

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

HE.15.03 Report on the November 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 Oakton Community College (OCC) with 26 members present. Special guests from Oakton included President Dr. Peg Lee; V.P. for Academic Affairs, Dr. Tom Hamel; V.P. for Student Affairs, Dr. Joi Smith; and Gloria Liu, Coordinator & Co-Director of the "Center for Promoting STEM"

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM with introductions of those present. Oakton President Peg Lee welcomed the group to her campus. Dr. Lee has been at Oakton for 30 years including serving as President for 20 years. She will be retiring in the near future. Lee opined that higher education has become credential driven and commoditized. She also called the escalating cost of higher education as unsustainable. A question/answer session followed Dr. Lee's remarks.

Gloria Liu, Coordinator of the [Center for Promoting STEM](#), gave a presentation titled, "Retaining STEM Students through Student Research." The Center was established with a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF). Liu reported that 25 to 40 students participate in the program through about eight projects per semester. The OCC experience has been that students who participate in this program often take more STEM courses the following semesters or transfer to four-year institutions.

Oakton Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Michael Carr, gave a presentation on OCC's participation in "[Achieving the Dream](#)," a national program. Oakton joined the program in 2013 with the goal of improving student success and eliminating achievement gaps. According to the OCC web site, the program helps 3.8 million community college students at about 200 schools in 34 states. Carr reported that the program maintains five principles as follows: community leadership; use of evidence to improve programs and services, broad engagement of constituents, systematic institutional improvement, and equity. Oakton uses the longitudinal data for tracking of students and their success.

Aminmansour stated that Dr. James Applegate, the IBHE Executive Director, will discuss Guided Pathways to Success (GPS) with the Council at our December 12 meeting in Springfield. Aminmansour also reported that the IBHE Performance Based Funding (PBF) Steering Committee had met on November 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss potential changes in the models used for assessing PBF for four year institutions. The Committee had decided to recommend not increasing the 0.5% allocation for PBF and that we do not change the model over the next three years, allowing the model to be evaluated.

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. The

Privates discussed MAP funding, meaningful information on graduation rates, academic integrity issues, social media influence on students. The Publics are working on a resolution on shared governance as well as one on academic freedom. Community college caucus discussed the 6% SURS rule and its implications on hiring faculty as adjuncts after their retirement to help teach courses. Oakton Community College will not hire retired faculty due to a heavy fine they had to pay due to a recent case.

Steve Rock, FAC Secretary and FAC Liaison to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) updated the Council on new developments affecting MAP including reduced funding and the mandate to set aside a certain amount of funds for veterans, another unfunded mandate. Rock reported that MAP funding runs out earlier each year with about half of eligible students not receiving any funds.

In the Business portion of the meeting, the minutes of the October 17, 2014 FAC meeting were approved.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM. The next FAC meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2014 in Springfield and will be hosted by the IBHE staff.

This report is prepared based on the draft minutes of the FAC meeting minutes prepared by the FAC Secretary, Professor Steve Rock of Western Illinois University (WIU). Much credit is owed to him.

Respectfully submitted  
Abbas Aminmansour