

Report on IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Meeting

April 8, 2011

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The Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) held a regularly scheduled meeting at the Northeastern Illinois University (NEIU) on Friday April 8, 2011 with 27 member institutions present.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM with introduction of guests and members present. NEIU President Sharon Hahs welcomed the group to her campus and noted that she has brought the campus together for their mission statement and strategic plan, which set up the University Planning and Budget Council. President Hahs cited the book "The Secrets of Resilient Leadership" which discusses six essential skills in turbulent times: acting with integrity, communicating effectively, harnessing the power of leadership with a positive attitude, taking responsibility for actions, building a resilient culture, and building behavioral body armor/learning to become optimistic.

Chair Aminmansour reported that Katherine "Kappy" Laing U of I's Executive Director of Governmental Relations and Charles Evans, U of I Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs have been invited to the Council's May meeting to discuss state and federal legislation under consideration that may impact higher education. Don Sevener, IBHE Deputy Director for External Affairs and State Representative Naomi Jakobsson have been invited to join the Council's June meeting in Springfield.

The Council held a discussion on its work in progress to prepare a position statement on vertical alignment and remediation. Contents of the draft statement were discussed and suggestions for improvement were made. A revised one page or so statement will be prepared by the task group for consideration and possible adoption by the Council at its May meeting.

Discussions were held on possible contents for a proposed statement by the Council on the role of shared governance in the institutions' process of review and possible elimination of academic programs and/or units due to financial difficulties. A draft documents will be prepared for discussion at the May FAC meeting.

The Council's Elections Committee reported on its work and announced nominations received thus far. It was noted that nominees for positions with more than one nominee will be asked to submit brief statements and answer questions at the May meeting. Elections will be held immediately after the May meeting.

The three caucuses of the Council (Publics, Privates and Community College) held parallel meetings and reported to the Council on their discussions and topics of interest. A number of discussions were held on the at large members of the Council from the Privates and Community Colleges Caucuses. The Council will consider possible changes to its constitution in this regard.

The Council took care of other routine business such as approval of minutes, election of at large member from community colleges, etc. The meeting adjourned at about 2:40PM. The next meeting of the Council will be held at the Kankakee Community College on May 20, 2011.

Respectfully submitted
Abbas Aminmansour