

**ILLINOIS BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
FACULTY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Meeting via Zoom, May 21, 2021

Minutes Approved June 18, 2021

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions:

Angela Antonou	University of St. Francis
Paul Bialek	at-large (Trinity International University)
Cynthia Boyce	Lincoln Trail College
Amy Carr	Western Illinois University
Julie Clemens	Illinois Central College
John Cooksey	Truman College (City Colleges of Chicago)
Lane Crothers	Illinois State University
Marie Donovan	DePaul University
Thomas Dowd	Harper College
Joao Goebel	National Louis University
Andy Howard	Illinois Institute of Technology
Dan Hrozencik	Chicago State University
Rick Jones	at-large (South Suburban College)
Jennifer Martin	University of Illinois – Springfield
Linda Monge	Frontier Community College
Nataka Moore	Adler University
Laura Murdaugh	Kishwaukee College (term starts next academic year)
C. Lucy Park	University of Illinois – Chicago
Mellette Pearce	Black Hawk College
Mike Phillips	Illinois Valley Community College
Linda Saborio	Northern Illinois University
Shawn Schumacher	DeVry University
Peter Seely	Benedictine University
Tatiana Tatum	St. Xavier University
Dana Trunnell	Prairie State College
Lichang Wang	Southern Illinois University Carbondale
Larry White	Eastern Illinois University
Susan Wiediger	Southern Illinois University Edwardsville

IBHE Members and Staff

Jaimee Ray, Senior Associate Director, Legislative Affairs, IBHE

Jennifer Delaney, IBHE member

Representatives/Institutions not present:

Sarah Bilderbeck	Rend Lake College
Marlon Cummings	Governor’s State University
Steve DePasquale	Kankakee Community College
Pennie Gray	Illinois Wesleyan University
Jose Lozano	Bradley University
Gay Miller	University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Constance Mixon	Elmhurst University
Brian Vivona	Northeastern Illinois University

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Shawn Schumacher, FAC Chair. After introductions, we shared some updates. Shawn met last week with Ginger Ostro, Stephanie Bernoteit, and Gretchen Lohman for a general update including strategic planning and working groups projects. The next IBHE meeting will be Tuesday June 8th at 1 p.m., and Marlon Cummings plans to present on his work on behalf of the FAC with the Strategic Planning Advisory Board. In the past, FAC itself has made a formal presentation at the June meeting, but we will not be doing that this year; we have been so actively involved in the strategic planning process and the board hopes to make time for other groups and organizations that have not been as actively engaged to be able to present (e.g the Student Advisory Council). In the past, we would have an FAC meeting in conjunction with a board meeting, often including a lunch with board members. However, since that isn't happening, we will meet as an FAC on June 18th instead in a regular meeting. Planning is underway for a transition meeting sometime after our last FAC meeting for the officer handoff, maybe late June; then the new Executive Committee would meet with Ginger in July to start talking about how we can contribute to the implementation of the strategic plan.

Julie Clemens, FAC Vice-Chair, said that there will be hosting discussion during the business meeting and that anyone interested in being in a different working group today should let her know. Sue Wiediger, FAC Secretary, mentioned some small grammatical updates to the minutes that will be voted on later in the meeting, courtesy of Amy and Angela.

Jaimee Ray, IBHE Legislative Liaison explained that her list is at about 230 bills that somehow impact IBHE as an agency or a board. About a half dozen have been taking most of her attention, including being in negotiations with sponsors. The religious exemption bill, which IBHE strongly opposed, has gone away for this session. A bill supported by the textbook publishers has been the subject of negotiation and is approaching agreement. Two others of particular interest: 1) Senator Lightford passed out of committee an agreed amendment (SB815, Senate amendment 2) to look at a funding formula for public universities. Community colleges already have a funding formula, so they are excluded. IBHE is neutral, but have been involved in the discussions. 2) IBHE is also neutral on the baccalaureate at community colleges (SB1832), but has been in many discussions. The reason for neutrality is the intersection of some of these endeavors with strategic planning work, like the possibility of a consortium. Marie Donovan, who was on the strategic planning working group related to the proposed baccalaureate, talked about the extensive discussions on that – no one is completely happy but the discussions have been really good and extensive.

