



Faculty Advisory Council Illinois Board of Higher Education

MINUTES

19 September 2025 Meeting Agenda

University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign
Illini Union Ballroom - 2nd floor
1401 W Green St
Urbana, IL 61801

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions

In person:

Daniel J. Coles	Aurora University
Dan Hrozencik	Chicago State University
Marie Donovan	DePaul University
Shawn Schumacher	DeVry University
Nicole Zeller	Eastern Illinois University
Irene Jacobsen	Eastern Illinois University
Allison Douglas	Elgin Community College
Shaalein Lopez	Governors State University
Jill Gebke	IBHE Assistant Director of Academic Affairs
Greg Ferrence	Illinois State University
Mike Phillips	Illinois Valley Community College (at-large)
Jack Haines	Joliet Junior College
Matt Landrus	Lake Land College
Cynthia Boyce	Lincoln Trail College (at-large)
Jason Edgar	Morton College
Brooke Johnson	Northeastern Illinois University
Tiffany Puckett	Northern Illinois University
Paul Bialek	Oakton Community College
Jessica McDonald	Olney Central College
J. Matthew Ward	Quincy University
James Marshall	Rockford University
Kristine Burgess	Rosalind Franklin University
Sarah Garber	Rosalind Franklin University (MS)
Lichang Wang	Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Sue Wiediger	Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
Tena Helton	University of Illinois- Springfield
Gay Miller	University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign
Amy Carr	Western Illinois University

Absent:

Mary Laundry	Adler University
Patricia Saleeby	Bradley University
Andy Howard	Illinois Institute of Technology
Tammy Bonhoff	Olney Central College
Mary Ellen Schiller	Roosevelt University
John Cooksey	Truman College
Tyrone Forman	University of Illinois-Chicago

8:30 **Chair Dan Hrozencik, CSU**, Call to order and Introductions. Dan reiterated it was the first meeting of the year.

8:36 Gay introduced the speakers: **Kevin Jackson**, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education; **Kristi Kuntz**, Executive Associate Provost for Academic Programs and Policies; **Manny Rodriguez**, Senior Assistant Director for Inclusive Teaching at the Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning; and **Eden Smothers**, Project Manager for the Office of Online Learning.

The panel was convened to discuss various aspects of undergraduate education at UI, supported by a handout outlining key areas such as financial aid, the registrar, Teaching and Learning, Exploratory Studies, the Office of Online Learning, and Student Success.

Highlights included upcoming symposiums centered on student success, breakout sessions featuring innovative faculty practices, and the importance of compliance as a significant part of their work. The handout provided a clear overview of the “what” in undergraduate education at UI.

8:43 **Mike Phillips, IVCC**, asked a question about the Federal Government flagging certain DEI programs. **Kevin Jackson** reiterated that their policies are for all students. Jackson stated that their demographics mirror the demographics of the community and the State, and that the Mission stays the same, to meet the needs of the students.

8:54 **Greg Ferrence, ISU**, stated that he appreciated the forward focus of the Undergraduate Institution. The point was taken. Kevin Jackson then transitioned to Manny Rodriguez.

8:57 **Manny Rodriguez** discussed Fall 2022 initiatives that integrated student support services with faculty in large, often first-year, classes. The focus was on identifying key factors contributing to student success. This effort, known as the Inclusive Course Redesign Initiative (ICRI), was a campus-wide program designed to support faculty in redesigning courses through the design, development, implementation, and assessment of inclusive strategies aimed at addressing achievement gaps.

9:04 **Jason Edgar, Morton College**, asked how class size factors into this initiative, noting that a “large class” at UI is not the same as a large class at Morton College. Rodriguez agreed and explained that when Teaching Assistants meet with students, class sizes become typical.

