

**Report on IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Meeting**  
**April 7, 2010**

HE.10.08

The Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) met at the Herald Washington College in Chicago on Tuesday April 6, 2010 with 27 members present. In addition to a business meeting, FAC held a joint meeting with the IBHE.

The business meeting was called to order by Chair John Bennett at 9:30 AM. A general discussion was held among members about the current status of each institution in light of the State's cash crisis and what efforts are under way to address complications caused by the State's lack of ability to meet its financial obligations to higher education. The questions was raised as to how much do furloughs really save an institution and are such savings significant enough to make a difference? Private institutions are taking measures to save resources as well, but no drastic measures were pointed out.

Illinois eastern Community Colleges have terminated a number of staff and resorted to Reduction in Force (RIF) to let go of some faculty. Questions were raised about the fairness of actions taken against RIFed faculty.

Chicago State University is "rightsizing" the campus. There have been about 140 layoffs, but mostly among administration. Faculty have not been part of the decision making process.

A discussion followed on shared governance and faculty involvement in decision making, particularly at these difficult times. It was agreed that FAC will prepare a statement on this issue to be distributed among member institutions.

The business meeting adjourned at 10:50.

FAC held a joint meeting with the Illinois Board of Higher Education from about 11:45 AM to 1:00 PM. Present were Board members as well as IBHE staff Judy Erwin Executive Director; Don Sevener, Deputy Director for External Relations; Candace Mueller, Assistant Director for External Relations; Bob Blankenberger, Associate Director; Ocheng Jany, Associate Director and Mike Baumgartner, Executive Deputy Director. A number of issues were raised by FAC members including the following.

1. Faculty recognize the severity of the State's cash-flow crisis and its implications on higher education. We know difficult decisions need to be made and hope that administrators will collaborate with their faculty in addressing their financial difficulties. It was pointed out that shared governance is stronger at some institutions than others.
2. The State's revisions to the State Employee's pension plan will hurt our institutions' ability to competitively recruit highly qualified faculty and administrators. As a consequence, each institution will need to supplement offers to such new hires with its own resources. This situation creates new financial difficulties for our institutions and is equivalent to another budget cut.
3. Some of our institutions may have engaged in practices to cut costs that may appear unfair and targeted to others. It is imperative that institutions make decisions that are fair, transparent and consistent with their budget realities.
4. We need to educate the public to understand the value of higher education to the State and that we are not a burden but an asset. Further, we need to encourage our legislators to do the right thing and make serious decisions to help the State out of its current financial crisis. It was pointed out that some decisions may be unpopular with the public, but that the legislators need to explain to the public why it is in the best interest of the State that they make such decisions.

The joint meeting with the Board ended at 1:00 PM.

The next FAC meeting will take place on May 13 and 14 at DeVry University --Addison campus in Chicago.

Submitted respectfully,  
Abbas Aminmansour