

## Report on the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Meeting of April 7, 2009

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) held a regularly scheduled meeting on April 7, 2009 in Springfield. This was the first meeting of the Board with the new format to address the goals of the Public Agenda (Visit <http://www.ibhe.state.il.us> for more information). The IBHE's Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) was invited to join the meeting. The Board hosted FAC for a lunch meeting after the IBHE meeting. A business meeting of FAC followed.

Board Chair Carrie Hightman began the IBHE meeting with reference to the Governor's proposed budget for next year and noted that it included a slight increase in the budget for higher education. She also spoke about the federal stimulus package and how its goals are in line with the Illinois' Public Agenda. Hightman also added that following passage of Senate bill 2603, IBHE is now able to charge fees for review of programs from Illinois proprietary institutions and all out of state institutions. She added that funds generated in this manner may be used to expand the badly needed program review staff.

A considerable portion of the Board meeting was set aside for a presentation by Pat Callan, president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. Callan spoke about relating state funding for higher education with the goals of the Public Agenda. He pointed out that higher education should become more affordable, productive and cost effective. Productivity of higher education appears to be of particular interest to some in Springfield.

Following the Q/A session for Callan's presentation, Don Sevener offered the legislative report. He presented a positive future for higher education in the State because there is a "can do" attitude in the legislature; because the governor and the legislature have a positive attitude towards higher education and because a number of initiatives are being pursued in Springfield to operationalize the Public Agenda.

At the joint IBHE and FAC lunch meeting, feedback was solicited about the new IBHE meeting format. In a follow up discussion, significance of communication between IBHE, FAC, legislature, and the public was pointed out by several people present. The concern was expressed that some in the general public often do not recognize the value and contributions of higher education to the state, nation and the world. It was pointed out that higher education is more than several weeks of classes - - it is a public good and that we need to maintain continuing efforts to get this message out to the public. Further, it was stated that faculty are most aware of their contributions to the society and can serve as ambassadors, however, it is difficult to get faculty engaged in subjects outside their discipline.

A business meeting of FAC followed the joint lunch meeting with the IBHE. In the beginning, some members offered positive feedback about the joint meeting with IBHE which had just concluded and emphasized the need to continue to maintain a positive relationship with receptive member of the Board.

FAC held a discussion on its 2009-2010 meeting schedule and established a tentative plan for most meeting dates and locations. U of I will host the May 14, 2010 FAC meeting in Champaign-Urbana.

The Elections Committee announced the names of candidates and nominees for next year's FAC Executive Committee. Each candidate was asked to offer brief remarks regarding her/his plans and vision if elected. The Elections Committee will solicit electronic votes to elect 2009-2010 FAC officers in the near future.

In conclusion, FAC expressed appreciation for Terry Nunn, Deputy Director for Diversity and Outreach, who is retiring. FAC Chair Bennett was asked to send a letter of appreciation to Nunn on behalf of the group. In addition, the Chair was asked to send a letter to the Board for the joint IBHE / FAC meeting.

The next IBHE-FAC meeting will be held at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake, Illinois on Friday May 15, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,  
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IBHE-FAC Member