



## MINUTES

IBHE FAC Meeting  
April 17th, 2026

Morton College  
Centennial Room  
3801 South Central Avenue  
Cicero, IL 60804

### FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions

#### In person:

Mary Laundry	Adler University
Patrick Crawford	Augustana College
Daniel J. Coles	Aurora University
Stacy Kosier	Carl Sandburg College
Dan Hrozencik	Chicago State University
Marie Donovan	DePaul University
Shawn Schumacher	DeVry University
Nicole Zeller	Eastern Illinois University
Allison Douglas	Elgin Community College
Trish Aumann	IBHE Managing Director of Academic Strategy & Programs
Andy Howard	Illinois Institute of Technology
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)
Lara Hernandez Corkrey	Moraine Valley Community College
Jason Edgar	Morton College
Juan Martinez	Northeastern Illinois University
Tiffany Puckett	Northern Illinois University
Paul Bialek	Oakton Community College
Jessica McDonald	Olney Central College
Sarah Garber	Rosalind Franklin University
Lichang Wang	Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Sue Wiediger	Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville
Amy Carr	Western Illinois University

**Absent:**

Patricia Saleeby	Bradley University
Nora Heist	Eastern Illinois University
Shaalein Lopez	Governors State University
James Marshall	Rockford University
Mary Ellen Schiller	Roosevelt University
John Cooksey	Truman College, City College of Chicago
Tena Helton	University of Illinois- Springfield
Gay Miller	University of Illinois- Urbana Champaign
Tosha Baker	Wabash Valley College

9:00 **Chair Dan Hrozencik, CSU**, Call to order and Introductions. **Jason Edgar (Morton College)** introduced **Dr. Sheldon Walcher, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Morton College**.

9:05 Dr. Sheldon Walcher, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Morton College, spoke about Career and Technical Education. He thanked **Jason Edgar** for his leadership at Morton College and got right into his discussion of a changing landscape. He discussed a structural gap between learning and the workforce. He says Career and Technical Education closes that gap. He affirmed that Applied Learning is important. He informed the FAC that Morton College is a Hispanic Serving Institution with around 83% Hispanic student population and with Cicero being one of the highest concentrations of hispanics outside of Texas and California. He spoke about the difference between training and education. He said we should not just deliver content, but explain what it means, and have discernment, not just knowledge.

**Tiffany Puckett (NIU)** said she loved field trips and asked about other types of career and technical education programs? He discussed nursing like most community colleges, as well as new EV programs.

The program was then moved to the CTE and HVAC labs for discussion and exhibits

10:00 BREAK

10:10 HLC Discussion (via Zoom). **Chair Dan Hrozencik (CSU)** introduced **Linnea A. Stenson from the Higher Learning Commission (HLC)**. She discussed the basics of accreditation and how they assist institutions in multiple areas to become accredited. She said that they have become a target of modern day politics and that they are forcing certain ideologies but that they continue to do their jobs and believe that they are one of the top accredited states in the country. She transitioned to prepared questions. (stepped out for trumpet music)

10:26 **Shawn Shumacher (DeVry)** asked about HLC working with 19 different states. She said that work with numerous states and groups, and because of that they are one of the largest commissions. **Mike Phillips (IVCC)** asked a question about ...

