



## Faculty Advisory Council Illinois Board of Higher Education

Minutes

15 November 2024

Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science  
3333 N Green Bay Road  
North Chicago, IL 60064

### **FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions**

#### **In person:**

Paul Bialek	Oakton Community College
Amy Carr	Western Illinois University
Daniel J. Coles	Aurora University
John Cooksey	Truman College
Marie Donovan	DePaul University
Jason Edgar	Morton College
Greg Ferrence	Illinois State University
Tyrone Forman	University of Illinois at Chicago
Sarah Garber	Rosalind Franklin University (MS)
Michael Gillespie	Eastern Illinois University
Joao Goebel	National Lewis University
Jack Haines	Joliet Junior College
Tena Helton	University of Illinois Springfield
Dan Hrozencik	Chicago State University
Andy Howard	Illinois Institute of Technology
Brooke Johnson	Northeastern Illinois University
Matt Landrus	Lake Land College
Mary Laundry	Adler University
Shaalein Lopez	Governors State University
James Marshall	Rockford University
Gay Miller	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Laura Murdaugh	Kishwaukee College
Mike Phillips	at-large (Illinois Valley Community College)
Tiffany Puckett	Northern Illinois University
Nicole Scherger	Elgin Community College
Shawn Schumacher	DeVry University
Lichang Wang	Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Sue Wiediger	Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

**On Zoom:**

Angela Antonou	University of St. Francis
Tammy Bonhoff	Olney Central College
Jill Gebke	IBHE Assistant Director of Academic Affairs
Patricia Saleeby	Bradley University
Mary Ellen Schiller	Roosevelt University

**Absent:**

Cynthia Boyce	at-large (Lincoln Trail College)
Allison Douglas	Elgin Community College
Pratima Jindal	Waubensee Community College
Jessica McDonald	Olney Central College
J. Matthew Ward	Quincy University

**9:00** Call to order, Welcome, and Introductions

FAC Chair, Shawn Schumacher, welcomed first-time attendees Michael, Matt, Jason, Tena = all first-time attendees

**9:05** Welcome Message: Dr. Nancy Parsley, Provost

Dr. Parsley began her brief remarks by extending her gratitude to the FAC and the IBHE for supporting students across Illinois.

She also stated that Rosalind Franklin University (RFU) is doing important work. With its 2,000+ students and 30 programs, RFU is addressing growing work force needs in healthcare fields, focusing on compassionate and culturally-sensitive practices. She also stressed the importance of inter-professionalism in healthcare fields. Before introducing Dr. Carlson, she invited FAC members to observe RFU's statue of Rosalind Franklin holding her historic photo 51.

**9:13** Dr. James Carlson, VP of Interprofessional Education and Simulation & Associate Provost for Innovation, presented *Innovation in Health Professions Education*. Dr. Carlson provided an overview of the state of healthcare delivery and education, highlighting emerging trends in the healthcare workforce. He described RFU's approach to interprofessional education using simulation-based training, some of which FAC members experienced first-hand during our tour.

Dr. Carlson went on to explain the six (6) colleges within the University and their 33 different grad-level programs. He then outlined some of the challenges that modern healthcare delivery contends with, noting keeping up with training and the pace of change, workforce shortages which are projected to worsen in the coming decade, burnout, an aging population with increase of complex diseases, costs remaining high, the error-prone nature of the profession, and the havoc wrought by inefficiency, fragmentation, and addressing the many communities that remain underserved. From this dismal landscape, he pivoted to a more hopeful, bright future using advanced technology and techniques, which RFU specializes in.

