

ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL
Meeting via Zoom, June 9, 2020
Minutes Approved September 18, 2020

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:

Paul Bialek	at-large (Trinity International University)
Amy Carr	Western Illinois University
Julie Clemens	Illinois Central College
Marlon Cummings	Governor's State University
John D'Anca	at-large (Oakton College)
Marie Donovan	DePaul University
Thomas Dowd	Harper College
Randall Egdorf	John Wood Community College
Pennie Gray	Illinois Wesleyan University
Dan Hrozencik	Chicago State University
Rick Jones	at-large (South Suburban College)
Nick Menhart	Illinois Institute of Technology
Gay Miller	University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Nataka Moore	Adler University
Melette Pearce	Black Hawk College
C. Lucy Park	University of Illinois – Chicago
Mike Philips	Illinois Valley Community College
Devi Potluri	Chicago State University
Linda Saborio	Northern Illinois University
Patricia Saleeby	Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Shawn Schumacher	DeVry University
Brian Vivona	Northeastern Illinois University
Larry White	Eastern Illinois University – via Zoom
Susan Wiediger	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

IBHE Staff

Gretchen Lohman, FAC Liaison and Senior Associate Director, Academic Affairs, IBHE
Jaimee Ray, Senior Associate Director, Legislative Affairs, IBHE

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Cynthia Boyce	Lincoln Trail College
Diane Dean	Illinois State University
Steve DePasquale	Kankakee Community College
Doug Dowell	Heartland Community College
Jennifer Martin	University of Illinois – Springfield
Tatiana Tatum Parker	St. Xavier University
Mat Timm	Bradley University
Adam Tournier	at-large (McKendree University)

Meeting was called to order at 9:01 by Marie Donovan, FAC Chair.

Jennifer Delaney, IBHE member, shared with the FAC the news that instead of investing in mutual funds, the state will invest in our students via student loans. A portion of this money will also be new state-backed loans. This will particularly target students that might not qualify for current federal aid (e.g. undocumented or no co-signers) or particular job areas such as teachers. Both undergraduate and graduate support might be possible. Age limits are not settled, but the expectation is that it will be wide-ranging, and financing or re-financing might also be possible for parents or grandparents taking out loans for students. Perhaps the most controversial part is that there might be income sharing options – these are not regulated, so less certain. The state treasurer website – https://www.illinoistreasurer.gov/Individuals/Student_Loans – is the best information source at this point.

Jaimee Ray, IBHE Senior Associate Director, highlighted a few higher ed items (besides budget and capital funds) passed during the very short legislative session (four days) at the end of May.

- Within the elections bill to allow for remote voting, there was a provision that elections day would be a state holiday for some people within the civil service act; how this will work is still being determined.
- The Illinois Articulation Initiative language passed, about pass/satisfactory being treated the same as a normal transfer classes when it comes to core curriculum. Jaimee will send the language to Marie, since there is some leeway about whether such coursework applies to program requirements.
- A provision was added to allow for emergency student grants to be offered, but it is subject to appropriation and it isn't funded (yet). If funds are found, this would focus on completion grants, for students who need a little boost to get finished (perhaps due to financial hardship).

Mike Philips, Legislative Liaison, reported that the letter that we sent to the legislators was very well received. He shared some excerpts from a response from Senator McGuire that the FAC priorities align with the bipartisan and bicameral Higher Education Working Group, and asking that we watch that CARES Act funding is being used suitably; Mike will forward the full response.

Gretchen Lohman, IBHE liaison, reported that the IBHE group convened to make recommendations about opening higher ed for the fall finished their work. That report is now in review by the Illinois Department of Public Health and then will be released, similar to what was done for child care, department of commerce, and summer school.

The IBHE website has a map with locations for higher education in Illinois – it is the last link under “about us”: https://www.ibhe.org/HigherEd_Map.html

Transitional English competencies is open for public comment until July 31st; Marie will send out the information for how to submit commentary. This is related to the Transitional Math that is already out, but the English aspect was more complicated since Illinois high school students already take four years of English.

Shawn Schumacher, FAC Vice-Chair, thanked everyone who responded to him about the resolution for Marie. John D’Anca & Paul Bialek joined him at Marie’s home yesterday to give her a framed copy. Marie will be leading a transition meeting on June 22 for Shawn, Julie, and Sue – after that meeting, we’ll be welcoming in the rest of the executive committee (caucus chairs, etc.) for another meeting probably in mid-July. The September FAC meeting will likely be virtual.

