



## Faculty Advisory Council Illinois Board of Higher Education

### MINUTES

25 June 2025 Meeting

University of Illinois-Springfield  
North Ballroom of the UIS Student Union  
2251 Richard Wright Drive  
Springfield, Illinois 62703

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

##### **In person:**

Kristine Burgess  
Amy Carr  
Marie Donovan  
Allison Douglas  
Jason Edgar  
Sarah Garber  
Jill Gebke  
Jack Haines  
Tena Helton  
Dan Hrozencik  
Brooke Johnson  
Shaalein Lopez  
James Marshall  
Tiffany Puckett  
Patricia Saleeby  
Lichang Wang  
Sue Wiediger  
Nicole Zeller

Rosalind Franklin University  
Western Illinois University  
DePaul University  
Elgin Community College  
Morton College  
Rosalind Franklin University (MS)  
IBHE Assistant Director of Academic Affairs  
Joliet Junior College  
University of Illinois, Springfield  
Chicago State University  
Northeastern Illinois University  
Governors State University  
Rockford University  
Northern Illinois University  
Bradley University  
Southern Illinois University-Carbondale  
Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville  
Eastern Illinois University

##### **Absent:**

Paul Bialek  
Tammy Bonhoff  
Daniel J. Coles  
John Cooksey  
Joao Goebel  
Irene Jacobsen

Oakton Community College  
Olney Central College  
Aurora University  
Truman College  
National Lewis University  
Eastern Illinois University

|                     |                         |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Matt Landrus        | Lake Land College       |
| Jessica McDonald    | Olney Central College   |
| Nicole Scherger     | Elgin Community College |
| Mary Ellen Schiller | Roosevelt University    |
| J. Matthew Ward     | Quincy University       |

**On Zoom:**

|                  |                                              |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Angela Antonou   | University of St. Francis                    |
| Cynthia Boyce    | at-large (Lincoln Trail College)             |
| Greg Ferrence    | Illinois State University                    |
| Tyrone Forman    | University of Illinois at Chicago            |
| Andy Howard      | Illinois Institute of Technology             |
| Mary Laundry     | Adler University                             |
| Gay Miller       | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign      |
| Mike Phillips    | at-large (Illinois Valley Community College) |
| Shawn Schumacher | DeVry University                             |

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

**9:05** Dan called the meeting to order as Shawn attended the meeting via Zoom. Given the few members attending this meeting in person, we skipped self-introductions.

**9:06** Reports: Chair (Shawn Schumacher);

Shawn expressed his sincere apologies to the FAC regarding the lunch situation/miscommunication with the IBHE Board members. He reported that he has emailed Dr. Heist from Eastern Illinois University's Communications department and invited her to our September meeting at UIUC. As newly elected members to the FAC Executive Committee, Dan, Jack, and Jason will meet with Shawn for a transition meeting. At today's meeting, Jennifer Barnett will give a workforce update. Shawn relayed his gratitude to Tena Helton for hosting today's meeting, and he thanked all FAC members for their hard work, care, and love on the FAC!

Vice Chair (Dan Hrozencik);

Dan thanked Shawn for his kind words. He reported that meetings for next year are set, and will send out the list next month. He reminded future hosts that Jack will be the contact person for questions, organizing, etc.

Dan noted that with respect to developments with the Funding Coalition, the funding bill did not come up for a vote, but they will press harder for it to come to a vote in the veto session later in the year.

Secretary (Jack Haines),

This month the Secretary had not much to report.

Jill Gebke, Assistant Director for Academic Affairs, IBHE

Jill began by thanking FAC members for coming to Springfield. She also thanked Shawn for his leadership and his guidance/mentoring as Chair.

