Faculty Advisory Council
Illinois Board of Higher Education

MINUTES

Approved September 18, 2026

June 17, 2026

Illinois Community College Board
401 E. Capitol Dr.
Springfield, Illinois 62701

FAC members/alternates attending and their institutions

In person:

Tosha Baker	Wabash Valley College
Kristine Burgess (alt)	Rosalind Franklin University
Amy Carr	Western Illinois University
Daniel J. Coles	Aurora University
Patrick Crawford	Augustana College
Marie Donovan	DePaul University
Greg Ferrence	Illinois State University
Jack Haines	Joliet Junior College
Tena Helton	University of Illinois- Springfield
Andy Howard	Illinois Institute of Technology
Dan Hrozencik	Chicago State University
Stacy Kosier	Carl Sandburg College
Angie Lyons (alt)	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
James Marshall	Rockford University
Mike Phillips	Illinois Valley Community College (at-large)
Tiffany Puckett	Northern Illinois University
Shawn Schumacher	DeVry University
Lichang Wang	Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Susan Wiediger	Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville

Absent:

Angela Antonou	University of St. Francis
Paul Bialek	Oakton Community College
Cynthia Richards	Lincoln Trail College (at-large)
Allison Douglas	Elgin Community College
Jason Edgar	Morton College
Tyrone Forman	University of Illinois-Chicago

Brooke Johnson	Northeastern Illinois University
Matt Landrus	Lake Land Community College
Mary Laundry	Adler University
Shaalein Lopez	Governors State University
Jessica McDonald	Olney Central College
Patricia Saleeby	Bradley University
Mary Ellen Schiller	Roosevelt University
J. Matthew Ward	Quincy University
Nicole Zeller	Eastern Illinois University

9:03 **Chair Dan Hrozencik (CSU)** called the meeting to order.

9:05 Reports

Chair Report (Dan Hrozencik): The chair provided a preview of the afternoon IBHE Board Meeting, today's FAC meeting agenda, and planning for the next academic year. During the Chair Report, **Andy Howard (IIT)**, chair of the elections committee, announced election results of incoming officers: Amy Carr (Chair) Jack Haines (Vice Chair), and Tena Helton (Secretary). He also suggested website updates of membership, which Dan indicated had been recently completed by the outgoing secretary, **Jason Edgar (Morton College)**. Dan also reported that the Coalition for Transforming Higher Education was satisfied with the legislative movement of the Equitable Funding Formula this year, despite it ultimately not coming up for a vote. The group is hoping for the bill to return and be passed during the veto or lame duck session this upcoming year. Legislative liaison, **Mike Phillips (IVCC)**, provided additional information about the usual legislative process during these sessions. After brief discussion of how the Coalition operates, Dan asked members to consider participating on behalf of the FAC.

Legislative Liaison Report (Mike Phillips): Briefly reported that none of the relevant bills went forward this year for a vote. There was a short discussion of the proposed bill regarding community colleges offering bachelor's degrees and why momentum for this bill faltered.

Vice Chair Report (Jack Haines): The vice chair passed around a sign-in sheet and asked for name plate updates.

9:35 Business Meeting

After **Amy Carr (WIU)** read aloud proposed additions to the May minutes regarding student needs, accessibility, and developmental education, Chair Dan Hrozencik, asked for approval of the minutes with amendments. **Shawn Schumacher (DeVry)** made a motion to approve. **Patrick Crawford (Augustana)** seconded. Minutes were approved with one abstention.

Greg Ferrence volunteered to represent FAC to the Coalition for Transforming Higher Education.

9:40 Two additional newsworthy items were announced. **Patrick Crawford (Augustana)** reported that Iowa approved on June 15, 2026, a 90-95 credit-hour bachelor's degree (Bachelor of Applied Professional Studies), a move that may put more pressure on Illinois to prioritize this option. **Sue Wiediger (SIUE)** asked about the state's budget withholding from AY 2025-26, indicating that the 2 percent had been released but must be expended before June 30, 2026.

9:45 Break

10:00 Caucus Meetings

10:30 Working Group Meetings

11:05 Caucus and Working Group Reports
Chair Dan Hrozencik (CSU) brought the meeting back to order to share Caucus and Working Group Reports as follows:

Public Institutions Caucus: **Amy Carr (WIU)** suggested the idea that the FAC consider inviting IBHE board members to monthly meetings insofar as board members might be geographically near to the meeting site. **Brooke Johnson** (NEIU) will serve as chair of the public caucus during the upcoming year, and **Lichang Wang** (SIUC) will serve as vice chair.

