

Report on IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Meeting February 19, 2010

The Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) met at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville (SIUE) on Friday February 19, 2010.

The meeting was called to order by Chair John Bennett at 8:30 AM with representatives from about 20 member institutions present. Guests of the day included SIUE Chancellor Vaugh Vandegrift; Kathleen Brown, Executive Director of the Illinois Education Research Council and Ocheng Jany, IBHE Associate Director for Academic Affairs.

Following welcoming remarks by FAC member and host Marth Latorre, Ocheng Jany updated members on recent developments at IBHE including ongoing staff changes and searches.

In recent months, FAC has been focusing more on the future of higher education in Illinois. In particular, the group is working on finding ways to effectively communicate to the citizens of the State the many contributions of higher education to the State and its economy and why it is essential for the State to invest in its future by protecting the future of higher education in Illinois. Relative to this, the Council decided at its February 19 meeting that the entire March 18-19, 2010 FAC meeting to be held in Urbana should be dedicated to brain storming on this subject. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign representative to FAC (Abbas Aminmansour) was asked to coordinate activities for this meeting in collaboration with a small group of FAC members. Plans for the event include participation by a number of people from University of Illinois as follows. Lecture by Charles Evans, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs at the March 18 dinner meeting on how FAC can be more effective in maintaining a bright future for higher education in Illinois. On Friday March 19, a panel discussion will take place on the subject with Avijit Ghosh, Vice President for Technology and Economic Development; Robert Rich, Director of the Institute of Government & Public Affairs; Mike Bass, Executive Director of Governmental Relations; Joyce Tolliver, Chair of the Senate Executive Committee and Charlie Evans Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs. A number of students as well as others who may contribute to the discussion may be invited as well.

In addition, FAC asked Aminmansour to coordinate some activities in conjunction with the April 6 IBHE meeting in Herald Washington College in Chicago. The idea is to take advantage of the presence of university and college presidents, IBHE members and officials, as well as other invited participants to highlight the need for the State to invest in its future by supporting higher education in Illinois. The April 6 activities are to be planned and coordinated in the near future.

Kathleen Brown, Executive Director of the Illinois Education Research Council gave a presentation on the work of her group and responded to questions from FAC members.

Chancellor Vaugh Vandegrift of SIU, Edwardsville, spoke with the group highlighting SIUE's characteristics and successes. He noted that, apart from the State's financial crisis, SIUE is doing very well in accomplishing the goals of the institution. Chancellor Vandegrift shared his views on the State's economy and its adverse impact on higher education with FAC members.

In other business, FAC discussed the issue of articulation and course transfer between two-year and four-year colleges and universities and the fact that some institutions do not give students credit for certain of their transfer courses. Some have advocated that perhaps the State should mandate transferability of such courses. FAC strongly opposes any such move by the State.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM. The next FAC meeting will be at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on March 18 and 19, 2010.

Submitted respectfully,
Abbas Aminmansour