Mike Phillips asked how the Performance Based Funding working group of the FAC might be able to contribute what they've been learning to the discussion about a funding formula. Jaimee said that the group that is contributing has a lot of representation from universities including unions and faculty. Jaimee shared the link to the bill:

<https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/fulltext.asp?DocName=10200SB0815sam002&GA=102&SessionId=110&DocTypeId=SB&LegID=133442&DocNum=815&GAID=16&SpecSess=&Session=>

Mike Phillips, FAC Legislative Liaison, reminded us that the textbook bill (SB101/HB332) that Jaimee mentioned establishes a task force includes an FAC member in its composition. Another bill of interest is HB3950 – related to dual credit availability for students with intellectual disabilities – which has gone through several iterations. In discussion about the purpose of the bill, it may be intended to improve communication between high schools and colleges for these students, since there is a transition of accommodation responsibilities between high school and

college. K-12 has individualized education plans (IEPs) but college does not, so the student may not be aware of what resources and options may be available in higher education. There are other concerns about the languages and costs – a suggestion was made that a working group on disability services might be appropriate for next year.

Jen Delaney, IBHE member, pointed out that another legislative issue is waiting for a budget to pass. The board is in a bit of a holding pattern with regards to the strategic plan. Many comments were made at the town halls and via the website, so there is a pause to consider those comments. There was supposed to be a meeting last week but it got cancelled. A professional writer has been hired to write the final draft. Voting is planned for the June 8th meeting; board members will probably get that final version a few days prior. Marie thanked Jen for her active participation with the FAC – we have really appreciated her participation and the information flow.

Minutes from April were approved (Paul Bialek motion, Mike Phillips seconded).

Two items of new business were discussed.

Tentative schedule and possible hosts for next year's meetings. There is a lot of value to in-person meetings: visiting schools around the state, more opportunities to connect with FAC colleagues. There are also benefits of Zoom meetings: convenience, lower expenses, avoiding travel during bad weather. Based on discussion in the Policies and Procedures group, the current proposal is that, of the ten meetings per year, two would be planned as Zoom only (November and January), and each member could attend up to three more via Zoom. If an FAC member misses more than two meetings (completely) without contact, then there is the potential for that person to be replaced on the FAC.

There was a proposal that all restrictions on the number of meetings attended via Zoom be removed. A countering concern is that, without an expectation of in-person attendance at some minimum number of meetings, schools might not fund any travel for members. If an individual has a specific situation (such as caregiving responsibilities) that prevent travel, perhaps that might be granted an individual exception to the number of Zoom meetings that would count. If there are state restrictions on in-person meetings, or institutional limits on off-campus groups or meeting sizes, that would of course override these expectations – but we are trying to think about the long-term functioning that would work for this group. In particular, we could end up with Zoom only through the end of the calendar year.

A set of third Friday dates, annotated for known potential holiday conflicts, was shared:

- September 17 (Yom Kippur is the 16th)
- October 15
- November 19 (currently planned to be Zoom)
- February 18
- March 18 (Holi; St. Patrick's Day (the 17th) could affect Thursday evening activities)
- April 15 (Good Friday)
- May 20
- June 7? (Tuesday IBHE board meeting)

Postponing the April meeting to April 22 was suggested, and seemed reasonable, particularly since April has five Fridays in 2022.

Hosting options are still wide open. A tentative list was shared, based on institutions that are either new to the Council or have not hosted in a while. We have usually tried to have a mix of institutions from the three caucuses and from different regions of the state. There is interest in continuing to have the May meeting in Springfield to facilitate informational conversations with legislators. Blackhawk is definitely interested in hosting. Hosting does require conversations with administration about timing, space, costs, etc. There are some documents available with information about the decisions; Lucy pointed out that this information should also be on the webpage, and could be password protected if needed. If people are interested in hosting, please contact the officers. We hope to have a tentative list by June.

Academic Integrity and online proctoring issue. Amy Carr shared a draft of a statement in support of reasonable online exam proctoring options. Angela Antonou discussed the problems with Respondus and associated lawsuits, so some schools removed that program, which has resulted in more faculty time on proctoring. Paul Bialek explained that the source is the 2008 Biometric Information Privacy Act, which requires permission prior to collecting biometric data – Respondus was not compliant until Jan 2021. Lewis University, Northwestern, and DePaul are been sued on this issue. Collecting it is problematic, but at least Respondus now notifies students. Schools also have to have a plan to remove the data once it has been collected.

The statement is intended to help people advocate for solutions that do not rely overly on extended faculty time to proctor individuals. Marie Donovan made a motion to approve the statement, seconded by Paul Bialek. The motion passed; Shawn will share it with Ginger Ostro for review so that it can be shared more widely.