10:41 **Greg Ferrence (ISU)** asked a question about

- 10:44 **Dan Hrozencik (CSU)** asked about her thoughts on the 90 credit degrees. She said that there has always been some shrinking and expanding in the field, and at the 90 credit degrees are less debt and get them into the market quickly. **Amy Carr (WIU)** asked about how HLC thinks about who has the autonomy in dual credit courses.
- 10:58 **Andy Howard (IIT)** asked a question about how large institutions have smaller sub-accreditations. His question was how do they manage all of the accreditations. She said it's important to meet the standards at the academic level so the students then meet the private sector levels.
- 11:00 **Chair Dan Hrozencik (CSU)** began the business meeting. Sue made some suggestions to the minutes and were accepted. **Mike Phillips (IVCC)** with the motion, **Greg Ferrence (ISU)** with the second, all in favor, abstaining were **Nicole Zeller (EIU)** and **Jessica McDonald (Olney)**.
- 11:05 **Amy Carr (WIU)** made forward a motion of an opening statement to be placed on the front of the website that was circulated via email. **Tyrone Forman (UIC)** asked for clarification about why this part is essential. She said that we are acknowledging gaps in funding and policy.
- 11:16 **Sue Wiedige (SIUE)** think folks should also know that there will be three committee meetings related to the strategic plan review, June 17 9-noon, August 19 11-12:30; and November 18, 11-12:30, with final recommendations made at the January 20, 2027 IBHE meeting. There will be time for public comment at those three meetings and other stakeholder engagement opportunities. There was an FAC wide discussion of having an ad hoc or working group committee created.
- 11:17 LUNCH
- 12:10 **Chair Dan Hrozencik (CSU)** discussed at the June meeting that we are going to have lunch with the IBHE with more details to follow. He also mentioned that the FAC will be voting on executive members in May. He also mentioned that working and caucus groups need a report to the Chair by June. He requested questions for the legislators to Mike Phillips (IVCC) by May 1st. Vice Chair report was also done by Dan Hrozencik (CSU) in which he discussed the day at the capitol (May 14th) and there will be a dinner that night. He also said that the meeting will make the capital day official with being on the agenda.
- 12:15 **Secretary Jason Edgar (Morton College)** said the membership list is updated and that he is running for Vice Chair, leaving the Secretary position open, explaining that taking care of the minutes is not difficult and the editing process lift is light.
- 12:20 **Legislative Liaison Mike Phillips (IVCC)** said he took a group of students to the capital to visit with legislative officials and that he ran into Tena Helton, an FAC member, who is on strike. He also discussed the transfer process and how students are wanting sooner notice that would benefit them in regards to rooming and transportation. He said that students he spoke to are interested in internships.

- 12:26 **Matt Landrus (Lake Land College)** asked a question about the budget and how some advisors at his school were switching to counselors to meet budget shortfalls. Mike said that the budget is extremely tight and to have more perspective on the SERS advisory board. He also brought up the funding formula and a lot of action on the capital floor on April 16th. The senate bill is still alive and the committee deadline is extended to April 24th.
- 12:34 **Trish Aumann (IBHE)** began by introducing herself again, her role at the IBHE, and Jill Gebke's new role. She said the IBHE now has four analysts to get program reviews to go through faster. She talked about attending the HLC conference and everything she and the group learned about AI and other academic topics. She ended with a discussion of deferred maintenance. **Tiffany Puckett (NIU)** asked who is doing the certified training and Trish said did not have the specific information. **Sue Wiediger (SIUE)** asked if there was any news about the
- 12:48 Working Groups
- 1:20 Caucus Meetings
- 2:06 **Two-Year Caucus-** discussed the two at-large positions, with **Jessica Olney (OCC)** earning at at-large position, and **Jack Haines (JJC)** earned an at-large position, with Jack also expressing interest in Chair of the FAC. **Cynthia Boyce (LTC)** and **Lara Hernandez-Corkey (MVCC)** will serve as the chair and vice-chair respectively. Shawnee, Richland, and College of Dupage will be receiving upcoming invitations
- 2:12 **Independent Schools Caucus-** discussion of three un-filled positions but members were not here to be voted on, according to **Shawn Schumacher (DeVry)**. There was a motion made by **Amy Carr (WIU)** to move IIT up the invitation list, and **Matt Landrus (Lake Land College)**. The vote to approve was unanimous.
- 2:15 **Public Institutions Caucus-** Discussion of upcoming elections including **Amy Carr (WIU)** running for Chair of the FAC, and... She also discussed the accommodation compliance policy that doesn't seem enforced by a majority of Illinois institutions.
- 2:16 **Chair Dan Hrozencik (CSU)** said Lichang Wang, Lara Hernandez-Corkey, and elections chair Andy Howard, will serve as the election committee.
- 2:20 **Technology working group-** they are working on a draft for their year long paper
- 2:05 **Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) working group-** no report
- 2:10 **Equity working group-** discussion of neuro-diversity equity.
- 2:15 **Faculty and Student Mental Health working group-** discussed a survey they are working on.
- 2:20 **Early College working group-** discussion of compensation for dual credit instructors, as well as NACEP comparisons. They are working on the final year blurb.

2:23 **Student Needs-** discussion of coming with a description of Student Needs as well as a survey brought by **Jessica McDonald (Olney)**.

2:45 **Chair Dan Hrozencik, CSU,** sought a motion to adjourn. Unanimous consent.

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

Submitted Items:

Draft