Marie Donovan, FAC Chair, said that the meeting schedule for next year is still to be determined, but will probably keep to third Fridays for consistency. She charged the caucuses to discuss the CARES act; follow-up on Jen Delaney’s funding news; and discuss COVID concerns or celebrations. Since her report time with the board is limited to five minutes today, she is also drafting a summary report to file with the board, based on what caucuses and working groups have sent her; that report will be circulated before she submits it.

Caucuses met, and working groups met as needed.

Caucus reports:

Community College Caucus: (John D’Anca) Statements are being made about social injustice and racial inequality and how those will be addressed on campus when we return. Discussed fall plans – some completely online, some mostly online but some labs on campus, some splitting classes that have a lab component, lecturing to different folks in person on various days while others online. Some folks are returning to campus (admin assistants) but still not sure how many students for the fall. Concerns from faculty about the amount of work associated with hybrid courses. Looking at 8 and 10 week models. Julie mentioned some research that 8 week models work better for some groups due to demands on their lives. Some K-12 teachers and higher ed faculty are concerned about returning. The caucus elected Cindy Boyce as chair, John D’Anca as vice-chair and at-large for next year.

Public Caucus: (Amy Carr) On the new loans, there was some discussion about abuse of loans (such as purchasing laptops for family members or using loans as spending money) – making sure that there was education associated with loans, as opposed to grants such as might come from CARES Act or other funding. A lot of time talking about COVID teaching. The general pattern is more commuter schools are more online; more residential are more uncertain or have a stronger hope to have students on campus, but with opportunities to teach/learn remotely. The residential aspect might have a financial component, but the program may also be designed for a more on-ground experience, and so heavy remote teaching is a change in campus culture, such as with student organizations. The future may have a big online component (e.g. global collaborations) so maybe institutions should also teach those skills as part of programs, alongside more traditional skills development (such as student organizations) in face-to-face social development.

Private Caucus: (Paul Bialek) CARES Act was applied by giving checks to students in some cases. Talked about teaching during corona virus: F2F in Jan/Feb, then switch to online – classroom community is already established. It’s different if you start online, so there’s a need to share and learn how to build community online. Need to care about the student and check on issues such as technology and day care—professor as social worker. HS students in college classes can be an issue, particularly if there is a maturity issue. 8-hour classes are extremely difficult online – long classes have special challenges.

A business item arose regarding the role of education in developing an anti-racist America. Should there be a working group? Standing agenda item for all caucuses? Current statement? Should this be done now or wait for new FAC officers? After some discussion, the feeling was that all three things should be done. A current statement is needed, due to the time sensitive nature of the topic – Marie, Shawn, Pennie, Paul, and Lucy will work on something to send out for approval. A working group will be started in the fall, since membership changes may happen then also. Caucuses could share what is on their campuses – folks should gather information over the summer. We could also reach out to legislators we’ve worked with in the past.

Working group reports

Dual Credit/Online and Remote Learning: (Amy Carr). Steve DePasquale is the connection to ICCB; she’ll reach out to him about taking the document shared via email to them. Would like to share the document, clearly labeled as a draft, to get some selective feedback. Also ended up talking about online teaching and integrity in education. May need to split the remote learning off into a separate topic due to the size of the topics.

Performance Based Funding – (Mike Philips) Focus is working on some research over the summer. Look at models in other states, what kind of information would be trustworthy that we could use.

P20 outreach – (Pennie Gray) Talked about the map that was put together for the IBHE website and whether we could add examples of the P20 to make that more robust, rather than two types of heat maps. Talked about clarifying the kinds of projects and who the audience is for them.

Mental Health – (Sue Wiediger) Reviewed who is working on which areas over the summer and added some new folks to various areas, with the goal of having pieces written by the September meeting. We also shared some intersections of mental health with COVID-19 and remote learning, and how gearing up for COVID-19 and the fall is distracting folks from issues that seem less immediate.

Minutes from April were approved (Nataka Moore motion, Dan Hrozencik second).

Bylaws discussion – most recent version sent with meeting notes. Policies and procedures will be worked on next fall. The current version of bylaws was unanimously approved (Rick Jones motion, Randall Egdorf second).

Shawn Schumacher read resolution recognizing Marie Donovan’s service to the FAC and IBHE.

Official farewells were also made to members rotating off, including Larry White, Patricia Saleeby, and Randall Egdorf.

John D’Anca moved that we adjourn the FAC meeting to attend the IBHE meeting. (Rick Jones second, passed unanimously).

Meeting adjourned 1:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Wiediger, FAC Secretary