Dr. Carlson spoke to how AI will change healthcare jobs rather than take them. He pointed to the web of connections between big data in healthcare, specifying seven (7) different applications for big data, and giving examples of innovative technologies that improve record keeping, diagnoses, predictive

analytics, etc. The innovations help to address questions such as how to improve communications between healthcare providers, how to reduce costs, how to reduce repetitive paperwork/forms, and how to coordinate data and communications. In facing the challenges and solutions, RFU instructs students about the healthcare system and systems-level thinking to maximize solutions. He rounded out this section of his presentation by explaining RFU's Interprofessional Education (IPE) Framework, which synthesizes various competencies (*e.g.*, professional, shared, and professional specific) leading to desired outcomes and impacts within the healthcare arena.

FAC members were introduced to RFU's Dewitt C Baldwin Institute for Interprofessional Education. This framework spans RFU's programs as a hub of innovation and interpersonal collaboration, aiming to work around silos, avoid miscommunications, and provide students with simulation-based training. Simulation helps learners master their clinical skills, advancing a quadruple aim and healthcare system and supporting RFU's Human Anatomy curriculum.

Dr. Carlson then provided an overview of simulation, a technique to replace real experiences that evoke or replicate substantial aspects of the real world in an interactive manner. Learners receive training in doing, recalling, intersecting learning, assessment, stem education, and engagement. He explained that RFU's Simulation Program is accredited, supported by nearly 100 community members (patients and technicians), and it uniquely blends all methods of simulation within an interprofessional model.

RFU's two simulation facilities were designed to simulate all aspects of care, including emergency care, outpatient clinics, inpatient facilities, intensive care, and surgical and other procedures.

Before leading FAC members on a tour of RFU's Simulation facilities, Dr. Carlson addressed the roles that AI might play in healthcare delivery, the work force, and emerging trends. He highlighted the benefits of integrating AI and point of care tools into student workflow, AV integration for faculty, self, and peer assessment, and the cutting-edge uses of RFU's Makerspace 3D printing and tools to build surgical specimens with near real human tissue. We then embarked on a mind-blowing tour of RFU's Simulation Lab to experience RFU's technology first hand.

**10:12** Back from the tour

**10:15 Reports: Chair** (Shawn Schumacher);

Jill/Shawn co-conducted onboarding meetings Jason and Tyrone and Tena. It was noted that Matt (LLC) and Michael G. still need onboarding.

Ginger, Nkechi, David (Kelm), and Pranav met with Jill and Shawn to discuss WIU librarians and CARLI.

Shawn attended the October IBHE meeting virtually. He spoke during the Public Comments portion of the meeting, providing attendees with updates on our Technology, Prior Learning and Assessment, and Funding working group activities.

He mentioned that the FAC's Library Liaison position is still open; FAC members were asked to solicit interested librarians (in particular for DEI matters). Marie asked if the position is advertised on the IBHE website. The answer to which was no because it is not staff position, but a flier can be shared to put on LinkedIn and other sites.

Shawn noted that next month (December) is a zoom meeting for the FAC; Jose Garcia and David Smalley will join us, and Shawn thanked Jill for arranging those speakers.

Shawn ended his report by mentioning that Amy Carr's colleague, Dr. Heather McIlvaine-Newsad, Professor of Anthropology, from Western Illinois University will present "Rebuilding Institutions of Higher Education: Lessons from a Disaster Researcher" as a model to consider in addressing multiple problems in Higher Education.

**Vice Chair** (Dan Hrozencik);

Dan noted that the date for our 2025 April meeting was moved to 25 April and will be held at Joliet Junior College. Next year's meetings are being planned, Lake Land, SIU Carbondale, and ECC will host. December's meeting will be held via Zoom, and January's meeting (on the 24<sup>th</sup>) is hosted by Olney Central College.

Dan mentioned that he will continue to monitor SB3965 funding bill meetings and will update us with developments. Greg F. asked about the status of this month's meeting, and Shawn and Dan committed to investigating and providing us information.

