

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

HE.15.04 Report on the January 16, 2015 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 Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) with 34 members present.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM with introductions of those present. Professor Russell Betts, Dean of the Illinois Tech College of Science welcomed the Council to his campus. He reported that enrollment is up at IIT, but deferred maintenance is an issue. He added that IIT's admission is highly competitive and their programs are very rigorous. He felt that this situation may disadvantage local area students. However, he added that IIT has received an NSF grant which will target middle school teachers to improve this situation

The three caucuses of the Council (four year public universities; community colleges and private/independent institutions) met separately and reported back to the Council. Topics discussed by the caucuses included President Obama and the City of Chicago's community initiatives for free college; Governor Rauner's Executive Order on non-essential expenses and what it means for higher education institutions; PARCC; Common Core; decline in enrollment at some community colleges; professional development and student financial aid.

Eric Zarnikow, Executive Director of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) addressed the Council. He reported on recent legislation affecting ISAC. He added that 24 states are interested in "pay it forward" plan which offers students free tuition like a loan and expects students to pay back the loan as a percentage of their income with a certain number of loans forgiven. Zarnikow also spoke about an advisory committee mandated by legislation to offer recommendations on MAP funding. It recommended that if an institution's completion rate drops below 80%, that their completion must improve by 5% and to reduce achievement gaps by income levels by 25%. He added that the recommendations will be implemented through ISAC rules.

Zarnikow spoke about college affordability and added that cost of higher education has gone up considerably more than family income has which has led to higher student debts. He noted that despite speculations, college education is still well worth the cost and offered statistics on higher income for people with post-secondary education.

In the Business portion of the meeting, the minutes of the December 12, 2014 FAC meeting in Springfield were approved. The Council also discussed topics to discuss at its meeting with the Board in April.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 PM. The next FAC meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2015 at Robert Morris University.

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  
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