- 9:10 **Sue Wideger, SIU Edwardsville**, asked about broader aspects of student success, like support at home, etc. Jackson reiterated that they are not asking the students to do more, but asking the Faculty to identify those key factors.
- 9:16 **Gay Miller, UIUC**, asked a few questions about the type of support available for course design. Martinez responded by discussing how meeting times could be arranged, either on a regular basis or more sporadically depending on the needs of the instructor.
- 9:20 **Mike Phillips, IVCC**, asked a question about turnover especially with Teaching Assistants and how to maintain its success. Jackson talked about shared responsibilities with the outcomes. He says he has reached out to Deans, and requested ways to increase support; that way everyone is part of the process.
- 9:26 **James Marshall, Rockford University**, asked about who is initiating this process, and Jackson said that Administration does, not the Faculty.
- 9:27 **Eden Smothers** began her discussion on Dual Credit Learning Accelerators (DCLA) that redesigns four Illinois General Education courses as dual credit offerings for 11th and 12th graders. This program connects students to the “Academic Rigor” of College. This program is in its pilot phase, with a plan to launch a 2year pilot program in fall 2026 with up to 10 high schools. The goal is to identify “low-sending high schools” whose graduates are less likely to attend college. The courses would be offered at no cost to students. A faculty member at UIUC would be paired with a high school teacher, who would be an in-class presence facilitating the content [it sounds like they would function like a TA?]. [This is a very different model from that of most dual credit courses, where either a college instructor OR a high school teacher is the sole instructor.] The dual credit courses UIUC will offer would not be courses seen at a local community college, but unusual courses popular at UIUC: Killer-Skies: Astro-Disasters; Data Science Discovery; The Culture of Disability; and Introduction to Popular TV and Movies. Dual credit students would have access to UIUC resources, and have a non-degree status. Community colleges would have the first right of refusal: is there a similar course already at the CC? UIUC would also be willing to provide the unique UIUC courses in partnership with a CC.
- 9:34 **Tiffany Puckett, NIU**, asked how they determined the two high schools. Smothers discussed how they looked at data, such as which students are not applying to the DCLA, etc.
- 9:38 **Amy Carr, WIU**, asked if the courses offered by the UIUC dual credit program would be transferable through the Illinois Articulation Agreement.
- 9:40 **Tena Helton, UIS**, asked about the availability of good instructors. Smothers reiterated that that they were working out co-teaching and teaching load questions. “This model might not be the best fit.” Communication should also take place between the Faculty and the HS teacher.

- 9:41 **Alison Douglas, Elgin**, asked if these four classes were new. Smothers reiterated that they were retrofitted to these communities in the program.
- 9:43 **Cynthia Boyce, Lincoln Trail College**, said that her organization doesn't use the term "evaluate" because the HS teachers work for someone else, and then transitioned to a question about being concerned about fighting for enrollment. Jackson said that the intent was not to take students from other institutions.
- 9:48 **Tena Helton, UIS**, asked a few questions about the type of support available for course design. Martinez responded by discussing how meeting times could be arranged, either on a regular basis or more sporadically depending on the needs of the instructor. She also commented on the location of the pilot programs, clarifying that they are concentrated in a specific part of the state rather than spread out statewide. This detail is important because it affects accessibility and the extent to which faculty outside of that region may be able to participate or benefit directly
- 9:49 **Gay Miller, UIUC**, asked about course redesigns and that their hybrid design would be interesting. Smothers said they weren't redesigning at the moment. **Cynthia Boyce** expressed that their hybrid design was effective at her institution. Jackson asked if there was a catalyst for the observation, and she said yes, by accident, there was a situation at the school where the students were not meeting the learning objectives. **Jessica MacDonald** talked about her experience with meeting with the HS teachers. Cynthia talked about the issues of scheduling as well.
- 9:55 **Chair Dan Hrozencik, CSU**, wrapped up the Q&A and excused the guest speakers and FAC for a fifteen-minute break.
- 10:15 **Chair Dan Hrozencik, CSU**, brought the meeting back to order with two small announcements. Secretary Jason Edgar, Morton College, requested any updates to the membership list. Gay Miller, UIUC, reminded people not to park in Two-hour meters as they will be towed.
- 10:18 **Speaker – IBHE Faculty Board Member Nora Heist (EIU)** began by highlighted several IBHE initiatives that she has been involved with. She presented a slide featuring the Workforce Dashboard, featuring the *Top Ten In-Demand Occupations*, the *Occupational Demand Explorer with Earnings*, and *Occupational Demand Details by Region*, along with a regional map of institutions by county. She also discussed the *Direct Admissions Program*, noting its focus on 2026 high school seniors and plans for broader expansion. Finally, she outlined the online process of reporting or presenting institutional initiatives and data-driven updates, and how it interfaces with colleges and universities. She ended by saying curriculum alone cannot solve all the problems of the students, so we should explore areas of opportunities to help students.
- 10:40 **Tiffany Puckett, NIU**, asked a question about the difference between undergraduate and graduate students with regard to the federal admission program; Heist replied that the Direct Admissions program was for the traditional undergraduate student.