Independent Schools Caucus: Andy Howard (IIT) announced that he and **Shawn Schumacher** will continue as co-chairs. He also reported that the caucus will be interested to see how the IBHE board reacts to representatives of independent institutions, especially considering the caucus includes for-profit institutions.

Two-Year Caucus: Jack Haines (JJC) described an array of issues that might be addressed during lunch with IBHE board members, including the 90-hour bachelor's degrees, quality of early college credit, and bachelor's degrees at the community college. He shared plans for foci for future caucus discussions, including educational technology, the extent to which students are arriving with superficial technology skills, and how to foster critical thinking without significant AI or technology interference. The funding formula will be an ongoing discussion as well.

Faculty and Student Mental Health: Sue Wiediger (SIUE) reported that they are working on the literature review for their investigations of student mental health.

Equity: James Marshall (Rockford) said the group continues to discuss accommodation and ADA compliance issues.

Early College Credit: Amy Carr (WIU) said that the FAC can expect in the fall a document that will include a more complete comparison of the NACEP and DCQA. The group also discussed a recommendation that after achieving a certain number of college credits a high school student must consult with a college counselor to review pathways. **Andy Howard (IIT)** asked whether NACEP standards are more stringent than DCQA. Amy responded, saying some are more stringent in some ways, but not in others. **Marie Donovan (DePaul)** asked how expensive it is to be accredited by NACEP, to which Amy

responded that we do not yet have that information but will inquire. Amy indicated that chair for this working group will be chosen in the fall.

Prior Learning Assessment: According to **Marie Donovan (DePaul)**, we await feedback from legislators on a draft of the bill provided. **Dan Hrozencik (CSU)** asked if there were legislative sponsors of the bill. Marie indicated that there is some interest from legislators.

Student Needs: Lichang Wang (SIUC) reported that the group is working to finalize the survey about student needs, including the timeline and logistics. They considered fine-tuning the questions to ensure that results are more actionable, including determining how faculty can play a role in connecting resources and students. **Sue Wiediger** suggested that before finalizing the survey, the group might ask Ginger Ostro, Executive Director of the IBHE, what she is expecting from the working group because it seemed as if she had requested more qualitative data and narratives rather than quantitative data alone. **Stacy Kosier (Carl Sandburg College)** articulated a clarifying question: Are we trying to produce data or to come up with suggestions to close the loop? **Amy Carr (WIU)** suggested that IBHE staff have data on student needs. **Angie Lyons (UIUC)** said that perhaps qualitative data is more important to provide to Ginger.

Technology: Greg Ferrence (ISU) indicated that while AI continues to dominate discussion, settling on one aspect in order to produce recommendations is difficult. **Amy Carr (WIU)** suggested that it might be a good idea to collect information across institutions in the state, creating a snapshot of policies and practices that might provide a counternarrative to conversations that seem directed by corporations. Greg mentioned that discussions in the working group focused on how the human meets the technology, including learning how to learn, not just getting the right answer. He stated that while efficient use of labor suggests that technology might replace faculty work, teaching how to use AI may require greater labor intensity and even reduced student/faculty ratios. **Angie Lyons (UIUC)** advocated for maintaining the technology committee, despite not having a specific deliverable at the moment. The FAC, she said, brings IBHE questions back to campuses, which is an opportunity to have faculty drive the discussion rather than the administration. She suggested a one-pager about the challenges across all Illinois campuses. Greg agreed, saying that as a first step, it makes sense to ask campuses the current state of affairs rather than producing definitive recommendations/advice. **Andy Howard (IIT)** provided a perspective from the independent colleges, where advice about how to deal with technology can be muddied less by state law than by federal grant regulations. He also agreed that faculty perspective differs from other stakeholders. **James Marshall (Rockford)** suggested that a white paper may not be the best approach. Perhaps other approaches, such as a newsletter or blog would be useful. **Amy** agreed, suggesting that monthly notes from the field would be useful for all school who do not have a representative on the FAC. **Angie** reiterated that faculty at individual campuses would like guidance from the FAC, not just the administration, particularly about AI.

11:29 **Chair Dan Hrozencik (CSU)** requested a motion to adjourn. **Jack Haines (JJC)** motioned. **Patrick Crawford (Augustana)** seconded. The FAC adjourned by unanimous consent.

Minutes submitted by Tena Helton, FAC Secretary