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

HE.02.01 Report on the IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting, September 7, 2001

The group convened at 9:00 a.m. with Acting President Valerie Perkins of Malcolm X College welcoming the group. Material distributed included a survey of needed improvements in FAC operations, relevant IBHE reports, FAC documents of 2000-01, and possible subcommittee topics for the current year and a bylaws draft. Subcommittees for the year were established. (Subcommittees met after lunch to elect chairs and set an initial agenda for the year.)

The remainder of the morning consisted of reports by three deputy BHE directors. Doug Day, liaison to the FAC, is Deputy Director for Policy Studies, a small two person unit. He reported on progress in establishing the University Center in Lake County. There was no public four-year institution in the rapidly growing area. The Center will be a "place of resources" with courses offered by a variety of institutions; the Center itself will not offer degrees. A \$20M facility will be built on the campus of the College of Lake County. Recommendations in the "Report on Access and Diversity" have been adopted by the BHE. Illinois continues to be committed to using "all legal means to advance diversity" including use of the Bakke decision. Some 90% of 6th graders indicate they plan on attending college and more than 2/3rds of high school graduates do—with 80% ultimately enrolling in post secondary education. The graduation rate is better for minorities: the issues are preparation, support, and interest. Adequate preparation becomes key. The BHE is recommending legislation requiring all high school students to complete college prep requirements. A campaign will be undertaken to gain support for the legislation: not an easy task. The BHE will issue an annual report on readiness of high school students for college. There will be diversity grants in the BHE budget for scholarships. Two conferences sponsored by the BHE feature Arthur Coleman offering advice on maximizing diversity and his comments on efforts of institutions to improve diversity.

Dan Layzell, Deputy Director for Policy and Technology, commented briefly on the Illinois Virtual Network. The majority of his time was spent commenting on and defending the Knight Higher Education Collaborative Roundtable set for Oct. 12, 2001, in Chicago. The roundtable is designed to bring together a cross-section of policy makers and opinion leaders to reflect on the goals sought in "The Illinois Commitment" and our top rank in the "National Higher Education Report Card." Concern was expressed over the paucity of faculty participation. (Ken Andersen UIUC will attend by virtue of being chair of the FAC but it is unclear how many other faculty will be invited participants.) FAC members objected that "The Illinois Commitment" did not receive appropriate review and commentary on the part of faculty, indeed, most faculty are unaware of the document. Now faculty are being left out of the review. The counter argument was that this is an effort to reach policy makers and opinion leaders to build a consensus in support of higher education initiatives and funding.

Debra Smitley, Deputy Director for Budgets and Administration, urged that good budgets follow good policy. She labeled the FY 02 budget as “incredibly good”—the best ever on the capital budget. FY 03 does not look as positive but she does not view it as a crisis year. The budget will address continuing urgent needs. SURS funding will increase its demand on the higher education appropriation and there is a need to assess priorities and make tough choices. She noted the continuation of 3+2+1 funding with 3% general salary increases, 2% for critical faculty retention and hiring, and 1% internal reallocation. She noted that the U of I wanted the state to assume a part of the SURS contribution. There will be a surge in retirements in the next few years. The summer report on comparative salaries did not include material on compensation because of concern about the accuracy of data on faculty benefits. The BHE will likely issue a report on compensation at a later time. Few community colleges participate in the AAUP salary survey so the BHE tends to compare salaries with a cluster of nearby states to which community object. There will be a report on higher education facilities in the next six months and a financial study on access and affordability of Illinois higher education.

During the regular business meeting the minutes of June 8 and a resolution of appreciation to Wylmarie Sykes, FAC member hosting the group, and Malcolm X were adopted. The Quality of Education Subcommittee identified assessment issues, articulation between community colleges and four-year institutions, the Knight Roundtable Report and personnel issues as they affect quality as topics for the year. The Personnel Subcommittee will focus on part-time/full-time and tenure/nontenure track issues when the data from the current survey mandated by the legislature becomes available, composition of the faculty, staffing and retirement issues, look at post-tenure review, and privatization—particularly at the city college. The Technology Subcommittee will focus on best practices in use of technology. The Budget Subcommittee will examine the prioritization of building needs (new, remodeling, maintenance) salary and compensation and implementation of the capital budget given the priorities set by the BHE. The FAC web site will be updated by the new web master, Maribeth Kasik of Governors State.

The FAC endorsed the concept of the “Campus Equity Week 2001” (October 28-November 3) which focuses upon such issues fairness and quality of education and working conditions and compensation of part-time and non-tenure track faculty.

The group discussed criteria for the position and qualities to be sought in the Executive Director of the IBHE. The search is underway for the replacement of Keith Sanders. The FAC suggested a range of considerations: significant experience in a higher education classroom; a Ph.D. and knowledge of the nature and demands of research; administrative experience working with a range of institutional types; understanding of the diverse roles of small and large private and public institutions and community colleges; role of the IBHE in not attempting to micromanage institutions; opposition to a “politician” although needed to have the ability to work with the legislature and executive branch; a consensus builder; an advocate for higher education; excellent speaking and communication skills; creative, a moderate.

Ken Andersen, Campus representative to the FAC of the IBHE