Working groups and Caucuses met.

Working groups reported out.

Institutional Closures: (Marie Donovan) Continue to work on developing an article and a white paper on what faculty can do about institutional closures. Intended to educate people about indicators that a closure might be approaching.

Student Mental Health: (Nataka Moore) Very happy to say that we essentially completed the white paper our group has been working on for two years. Shawn met with Ginger to discuss the next steps. Our plan is to bring it to the FAC in June for a vote and then work with the IBHE staff to move it forward after that.

Equity: Racial issues: (Julie Clemens) Working toward finishing a position paper on behalf of FAC. The three areas of faculty development, faculty recruitment, and student support are the pieces that will be getting fleshed out over the next month and the summer. They also discussed the Statement on Asian-American and Pacific Islander communities from a couple of months ago; we are not sure if we heard back from FAC staff, but it is posted on the FAC website. Considering including as part of the process for the position paper also producing an editorial or other type of letter to share across the state. Some questions about how such documents can be moved forward. Shawn shared that he did ask Ginger about the statement in his last meeting with her. The IBHE does take our statements seriously. Shawn said that while we do not want to conflict with IBHE positions, we will post items we feel ready to share.

Dual Credit/Online & Remote Learning: (Melette Pearce, Dual Credit) They were discussing and sharing partnership agreements. If people are willing to share those, Melette would like to start a collection for best practices. Concerns include faculty not being protected, but also potential impacts on students – e.g. when a faculty member is barred from a high school because they have presented a perspective that conflicts with the parents or community of the school. There are a range of stakeholders that should all be considered in dual credit discussions. Assessment is also a topic of discussion in the group – keeping it consistent and maintaining integrity. Providing access to resources for the students and the instructors, such as access to databases across institutions. (Amy Carr, Online & Remote Learning). Settled on two key topics of concern: academic integrity (the statement this morning) and the pressure on workload for faculty. For example, are faculty being pressured to teach in multiple formats for a single course section – that is happening at some institutions but not at others. Sometimes phrases like “student-centered” need to be unpacked – there is what the students want, but there is also what research and evidence show will be effective for student learning.

Performance Based Funding: (Dan Hrozencik). Discussion focused on SB318 and how the working group might get some input into that committee.

Caucuses reported out.

Public Caucus: (Amy Carr): Two topics on which we will be seeking data: getting information from registrars about how dual credit and early college are affecting credit generation and success at our institutions; following up with our librarians related to access to library resources. Public institutions tend to have more funding than community colleges; are there possibilities for a state-wide system of access. We also discussed COVID protocols, which are varying greatly – some planning returning to in-person, some still expecting online.

Two-year: (Melette Pearce). Funding bill was a topic of conversation; if it does allow for an FAC member to be a part of that commission. Another topic was what will be happening in the fall. If everyone is waiting for other schools to decide... you can end up in an endless loop. Maybe more direction is needed from ICCB or IBHE. Looking at the different modalities, how they affect attendance, and the associated impact on pedagogical choices. Technology is an issue; a phone is not a substitute for a computer. Will we still have the same level of support for technology as we return to the classrooms, especially if staff have been cut? The uncertainty in fall enrollments due to everyone playing the waiting game also contributes to uncertainty.

Private and Independent Caucus: (Paul Bialek). The draft of the strategic plan doesn't say much about graduate education. That seems a glaring omission, but we can advocate for it in the implementation. The FAC could use a mentoring program for new members. We need a better way to bring info back to our campuses – a conversation for all of us in the fall.

Mike suggested maybe a newsletter or some other way to reach out to faculty is an idea. Amy commented that the public universities talked about how we disseminate last year, and for many of us it goes through the faculty senate. A question was whether summaries can be shared prior to minutes being approved. Sue said that individuals can share their own summaries, just cannot share/forward the minutes until they are approved.

Shawn asked if there are speakers or topics that might be interesting for the meeting on June 18th. One possibility building from Amy's suggestion would be librarians. Mike suggested someone who could give an overall view from the IBHE for how the fall will look. Paul said it would be great to speak with Deputy Governor Jesse Ruiz at some point. Amy suggested that, when we invite people, maybe we should select a couple of our white papers to share with them in advance.

Lucy Park reported some hosting info has been posted to the website at the bottom of the documents area; Linda Saborio will review it and make suggestions.

Meeting adjourned (Linda Monge motion, Paul Bialek seconded) 2:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Wiediger, FAC Secretary