The details of her report are as follows:

FY 26 Budget (July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026)

- \$1.5M increase for One Click College Admit (Direct Admission). IBHE received the \$1.0 M increase and ICCB received a new \$500K to support the direct admissions program. In total, IBHE will have \$2.45M for Common App/Direct Admissions.
- \$10M increase for MAP. This is aligned with the Governor's budget. MAP funding is \$721.6 M for FY 26. Jill added that the goal is to get to \$1 billion dollars of funding.
- 1% increase for public universities and community colleges. The budget includes a 1% increase for public universities and community colleges. A contingent 2% additional increase may be made available later in the fiscal year by the Governor.
- AIM HIGH funding is level at \$50M. This is a scholarship at public universities that is a combination merit and need-based.

Legislative Updates

- Direct Admissions passed. We are very excited that our legislation passed to establish the statewide direct admissions program, "One Click College Admit." ISAC, ICCB, ISBE, and IBHE have been working closely together to be ready for implementation, even while the legislation was going through the process.
- Data Dashboard passed. This legislation requires the higher education agencies to publish a dashboard on institutions' progress in meeting state goals. We look forward to launching a human-centered design process to create the website for the dashboard.
- IBHE Omnibus passed. This bill provided various "clean up" provisions for IBHE statutes, including for low-producing programs. We will now begin implementation.

Staffing Updates: Linda Ruhe Marsh will be joining IBHE on July 1, as Sr. Associate Director, Early Childhood Programs. In this role, Linda will be providing leadership on the work of the ECACE Consortium. Linda comes to IBHE, most recently, from ISU, where she served as the Director for the ECE Online Workforce Program.

- Tara Lawley will be joining IBHE on August 1, as the Managing Director of Policy, Research, and Fiscal Analysis, as part of the Sr. Leadership team. In this role Tara will be providing oversight to the Higher Education Finance, Policy, and Research, Analytics and Data departments. Tara comes to IBHE, most recently, from the US Dept. of Education, where she served as the Sr. Portfolio Manager in the Chief Data office.

After Jill's report, Tyrone asked about funding in FY 2026 for the DFI Fellowship. Jill responded that she could send the actual budget to Jack (FAC Secretary) since she didn't have that information at her finger tips.

Gay asked if there is any estimate from the state of how much federal money has been lost. Jill said that that is outside her area and declined to comment further.

Amy asked if MAP funds were still available? Jill replied that the current MAP year has ended, and the new one starts in fall.

Mike Phillips, FAC Legislative Liaison;

Mike reported that a couple of bills, including an amendment to the Dual Credit Quality Act (HB2967) passed. He said that it is mostly about agreements between high schools and CCs, credentials for teachers, etc.

Further, he provided details about HB1859, having to do with AI and AGI, which can not replace instructors at CCs, and the Student Transfer Reform Act. Mike will send out a list of what bills are going to the Governor to sign.

Dan asked if SB118 (the funding bill) would come back in the fall. Mike thought it was hard to tell at this point whether that would happen.

### **9:30 Business Meeting**

#### **Old Business**

- 1) Approval of minutes from the May 16, 2025 meeting at IASB  
Marie D. made the motions, and Sara G. seconded. (One member abstained, but the motion passed.
- 2) Election updates  
Brooke presented the FAC Executive Committee's election results. We had an 85% response rate and unanimous support for all candidates. Shawn thanked the officers for their work and congratulated the new officers.

#### **New Business**

Dan provided some rationales for our not being invited to the lunch (all having to do with logistics).

**9:35 Working Group Meetings** (Due to the compressed nature of this month's meeting, working groups were given a half hour to meet.)

#### *Working Group Reports*

Equity – James reported that Tyrone is the group's new Chair, and they are working on a white paper about the importance of equity.

Mental Health -- Trish reported on their plans to submit an IRB to disseminate information, but they are holding off until summer to do so.

Early College Credit -- Amy reported that the group is looking into how NACEP's framework connects with Dual Credit. They are also looking into details on the necessity of credentialing for teaching dual credit classes.

Prior Learning Assessment – Shaalein reported that the group is still waiting on some data, but they will compile it once it's in and report out. She also mentioned the potential for a task force related to their initiatives state wide.

