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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
(Final; Information)

HE.14.03 Report on the November 15, 2013 meeting of the FAC to the IBHE.

The [Faculty Advisory Council \(FAC\)](#) of the [Illinois Board of Higher Education \(IBHE\)](#) held a regularly scheduled meeting at the MacMurray (Mac) College on Friday November 15, 2013 with about 30 member institutions present. Special guest of the Council included Dr. Colleen Hester, President of the MacMurray College; Daniel Frederking of the Illinois Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC); Michael Afolayan, IBHE Assistant Director for Academic Affairs; State Senator Sam McCann and Representative CD Davidsmeyer.

Chair Aminmansour called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. After introduction of members present, Mac President Coleen Hester welcomed the Council to her campus and spoke about her college and its role and contributions to higher education in Illinois. President Hester addressed challenges that higher education faces in Illinois and nationwide and encouraged faculty to be involved in discussions at all levels to ensure reasoned discussion prevail in decision making.

The three caucuses of the Council (four year public universities; community colleges and private/independent institutions) met separately and reported back to the Council later in the day. Topics addressed by caucuses included the following: pension reform including potential implications of possible legislation on the subject, planning for the December FAC meeting/celebrating FAC's 50th anniversary and the ongoing search for the IBHE Executive Director.

Daniel Frederking, [Illinois PARCC](#) Field Test Coordinator for Student Assessment at the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE), gave a presentation to the Council on the field testing and rolling out of the PARCC. According to the PARCC web site, "The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a consortium of 18 states plus the District of Columbia and the U.S. Virgin Islands working together to develop a common set of K-12 assessments in English and math anchored in what it takes to be ready for college and careers. These new K-12 assessments will build a pathway to college and career readiness by the end of high school, mark students' progress toward this goal from 3rd grade up, and provide teachers with timely information to inform instruction and provide student support. The PARCC assessments will be ready for states to administer during the 2014-15 school year." Illinois is a Governing State in the PARCC Consortium. Mr. Frederking went over the format and some

sample questions/problems on the new assessment test. During the question and answer session, some Council members expressed concerns about the new testing format including types of questions, addressing issues relative to carrying out the new assessment tool during the first few years, etc.

In the afternoon session, Illinois Senator Sam McCann and Representative CD Davidsmeyer addressed the Council and discussed their views on issues of interest in higher education including financing of higher education and pensions. Both legislators felt that earned benefits of the state universities employees should not be affected adversely by any new legislation.

During the Business portion of the meeting, the Council approved the minutes of its October 18, 2013 FAC Meeting at Chicago State University. In addition, the Council held an election for a representative of FAC to participate in the interview process of the new IBHE Executive Director. Professor John Bennett was elected for this role.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 PM. The next IBHE-FAC meeting is scheduled for December 13, 2013 in Springfield. This is a special meeting when the Council meets with the IBHE staff each year in December. However, because this is the 50th anniversary of the formation of the FAC, a special panel discussion will be conducted at this meeting including some former key members of FAC and IBHE.

Respectfully submitted

Abbas Aminmansour