- 10:41 **Greg Ferrence, ISU**, asked a question about one-click admit. He asked how the program would align with enrollment management formulas and how difficult it might be to plan for new student calculations. Heist responded that they are currently taking an information-gathering approach and that admissions offices will likely do the same.
- 10:45 **Cynthia Boyce, Lincoln Trail College**, shared an experience where they had an influx of enrollment and needing to hire adjuncts last minute.
- 10:46 **Nora Heist** replied that institutions may need an earlier admit process, for enrollment-planning purposes.
- 10:47 **Mike Phillips, IVCC**, shared an idea where we can advertise to other states about how the educational opportunity in Illinois does not restrict what can be taught in higher education, as is happening in other states, such as Iowa and Texas. IBHE could assist by expanding the one-click admissions opportunity to out-of-state students. Heist replied that IBHE Chair Board Pranav Kothari had mentioned this conversation, and that we still need to make Illinois universities more affordable.
- 10:51 **Gay Miller, UIUC**, noted that UIUC did not sign on the One-Click program, and she has reservations about it, because GPA is a poor predictor of how a student will do. The high school itself is a better predictor. Likewise, which college one attended as an undergraduate is a better predictor of how a student will do in graduate school than their GPA. She added that MAP funding is key.
- 10:54 **Cynthia Boyce, Lincoln Trail College**, remarked that it was nice that there weren't enrollment fees. **Nicole Zeller, Eastern Illinois University**, added that students don't understand that being admitted to a school through the One-Click program doesn't guarantee their automatic admission into any degree program at the university. They still have to apply when there are selective admissions programs, such as for Nursing. There needs to be more messaging about this for prospective students. Heist replied that what interests her about IBHE Board service is the state's equity mindset. This is what drew her to EIU, too, where 50% of the students are first generation college students.
- 10:57 **Sue Wideger, SIUE, and Tiffany Puckett, NIU**, shared their excitement for the program but expressed the importance to get the resources to the right students.
- 11:00 **Jack Haines, Joliet Junior College**, remarked on the value of the dashboard and suggested that the IBHE could further enhance its impact by developing assignments or activities for high school students. These tools would help students engage with the data, explore the range of variables, and research their educational options more effectively.
- 11:02 **Chair Dan Hrozencik, CSU**, thanked the speaker for attending, and requested her attendance at future meetings. Heist said she would love to have informal conversations with the FAC over lunch.