**Secretary** (Jack Haines); nothing to report

**FAC Legislative Liaison** (Mike Phillips);

Mike reported that not much has changed as we're currently in veto session. He noted two higher education bills: funding; and a tier-two pension fix – legislators are trying to make the pension system better, and institutions want to avoid paying into Social Security (safe harbor). In January, the new legislative session begins, starting the whole slate of bills over again. Mike explained that old bills will likely go through both chambers and continue their way through the process. He mentioned that Robin Steans (Advance Illinois President) is interested in meeting with FAC members. She is interested in what we would like to see in the bill, and it was suggested that we be proactive not reactive, *i.e.*, it would be good to have faculty representation on the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Marie asked where the faculty representative is. Shawn answered that we'd ask Pranav later today, and wondered whether we want to talk with him at this meeting about language in the bill.

**Assistant Director for Academic Affairs, IBHE** (Jill Gebke);

Jill reported that the FY2025 Statewide Re-Enrollment Strategy Grant RFP is due. She informed us that approximately \$2M was established to support the re-enrollment of adult learners who started college but never earned a degree or credential. The agency is seeking proposals from organizations that can manage a state-wide coordinated strategy that includes, but is not limited to, the following services: data analytics, multi-channel marketing, live professional coaching, and a platform-based user experience.

Nursing School Grant recipients were selected and will be notified to distribute the \$1.5 Million in funds, which will help support and improve nursing programs, student success, recruitment and retention, including innovative features such as simulation labs.

The Fall Public Enrollment Report has been completed, showing the highest enrollment in 8 years. We'll have David Smalley report on enrollments, but from the data, Illinois public universities also achieved progress across a range of key variables including:

- Increased undergraduate enrollment by 2%,
- Increased new full-time transfer student enrollment by 5.1%,
- Increased African American undergraduate enrollment by 2.8%,
- Increased Latino undergraduate enrollment by 1.4%, and
- Increased freshmen enrollment by 0.6%, the fourth consecutive year of growth

Jill stated that retention at the state's public universities increased one percentage point compared to the previous year. Also, 2,993 more students enrolled across all state universities this fall, which represents an overall enrollment increase of 1.6% and a total overall enrollment of 185,590 students – the highest overall enrollment in eight years.

She added that these new data come on the heels of the Illinois Community College Board's enrollment data which reports an overall increase of 7.4%, the largest fall-to-fall enrollment growth in the last 15 years, outpacing last year's fall enrollment increase of 5.7%

Jill offered to share a link with demographic data/enrollment trends

Daniel C asked whether there is data for all institutions; the answer was no, it's for public institutions.

Dan asked whether our listserv is good to go. Jill replied that from the server end, emails went out well, so problems reside on the receiver end. She recommended that FAC participants check with their IT departments to see if they can have email addresses from the FAC "Whitelisted" or to be marked as a "Safe sender" to ensure that messages are delivered to inboxes, rather than get caught in spam filters/junk files.

Tiffany Puckett and Brooke Johnson reported on attending Equitable Funding Model events. Tiffany attended NIU's funding meeting, at which NIU's President Freeman as well as students were present. She relayed that questions were asked about funding, endowments, and equity. She reported that language has been revised to say that a faculty member will represent us on the committee.

Brooke reported that her meeting at NEIU was packed despite being closed to the public. She relayed that the general attitude was one of support for equitable funding.

Gay shared that the day before this meeting (14 November) at 5:30 pm was a funding meeting at UIUC.

## **10:49 Business Meeting**

### **1) Old Business**

- a) Approval of minutes from the October 18, 2024 meeting at Roosevelt University

Motion -- Marie  
Second -- Gay

Motion passed

Abstained: Michael, Andy, Tyrone

## 2) New Business

### a) Discussion: CARLI support for WIU librarians

Recently, nine (9) librarians at WIU were let go, leaving only the faculty dean. CARLI have asked for support from other organizations; however, as an advisory board, it is not our practice to advise publicly, but we do advise the IBHE. FAC members were reminded that our position on the topic is not to be a public statement.

