

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

HE.16.02 Report on the June 21, 2016 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 Illinois State University on June 21, 2016, with 18 members present. FAC members were guests of the IBHE for a luncheon and attended the Board meeting in the afternoon.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by FAC Chair Marie Donovan. The Executive Committee will meet in August to plan for next year and welcomes suggestions. FAC secretary Steve Rock is working with the IBHE staff on replacement of members whose schools are rotating off the FAC or designating new representatives. The next meeting will be September 9 at Northeast Illinois University.

Gretchen Lohman, IBHE Assistant Director for Academic Affairs, noted there are open positions at IBHE due to the budget shortfall. They are working on credentialing certificates as part of the effort to meet the 60% goal of post-secondary education for Illinois residents by 2025. IBHE is charged with reviewing programs that exhibit low enrollments, degree completions or high expenses per degree. Institutions are asked to identify appropriate outcomes of flagged programs and given two years for such review. Five outcomes include sunset, consolidation, redesign, justification/no further action, and priority review.

Caucus reports: Community colleges are covering MSP students in different ways. Enrollment projections at 4-year publics are up in some few instances, down in others. Some concern voiced that schools with drawing power take students from other institutions. Also, out of state schools are aggressively pursuing Illinois students.

Minutes of the May meeting were approved. The Assoc. of American Publishers may participate in the FAC September meeting in a two-hour dialogue. (Interested parties could be invited to attend as well.) Long-time member John Bennett was recognized by a unanimously adopted resolution followed by meeting's adjournment.

FAC members divided into four groups for discussion with members of the IBHE at the luncheon with FAC members leading the discussion on one of four topics: 1) student exodus from Illinois; 2) FAC and IBHE interaction; 3) interaction among state educational agencies; and 4) IBHE's role in higher education (regulatory or advocacy). There were no reports to the larger group on the individual table discussions. My tabled focused on the urgent need for Board advocacy on behalf of higher education while noting the important regulatory role of the Board. One new IBHE member said Board members were appointed by the governor and needed to follow his lead, the FAC members responded that if the Board does not advocate for higher education, who will?

Following the luncheon the IBHE met. Executive Director James Applegate, who holds a PhD from Illinois, said that despite the current budget problems we need to look forward to a more promising future and plan accordingly.

Ken Andersen  
Alternate FAC Representative