

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

HE.16.01 Report on the September 18, 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 [Midwestern University](#) in Downers Grove with 31 members present.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by FAC Chair Marie Donovan with introductions of those present. Dr. Karen Nichols, Dean of the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine at Midwestern welcomed the group to her campus and presented the history behind Osteopathic Medicine and the Chicago College. She discussed the differences between MDs and DOs. Dr. Nichols noted that Midwestern has 10 colleges, 2 campuses, and about 6500 students.

Gretchen Lohman, IBHE Assistant Director for Academic Affairs, spoke about the formation of the Commission on the Future of the Work Force. The Commission will begin its formal activities in January 2016 and will be Chaired by Dr. Jim Applegate, IBHE Executive Director. The Commission will focus on Goal 3 of the [Public Agenda](#) (Strengthen workforce development) and will include the three segments of higher education (publics, community colleges and private institutions). Lohman added that the IBHE Fellows Program is currently on hold due to lack of a State budget. She also spoke about the State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) which establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. She further spoke about the federal requirement on the Online Complaint System involving institutions. A link will be provided at the IBHE web site allowing individuals to file complaints related to higher education institutions in Illinois. IBHE will consult with institutions before taking any action.

Candace Mueller, IBHE Interim Deputy Director for Advancement, External and Government Relations reported that there had not been any progress on Illinois State budget. She added that higher education and MAP funding do not fall under any court orders. Mueller noted that the Senate Higher Education Committee will be holding hearings at various institutions over the next couple of weeks.

Donovan reported that following our public comments, Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) is now willing to investigate the new teacher licensing requirements ([edTPA](#)). She further reported that the IBHE Student Advisory Committee is continuing to discuss issues related to textbooks. Donovan would like FAC to participate in that discussion.

There was a discussion on sharing with the public the value of higher education. It was suggested that FAC prepares information appropriate for a general readership and share that with Candace Mueller for input before going public with the statement.

A discussion was held on prior learning assessment for military personnel. Donovan reported that a report on how and what our colleges and universities are doing will be available soon. A State of Illinois Task Force on this issue will be formed with faculty participation. Donovan asked the FAC caucuses to nominate faculty for this purpose.

The three caucuses of the Council (four year public universities; community colleges and private/independent institutions) met separately and reported back to the Council. Each caucus nominated members for participation in the Action Teams of the IBHE as well as for the prior learning assessment task force. The Public Caucus discussed nominating an active faculty member for membership on the Illinois Board of Higher Education. The Community College Caucus suggested highlighting the social benefits of higher education and specifically recommended using the work of UIUC Professor Walter McMahon. Topics discussed by the Private Caucus included public relations, branding/image challenge, and social media ideas.

In the Business portion of the meeting, the minutes of the June 19, 2015 FAC meeting were approved. The Council also thanked Abbas Aminmansour for having maintained the IBHE-FAC web site over the last several years. The group expressed its appreciation to our Midwestern University hosts.

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM. The next FAC meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2015 at Rend Lake College.

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