Amy pointed out it's an issue from the public caucus, and Greg advised that we pursue it as such. Jill was asked where we can make public statements and whether we can craft a position paper to be shared widely? FAC members wondered about the scope of what we do.

Jill thanked Shawn for being an amazing leader of the FAC. She stated that the FAC is an advisory board to the IBHE and that our purpose is to advise (going back to the 1960s). She noted that public statements don't fall within that charge, but we are free to advise Shawn on how to represent the FAC on issues. She added that we are free as individuals to support the CARLI statement.

Gay suggested that each of our University Senates supporting the statement is more powerful than just the FAC making a statement, noting the power in numbers.

Mike asked if we could ask Shawn to give a recommendation -- (not disagreeing with Jill) -- as a public meeting. In other words, could we issue a statement and ask Shawn to take it to the IBHE? Jill thoughtfully responded that she sees that perspective, but she made the distinction between acting as individuals v. the FAC and wondered whether this is truly a public meeting whose rules we're following?

Tyrone asked about what the pattern has been in the past, asking whether this is a first? Shawn recollected that we've made a few public statements but not like this situation in support of CARLI.

Daniel C asked whether this would be precedent setting? Jill said that we were told not to go forward with a statement to CARLI.

Amy mentioned that past practices are available in the documents section of our website. She suggested that we (in adherence to the administrative rules of the IBHE website) draft a short statement citing IBHE/ FAC rules and the CARLI statement for supporting librarians generally. This is a national trend, so it was suggested that we should discuss in our next meeting.

Sue said that she hasn't heard whether we are truly an open or public meeting (we're not subject to the OMA); some of our practices would have to change if we are an open group. Jill said that she would check with legal to see which kind of group we are.

James added that programs across the state are being cut (a broader context of programs/departments are being cut), so a position paper that addresses those issues could be drafted, with the consequence of avoiding looking like we're addressing CARLI directly.

Amy responded that keeping with the librarians first would take less time, but we should scale up our thinking toward James' idea.

Nicole pointed out that colleges and faculty unions are supporting/endorsing the CARLI statement.

At the end of the discussion, it was determined that Paul, Mike, Amy, Shawn, and Jack will collaborate on a statement regarding the CARLI issue.

Discussion -- None

**11:00** Working Groups Meetings

**12:00** Lunch Break

**12:30** Guest Presentation: Pranav Kothari, IBHE Chair

In some introductory notes, Pranav related that he is in his second year as Chair and has been on the board since 2019. He informed that he guest-taught Politics of Education at Wash U St. Louis, during which time, he experienced equity challenges on campus, and how to build diverse classes. In reference to our RFU hosts, he jokingly added that Lake Land College has a Nursing Simulation lab, but he passed on the cadaver lab tour. He is also an experienced adjunct professor at Northwestern University.

In news from the latest IBHE Board meeting, the agency has been strapped from a staffing standpoint. However, new employment changes include Ginger Ostro in the Executive Director position. Valery Lynch is the new senior manager director, responsible for policy and strategy for the agency. The new Director of Intergovernmental Affairs is Jenna Rossie, and Dave Kelm is the General Council/COO. Jose Garcia is assuming the Communications role, and IBHE has a new HR Leader, whom he did not name.

Pranav continued by furnishing the FAC with some important updates. He noted that new funding legislation would create a lot responsibility and work for IBHE. Also, across the country as well as in Illinois, we are seeing new adult re-enrollment strategies. Further, Illinois has over two million dollars in basic-needs grants, which help students pay tuition, stay in college, and avoid material obstacles through emergency aid needs. He mentioned the Lumina Foundation's direct admissions program for high school students based on their grades, part of which is built out with Common App. He asserted that the processes of identifying eligible students have a logistics issue, including how to figure out the mechanics of communications (mailings, outreach, etc.). He alerted us that the Trustee Training process just wrapped up, and the Funding Commission is working through the veto session. He assured us that all institutions are being represented; however,

the use of endowments is a sticking point. He highlighted the importance of conversation around the value of higher ed and the connection with the work force, and he'd like to hear about where those conversations happen on our campuses.