- 11:05 **Dave Tretter, President of the Federation of Independent Illinois Colleges and Universities**, began with a brief discussion of his relationship with the State of Illinois and education. 2002 was the high-water mark for higher ed funding Illinois, depending on how you measure it (per student, per institution, etc.). There have been tectonic shifts in the assumptions about higher ed, questioning its value.
- 11:12 **Chair Dan Hrozencik, CSU**, asked a question about whether improved enrollment numbers could save smaller institutions. **Tretter** replied that some private colleges in Illinois have gone under (Lincoln, Macmurray). Mergers are low-hanging fruits that are probably now gone.
- 11:20 **Paul Bialek, Oakton College**, shared his experience with high income enrollments being driven by high discount rates, an unsustainable strategy.
- 11:21 **Amy Carr, Western Illinois University**, asked two questions: First, she has heard from colleagues at less selective liberal arts colleges that part of what sustains them is their heavy recruitment of athletes in the region. This allows their families to continue to attend a student's games. Second, she talked about what happened at Monmouth College over the summer: not only were liberal arts majors like history, philosophy, and religious studies eliminated, but in some cases all faculty who teach those courses were, too. Adjuncts are now replacing them, with online courses (now what a liberal arts college markets itself to be offering). Yet the Monmouth president insists they are still a liberal arts college. In response, **Tretter** added that the national narrative—even if it is not true—is that the “liberal arts” refer to a “woke” liberal agenda. And in response to federal attacks, especially on DEI, liberal arts colleges might change their websites in ways that cut into the core of who they are. He has published papers on social class and thought it would be nice if we could get to that as an equity focus. The colleges need to make a better case for how important they are to jobs and to the economics of the state. He closed by saying there would be winners and losers in the funding formula.
- 11:29 **Mike Phillips, IVCC**, asked a question about compliance. Tretter discussed conversations he's had with individuals about the legality in some aspects of compliance.
- 11:31 **Marie Donovan, DePaul University**, asked if he had any good news and he said no. Marie said there is a list of things we need, so how do we get the legislator's attention.
- 11:39 **Chair Dan Hrozencik, CSU**, asked if he is concerned about certain legislation passing, in particular the funding bill. Tretter discussed that there will be winners and losers.
- 11:42 **Gay Miller, UIUC**, discussed her frustration with so much of the financial and logistical burden falling on the student. When should we ask if the cost of education isn't worth it. Tretter noted that the politics surrounding funding are very different at the high school level compared to higher education. He also spoke about the high turnover among teachers and even college presidents, observing how this affects institutional memory.

- 11:46 **Marie Donovan, DePaul University**, would like a motion for a resolution of appreciation for Shawn Schumacher. Cynthia moved to approve, Gay seconded, all those in favor approved.
- 11:48 **Chair Dan, CSU**, excused the FAC for lunch.
- 12:30 **Chair Dan Hrozencik, CSU**, brought the meeting back to order. He discussed future meeting sites, email issues, and not having the zoom option for future in-person FAC meetings. He stressed the importance of face to face attendance, and that if it's not possible, members should send their alternate.
- 12:35 **Vice Chair Jack Haines, Joliet Junior College**, discussed the need for hosts in 2026-2027, and that there should be at least two per caucus. The next meeting is at Lake Land College. The meeting date for the May meeting is May 15th, 2026 (for now) and asked if May 22nd would work. He also discussed new name cards.
- 12:45 **Secretary Jason Edgar, Morton College**, is working on membership list and attendance for today's meeting.
- 12:50 **Legislative Liaison Mike Phillips, IVCC**, reported that in May the Dual Credit Quality Act amendment passed, while the proposal for community college baccalaureates did not advance but remains active for future consideration. He also noted that the higher education funding formula did not pass, with leaders concluding it would be irresponsible to approve a plan without the money to support it.
- Looking ahead, the fall veto session remains uncertain but could bring renewed discussion of bills that failed in the spring, with vote thresholds varying depending on effective dates. The spring session is expected to see the revival of old bills alongside the introduction of new legislation.
- 1:01 **IBHE Nkechi Onwuameze** discussed that IAI is a faculty-driven process. They continue to work together to keep faculty engaged in the process. The discussion focused on all the nuances of a syllabus, including updates, topics, and subtopics. She said there is a need to provide more specific guidelines (e.g., about weekly topical outlines) for those preparing syllabi to submit for IAI approval. Faculty also explored how Student Success initiatives could be more closely connected to Academic Affairs. She also shared updates about the new IBHE staff hires and encouraged faculty to serve on an IAI review panel.
- 1:06 **Amy Carr, Western Illinois University**, asked about writing requirements and Nkechi said that would get back to her with the answer. **Maria Donovan, DePaul University**, expressed how much information one can learn working with IAI.
- 1:15 Working Groups
- 1:40 Caucus Meetings

