

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

HE.14.05 Report on the January 13, 2014 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 [John A. Logan College](#) (JALC) in Carterville, Illinois on Friday January 13, 2014 with 22 member institutions present.

Special guest at this meeting included Illinois Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon; JALC President Dr. Mike Dreith, Dr. Deb Payne, JALC VP for Instruction, Dr. Valerie Barko, Dean of Academic Affairs at JALC and JALC's Board of Trustees Jake Rendelman, who was past president of the Illinois Community College Board (ICCB) Trustees Association.

Chair Aminmansour called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM. After introduction of members present, President Dreith addressed the Council. He noted the decreasing trend in enrollment of about 5% in college enrollment and attributed this decline to the fact that college education may have become out of financial reach for some students and/or their families.

Aminmansour announced that Dr. Harry Berman's last day as IBHE Executive Director will be February 14<sup>th</sup>. Dr. James Applegate's appointment as the new Executive Director begins February 17.

The portion of the program set aside for Anthony Fiorentino (UIUC student) from the IBHE Student Advisory Committee to discuss student debt will be rescheduled for the March FAC because the speaker was unable to attend the meeting.

FAC Secretary Steve Rock announced dates and host institutions of our 2014-15 FAC meetings. 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.

Dr. Valerie Barko, Dean of Academic Affairs at JALC, gave a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Goal 2025: Perspectives from a Rural Community College." She noted that more jobs in the future will require post-secondary education. She stated that benefits of higher education include higher income, lower unemployment rates, reduced crime, and increased political participation. She spoke about the educational attainment rate in the JALC district and pointed out some barriers to meeting the 60% of adults having post-secondary educational credentials by the year 2025 goal. She added that the federally funded TRIO program at JALC has been successful. Dr. Barko also spoke about remediation along with the use of Dual Credit. She stated that the Higher Learning Commission has just issued a report on this topic and its barriers.

Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon joined the Council for a lunch meeting. During the Q/A session that followed her introductory remarks, she was asked about what needs to be done to fix the Illinois political system. She responded that term limits for political leaders (not individual legislators) might be a solution.

Lt. Governor was asked about the role and responsibility of state government in providing financially viable post-secondary education for its citizens. Simon agreed that this is an important issue and recognized that accomplishing this goal has become difficult due to the state's financial problems. She noted MAP funding as an

issue that needs to be increased to allow students with financial needs to attain post-secondary education. Lt. Governor was also asked about her views on a pending bill that would require public higher education institutions to accept AP courses based on an assessment score and whether it is appropriate for the legislators to dictate academic policy. She agreed that that should not be the case and that institutions should be able to establish their own criteria for accepting AP credits.

In response to a question, Lt. Governor Simon noted that we need to look at the big picture and emphasized that our educational system was set up to give people upward mobility. She added that we need sound bites to connect with the public and emphasize the opportunities that a higher education creates for students.

In other business, the Council approved minutes of the December 12, 2013 meeting. The Community College Caucus nominate Donna McCauley to be an at-large alternate. She was elected by a vote of the Council. Marie Donovan reported for the Private Caucus and expressed concern about legislation such as AP mandates creeping into the classroom, the role of advising, the 60% by 2025 goal, and CCS and their impact and differences with PARCC. The Public Caucus discussed financial issues, declining enrollments, university mission statements, and duplication among institutions versus specialization.

The meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM. The next FAC meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2014 at the College of DuPage.

Respectfully submitted

Abbas Aminmansour