

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

HE.14.07 Report on the March 21, 2014 meeting of the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE.

The [Faculty Advisory Council \(FAC\)](#) of the [Illinois Board of Higher Education \(IBHE\)](#) held a regularly scheduled meeting at the Waubensee Community College (WCC) with 28 members present.

Chair Aminmansour called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. After introduction of members present, President Christine Sobek of WCC welcomed and addressed the Council. President Sobek noted that WCC began in 1966 and that their district covers about 600 square miles containing an assessed property valuation of \$10 billion. WCC has about 12,000 students taking 5500-6000 FTEs. The college has 125-130 full time faculty.

Aminmansour reported that he has been asked to give a presentation to the IBHE at its April meeting. He also noted that he has been in discussions with Amy Sherman, Associate Vice President for Policy and Strategic Alliances of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL). Sherman will be addressing the Council later in the program on the subject of Prior Learning Assessment: Making Military Learning Count in Illinois.

Tony Fiorentino, a U of I Law student and member of the IBHE Student Advisory Committee (SAC) gave a presentation titled "The Student Debt Crisis in Higher Education Today." He reported that student debt has quadrupled in the last decade to about \$1.3 trillion today. SAC has been focusing on what he referred to as the failure of federal student loan laws. He noted that there is no bankruptcy protection for student debt as there is for other types of debt which he said has led to students divert funds out of their retirement accounts, to delay purchases, and to put off marriage and having children. He expressed concern over lack of protection for students in what he considers a predatory student loan market. SAC has been actively in discussions with legislators and other key individuals and organizations to garner support for change. He urged SAC to consider supporting a resolution SAC has prepared for consideration by the Illinois General Assembly. Council Vice Chair Donovan will pursue this matter with Fiorentino and bring the issue to the Council when ready.

Amy Sherman, Associate Vice President for Policy and Strategic Alliances and Cynthia Rathunde of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL) addressed the FAC on the desire to offer veterans course credit for the knowledge gained during their service. She noted that she recognizes the fact that such decisions are made at local levels (e.g. at each campus), but solicited ideas and support from the faculty in their effort to accomplish their goal. FAC Vice Chair Donovan will work with Sherman on this subject and place the item on the Council agenda when ready.

FAC Vice Chair Marie Donovan spoke about her two-part proposal relative to teacher licensing. The first part would ask IBHE for a moratorium on approving alternate licensing programs until a state statute can be crafted and approved. The second part of her proposal would encourage IBHE and ISBE to delay the implementation of edTPA (teacher performance assessment) for two years until further refinements are made in the process.

The three caucuses of the Council (four year public universities; community colleges and private/independent institutions) met during lunch separately and reported back to the Council. The Community Colleges nominated John D'Anca for their at-large slot and supported Donovan's proposal. This caucus also spoke about four year degrees and how that would be mission creep. The Publics caucus recommended the following list for possible topics for discussion with the Board at our joint April meeting: alerting legislators about financial issues, student

debt issues, 3+1 programs and quality, the increase in adjuncts, and finding FAC type organizations in other states. The Privates institutions caucus solicited ideas to bring up with Dan Cullen, IBHE Deputy Director for Academic Affairs including PARCC and the importance of having IBHE staff at FAC meetings. They will nominate Dan Beach for their at-large slot and Shawn for the at-large proprietary slot. They also support changing the rotation schedule for the "big six" from having three on all times to two.

In other business, the Council approved minutes of the February FAC meeting. The Nominations Committee was elected by consent as follows: Sonya Armstrong; Steve DePascali, and Shawn Schumaker. This group will solicit nominations and present a slate to the Council at the May meeting for election of next year's FAC officers.

The Faculty Fellows Committee was also elected by consent: Aida Shakib, Renee Wright, and Ellen Hay. The at-large nominees were affirmed: John D., Dan B., and Shawn. It was decided that the April 1st FAC meeting will start at 8:30 am. Larry and WCC were thanked for hosting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM. The next FAC meeting is scheduled for April 1, 2014 at the College of Lake County. The Council will have a lunch meeting with the Board at this meeting.

Respectfully submitted

Abbas Aminmansour