

University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign Senate
Final;Information

HE.01.01 Report on the IBHE Faculty Advisory Committee Meeting, September 8, 2000

The Committee met at Black Hawk Community College in Moline hosted by 2000-2001 FAC Chair Dorothy Beck, the first community college chair of the group. (The Committee meets at a different host institution at each of the ten meetings during the year.) Thomas Coley, Vice President for Instructional Services, welcomed the group. A recent publication celebrating the fifty-year history of the College (authored by Dorothy Beck) was distributed.

The meeting covered three topics: a forthcoming IBHE report on access and diversity, status of the IBHE FY2002 budget recommendations, and organizing the FAC for the coming year.

Doug Day, Liaison from the IBHE staff, provided an overview of a draft of an IBHE "Update on Access and Diversity." Hearings were held around the state last January and three focus groups met in February and March. Access and diversity is one goal of the "Illinois Commitment."

The report will stress three themes—First, the **quiet revolution** in the dramatic increase of the number who wish to go to college--90% of high school sophomores and juniors say they want to go to college. There is a widespread change in desire for higher education affecting all ages, incomes, races, ethnic groups and regions. This is seen as a permanent change, worldwide in scope. It is a quiet revolution in that it has been gradual, is ongoing, and signifies significant increases in future enrollments. In 1986 42% of Illinois high school graduates went directly to college, in 1996 the figure was 63%. (It is predicted it will continue to rise.) Over 80% of adults say a college degree represents what a high school degree used to represent. Causes: demographic with higher incomes, more education, fewer children; immigration—Illinois ranks high in number of immigrants; earning power—50% more for college degrees; shifting nature of work from hardhat to briefcase.

The second theme of **overcoming barriers** will stress such issues as better pre-college preparation, affordability, mediated technology to deal with problems of time and distance, physical barriers and language barriers. One policy recommendation may be a shift in the role of community colleges working in conjunction with senior colleges and universities. Mr. Day noted the IBHE commitment that admissions policy must remain a responsibility of the institution not the legislature. Legislative mandates often result in admission of students who then drop out at a cost to institution and taxpayer.

The third theme of **ensuring diversity and a relevant education** will cover a number of policy recommendations including the role of diversity in institutional missions; necessity of affirmative action; admission policies; recruitment and retention; evaluation of diversity efforts; student transitions from high school to college; mediated learning; responding to emerging needs; public and private partnerships.

Deb Smiley of the IBHE staff provided an update on the budget progress, noting that budget requests were being evaluated in terms of the Illinois Initiative and the budget context paper developed last April by the IBHE to guide the preparation of budget request. Among priorities are efforts to deal with the deferred maintenance problem over a series of years, worker training, technology, improving teacher preparation, baccalaureate degree completion programs available on line.

The discussion dealt with a variety of issues. One was the decrease in the number of full-time faculty coupled with increases in part-time, adjunct, professional staff, and administrators. The failure of the 3%+1%+1% (3% salary increase funds plus 1% for retaining and hiring critical faculty plus 1% internal reallocation) to improve faculty salaries in terms of IBHE peer institutions was noted. Ms. Smiley said the 1% match was one factor in a favorable legislative outcome for the current budget. The possibility of a 3%+2%+2% request was raised. There are doubts about the political feasibility of that amount. The committee members raised urgent concerns about the toll past reallocations and recisions had taken: faculty are fewer in number despite an increased number of students, pressures for smaller classes, lack of price increase funds, etc. Also, the cost of replacement faculty is high (particularly efforts to increase diversity of faculty), accumulated sick leave costs must be met. Several members stressed that cuts were now into the bone; "fat" and available reserves are "long gone." Internal reallocations are growing much more problematic, perhaps not feasible.

The afternoon session was devoted to organizing the group for the coming year. Past standing committees dealt with budget and finance, technology, quality assessment (with an excellent report shared with the IBHE) and faculty governance. Suggested additional or alternative standing or ad hoc committees were suggested on diversity and adjuncts and part-time faculty issues. The Executive Committee will make recommendations as to the number, charge, and membership of the FAC committees for consideration at the next meeting. The next meeting will be held in conjunction with the IBHE at Highland Community College in Freeport on October 3.

Formal minutes for the session will be available on the IBHE web site: www.ibhe.state.il.us and going to organizations and then to the FAC. The IBHE site has a variety of useful materials including various reports and minutes of the IBHE, as these become available.

Ken Andersen,
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