Technology and Education – Jack reported that the group discussed ADA compliance and how each institution might have to fight those fights on their own. Compliance activities might take different forms depending on whether faculty work at two-year or four-institutions. Andy is researching activities in private/independent institutions. The group briefly addressed the issue of Professors creating alternative assessments as a work around for AI issues.

Funding – Dan reported that the group continues to monitor funding bills for both four-year and two-year institutions.

## **10:02 Caucus Meetings**

Public Caucus -- Amy reported that the group is tracking legislation in other states to see what they are doing relative to tracking AI and questions on tracking Gen Ed courses, specifically what does it mean to have a four-year degree as opposed to classes only in a student's major.

Two-Year Caucus – Cyndi reported that the group discussed concerns for next year, including the funding bill for two-year institutions. Mike mentioned that the faculty representative for the ICCB is stepping down, so the FAC might want to forward a person (like Mike, for instance) for consideration. The ICCFA might be a good partner to collaborate with for issues germane to this working group. The group is also concerned about how federal funding cuts will affect TRIO and Upward Bound for two-year institutions. It was noted that the Illinois legislature did not pass the Community College and Bachelor's Degree legislation, but it will probably resurface in the future. IAI and transferability issues were also discussed and will be topics of focus for the next year.

Private/Independent Caucus – Shawn reported that the group discussed their topics for focus next year, including a list of resources to help advocate for student needs, such as DEI. They discussed potentially joining collectives like the ivy league have done. The Association of Colleges in the Chicago Area (ACCA) is one such organization, as is the Federation of Illinois Private and Independent Universities. Shawn noted that Dave Tretter, the President of FIPIU, could be invited to the FAC's first meeting in the fall. Finally, Shawn was nominated and accepted as the Chair for this caucus.

## **10:50 Guest Presenter: Jennifer B. Barnett, Associate Director of Workforce Analytics, IBHE; Updates on Workforce Initiatives**

Dr. Barnett provided a short self-introduction recapping her experience. Her presentation addressed questions such as how workforce data can support more strategic educational planning, why should work force data drive decisions, and what strategic tools lead to better outcomes for people and institutions?

She noted problems her work addresses, such as costs of misalignment and mismatches (e.g., too many or too few graduates in a given field), underemployment, unfilled positions, downward wage levels, and how employers can fill positions.

Supported by many slides and examples, Dr. Barnett presented on the following:

A Quad Cities report and the IBHE's yearlong assessment of four counties in IL (and one in Iowa) looking at regional workforce needs, the key findings of which are posted at IBHE.org. She added that this report will be replicated in all ten of the state's economic development regions.

Developing local and statewide strategies for post-graduate employment;

Useful tools such as jobseq, o\*net, and peso, for career-options research;

How the art and science of data analysis leads to insight and projections;

How industry turnover and growth drive demand;

Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) to Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Crosswalks;

How industry size reveals real hiring capacity;

How demographics can be used to predict occupational needs, trends, etc.;

Where talent goes and why it matters (Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes-data);

Understanding Industry Expectations in in/externships, better credentialing and certification methods;

The IBHE dashboard's top 10 in-demand occupations for all education levels, which can be accessed at the IBHE's website;

and

How faculty can use the data to adjust programs, engage employers, and highlight high-opportunity career paths.

After the presentation, questions arose about correlating data, whether the PESO data accounts for how employees move around, and where IL students originate from and thus perhaps end up.

Marie noted some problems with the dashboard and walkthroughs of it – pointing out that the CIPs codes contain lots of mis-numbering (at least at DePaul).

Amy mentioned how liberal arts degrees connect with a broad range of career types, and wondered how to cultivate appreciation for in-demand careers among the wider population where there are more job openings than applicants.

Tena asked about skills training as opposed to “jobs”. Dr. Barnett singled out O\*net as a good source for students to investigate what various jobs require (as well as other information about career opportunities).

**11:45** Dan sought a motion to adjourn. Marie made the motion, and Sarah G. seconded it.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jack Haines, FAC Secretary

**IBHE Meeting:**

June 25, 2025; 1:00 pm

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum

112/212 North Sixth Street

Springfield, Illinois 62701