- 2:27 Approval of June 2025 Minutes, **Marie Donovan, DePaul University**, made motion to approve, **Sarah Garber, Rosalind Franklin**, seconded the motion. Unanimous approval.
- 2:28 **Technology Working Group** The discussion focused on course digital literacy onboarding and the current state of the digital world in the classroom. Amy Carr, WIU, asked a question regarding digital literacy, which led to a broader conversation among multiple FAC members about various aspects of digital literacy. The discussion also included the use of AI in classrooms, with participants sharing general thoughts on its potential benefits and challenges. Members were reminded to send emails to Greg regarding digital literacy initiatives. **Tena Helton** wants a good curated list of research about AI and its effects.
- 2:43 **Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) working group-** The group discussed the need for a State PLA task force, reviewing new policies and guidance related to PLA implementation. **Marie Donovan** reported that they were awaiting feedback about whether the Higher Ed Working Group will be proposing legislation toward this end.
- 2:45 **Equity working group-** Members reviewed areas to examine for equity, identifying potential gaps and opportunities for improvement.
- 2:46 **Faculty and Student Mental Health working group-** Marie reported that they were awaiting feedback about whether the Higher Ed Working Group will be proposing legislation toward this end.
- 2:47 **Early College working group-** The group discussed a draft Alison Douglas had prepared comparing the standards of NACEP (the National Alliance for Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships), the Illinois Dual Credit Quality Act, and the Illinois Model Partnership Agreement. **Mike Phillips** pointed out that June 2025 legislation eliminated a need to cite the Model Partnership Agreement.
- 2:48 **Higher Education Funding working group-** Members discussed efforts to push bills forward throughout the year, including updates on the Community College Funding Formula.
- 2:49 **Two-Year Caucus-** No new community colleges will host for the FAC in 2025–26. The caucus has extended invitations to additional community colleges. Eastern Illinois community colleges merged or consolidated their representation, reducing the number of participating institutions from four to one and bringing the overall total of community colleges from 48 to 45.
- 2:56 **Independent Schools Caucus-** Andy was voted in as Co-Chair of the Independent Schools group. Discussions also focused on enrollment challenges faced by private colleges and strategies to increase resources for private institutions.
- 2:57 **Public Institutions Caucus-** The discussion covered differences in enrollments among public institutions, and how our institutions connect students to resources, and how union and faculty senate leaderships interact and distinguish their respective responsibilities. Those

with newly emerging unions are interested in finding out these dynamics at more established unionized campuses.

2:59 Chair Dan Hrozencik, CSU, sought a motion to adjourn. **Jack Haines, JJC,** made the motion, and **Sarah Garber, Rosalind Franklin.** seconded it.

Minutes respectfully submitted by *Secretary Jason Edgar, Morton College*

Resolution of Appreciation- Dr. Shawn Schumacher
Faculty Advisory Council of the Illinois Board of Higher Education

Whereas

Dr. Shawn Schumacher has been faithfully serving all Illinois faculty throughout his tenure as a member of the Faculty Advisory Council since 2006;

Whereas

Dr. Schumacher led the Council as its chair from 2020 until 2025, always with grounded wisdom, diplomacy, and compassion;

Whereas

Dr. Schumacher's vision for and profound commitment to the Council ensures it remains an informed, reasoned, critical voice in promoting higher education throughout the state of Illinois;

Whereas

Dr. Schumacher's staunch advocacy for the role of higher education in the lives of all Illinoisans is motivated by his deeply held social justice mission as an educator;

Whereas

The Faculty Advisory Council of the Illinois Board of Higher Education is the most comprehensive organization representing faculty from all community colleges, public and private universities, and proprietary institutions in the State; now, therefore, be it

Resolved

That members of the Faculty Advisory Council of the Illinois Board of Higher Education offer this statement of recognition and appreciation to Dr. Shawn Schumacher for his leadership and dedication in serving the State of Illinois and its higher education community;

and

That the Faculty Advisory Council forward this resolution to Dr. Schumacher, the members of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and all the Agency's staff.

*Approved by acclamation of the members of the Faculty Advisory Council
assembled this 19th day of September in the year 2025.*