In the Q&A with Pranav, James noted general education reform and the disconnect between CEOs and HR departments that don't grant credit for what the CEOs want.

Brooke spoke to NEIU's CLAS Career Readiness initiative and how degrees connect to the world.

Mike broached the push/pull between traditional degrees in higher education models and certificate type degrees. He lamented that students don't realize the importance of GEC courses when they need them for work later in their lives. On this point, Pranav agreed that there is flexibility from liberal arts and stacking skills, noting the need for a broader set of skills because students don't know what they're going to need. He suggested the existence of a value add -- skills versus topics.

Marie mentioned that two of the topics under discussion relate to PLA. One is that employers want to send workers to De Paul, so assessing prior learning is important. The other is that we need robust PLA tools and policies that are more standardized across our institutions. We need a task force with authority to direct higher education in Illinois, so what can we hope for? On this point, Pranav said that the IBHE is going to have to reach out to other partners (outside funders) to help do that work. The IBHE doesn't have capacity/staff; as a result, the FAC can, could, or will do the work to help.

Joao cited a frustrating example of prior knowledge. He has tried for years to get PELL licensure and his coursework/transcripts translated (since he taught in Brazil), yet the ISBE persists that he has to get another degree proving that he's student-taught. Pranav stated his desire to get more people certified and prepared to teach. He also pointed to the fact that it's easier for teachers trained in Illinois to teach in neighboring states, but the reverse isn't true.

Tiffany offered that NIU has a Center for Governmental Studies, with a five-year workforce development program. She said that the center collects data that Pranav could use. Pranav replied that Intersect Illinois is building out its efforts at understanding ROI on higher education.

Dan inquired about faculty positions on the IBHE. Pranav stated that all board positions are decided via the Governor's office, so IBHE is waiting its turn in line. Mike asked that since IBHE student representatives are recommended by advisor council, could the FAC appoint in a likewise fashion? Pranav answered that the IBHE passes names to the Governor's office, and the process rolls out from there. He added that he and Ginger advocate for positions to be filled, so they experience the same stonewalling.

Marie stated that in the past the FAC worked with Pat McGuire to more or less work around the Governor's office, and she asked what we can do currently. Pranav answered that he sees that critical slots need to be filled; sometimes the lack of feedback is due to lack of a landing spot, but recent staffing additions might ameliorate that historical problem.

Matt observed that with respect to Dual Credit, management differences exist with regard to high school-initiated academic freedom violations, like banning the use of books an instructor had



assigned. He asked what mechanism should our colleagues use to report those instances? Pranav replied that he doesn't know and asked whether the legislation stipulates it, which it does not. Amy asked about how to report violations and who's responsible? Pranav answered that he doesn't know, but he will do some digging. Mike asked where Pranav sees Dual Credit going and what does he want to see? Pranav replied that in Ohio, he was part of the early college experience initiatives, and the data there shows that 12+ credits of Dual Credit helps, but it has to be done in a high-quality way. He noted that it is hard to monitor and enforce. He said further that the IBHE supports Dual Credit as a way to reduce inequity when done well, adding that if there's more work to be done to get better quality, then he's open to it. He pointed out that there is too much blurring between Dual Credit, AP, and Dual enrollment etc., and more information is needed by stakeholders to clarify what those terms mean.

Marie asked what the FAC should be doing? Pranav replied that equity plans for persistence and completion are important; faculty need to be part of the push for success, completion, etc. He stressed the importance of the notion that faculty are important in the process.

Sarah stated that faculty are not good at being explicit about why students have to learn stuff. We teach how to study, take notes, get on career paths, critically think, etc., but asked what do we really do? How do we advertise that learning is important? Pranav replied that students need to understand why we are where we are, making a distinction between study topics versus building skills.

Mike noted that Dual Credit will expand, and he suggested that the IBHE needs to collect and analyze data on how students are doing. Most of the data studies are old and don't reflect current students' contexts. Pranav agreed, saying that lots of the studies were of students who were accelerated and driven to begin with. Now with more and more students who don't fit that profile, data sets predict different outcomes.

Sue asked about the balance between segments that need higher ed v. more applied skills. She asked what the right size of higher education is? Pranav responded that education after high school is necessary for everybody, but what it looks like varies according to the student. He said it's hard to get a well-paying job without some secondary education degree or certificate(s). Higher education institutions need to see that adult learners, as opposed to 18 to 20 year olds, need to drive how we approach education and meeting students' needs. He said that we have to be adaptive and responsive to students' needs.

Amy argued that we should do more to amplify the importance of trades. She said that some schools have interdisciplinary liberal arts programs, but Dual Credit gets in the way of that, and leadership policy is needed to support interdisciplinary approaches. Pranav agreed, saying that the IBHE approves lots of interdisciplinary programs, and he sees a lot of growth and possibilities for more given how many the IBHE has seen recently.

In his concluding remarks, Pranav promised that he will learn more about how to fix/report Dual Credit problems, and he will send data sets mentioned earlier.

**1:30** Caucus Meetings

**2:00** Working Group Reports

*Technology and Education* – Laura has a list of action items to send to Jill for her meeting on Artificial Generalized Intelligence in December. She then asked the FAC where the working group should go from there? The working group members talked about making technology accessible and the inherent problems therein, bridging the digital divide.

*Prior Learning Assessment* – Marie mentioned homework for FAC members: a survey to develop and shepherd in our schools, the working group will decide whom to send the questions to.

*Early College Considerations* – Amy reported that she has heard from new members of the group and hope to write up a document with the various concerns schools might have. Hopefully those stories will spark interest.

*Mental Health* -- Sue said that data/information from early mental health action on campuses is coming out. She asked how the FAC plans to respond to the results of the data/information.

*Equity* -- James will send out email for contact information at institutions. He pointed to the need for resources to mentor new/young faculty for help with refining lessons/pedagogy concerning equity. The group is seeking suggestions, resources, etc.

*Graduate Education* -- Dan C. (Chair) could use some additional members. The group discussed a variety of topics (costs, enrollments, underrepresentation of diversity, shift from in-person to online, impacts of AI, how AI will impact originality of work and programming, ROI in grad work). He suggested that the importance of libraries to graduate studies would be an important area of focus.

*Funding* – Dan reported that the group is kind of in a holding pattern. They are dedicated to observing what's happening and when meetings occur to discuss the funding bill. A new Community College funding bill is making progress more rapidly, and the group will keep an eye on that.

## **2:15 Caucus Reports**

*4-Year Public Institutions* -- Amy reported on the Illinois Information Technology Availability Act. She noted the stunning amount of work such an act would entail.

*2-Year Institutions* -- Laura reported on common course numbering pros/cons. She noted that it should make class transferring easier, but the work required will be costly to institutions (logistics). She asked about the benefit for such a move. Greg asked how concerned we should be, noting that it is part of a revised bill that's on hold, an amendment to SB467. The group also discussed librarians and their importance to higher education.

*Private/Independent Institutions* -- Shawn reported in Andy's stead for the caucus, which focused on the CARLI mission and PLA working group, trying to figure out the best method of communication with IBHE.

Prior to adjournment, Marie clarified that January's meeting (the 24<sup>th</sup>) will be held at Olney Central College.

**2:40** Adjournment

Marie motioned to adjourn.  
John C seconded.

**2:45** Gross Anatomy Lab Tour (optional)

Next FAC Meeting: December 20, 2024 via Zoom

Next IBHE Meeting: January 22, 2025 (Location at Chicago State University added by Shawn)