

HE.02.06
March 11, 2002

**University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign Senate
Final;Information**

HE.02.06 Report on the Board of Higher Meeting, February 5, 2002.

The BHE met in Chicago at the DePaul University Lincoln Park Campus. Chair Philip Rock called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and noted that the meeting would be expedited to allow time for an extended Executive Session to discuss the search for the next Executive Director of the BHE.

Reverend John P. Minogue, CM, President of DePaul, welcomed the group. (DePaul is the 9th largest not-for-profit university in enrollment and the largest Catholic university in the nation with 21,263 students, a mix of adults and traditional students.) Rev. Minogue saw the last years as a good time for higher education generally but noted it was difficult to keep adding capacity to keep up with student growth. Higher education needs to continue to increase the available intellectual capital. He said the pipeline in math and sciences was broken: we need more spaces for students in these areas and increased quality to maintain technological excellence.

Executive Director Sanders congratulated Northern Illinois University and Rock Valley College for developing a program to complete B.A. degrees on the Rock Valley campus with courses taught by NIU faculty.

The majority of the meeting time was devoted to a brief presentation followed by comments on the report All Faculty Matter: A Study of Nontenure-Track Faculty at Illinois Public Colleges and Universities. (A copy of the report is on file at the Senate Office.) The Board accepted the report, asked the staff to solicit reactions and give a final report and recommendations at the April Board meeting. The most controversial element was a finding in a survey that nontenure-track faculty are as satisfied with their jobs overall as the tenured/tenure track. This contradicted the testimony of individuals at the public hearings. Several individuals and representatives of groups complained that individual testimony was not included in the report and that personal experience contradicted the survey results. Some attacked the survey itself. The major complaint from a representative of the United Professionals of Illinois was that the report failed to provide a mandated recommendation to establish a ratio of full-time to part-time compensation. He argued that the abuse of and inadequate payment to part-time and non-tenure track faculty was caused by the institutions and they would not solve the problem.

The report called for institutions to “formulate plans to ensure that nontenure-track faculty have a more secure and productive place within the institution and that their instructional abilities are fully developed to contribute to student learning.” The report recognizes the difference between the mission and role of institutions. These policies “should address: 1) identification of criteria used in pay decisions; 2) recognition and reward of teaching merit; 3) effective use of multi-year contracts; 4) involvement in departmental and campus wide decision-making bodies; 5) access to faculty development opportunities; 6) appropriate access to instructional resources and means for

interacting with students; and 7) written performance evaluations.” Also, institutions should monitor and ensure an “educationally appropriate” balance between tenured/tenure track and nontenure-track faculty and ensure that “those working at or about a full-time workload receive higher rates of pay.”

The other reports received minimal attention or were postponed until the April meeting. With regard to teacher preparation the Board urged that passing the basic skills tests be a requirement for admission to the teacher training curriculum and that content certification tests be passed before they are allowed to student teach.

The Board postponed action on the UIUC request for approval of the \$77,600,000 project to renovate and expand campus recreation facilities.

A report on engineering education in Illinois indicated that the demand in this decade would remain flat or rise slightly with no current shortage of engineering graduates. However, strategies should be developed to interest more high school students in engineering and to increase diversity.

The report from the Faculty Advisory Council noted that the key problem in the use of part-timers and non-tenure track faculty is the failure of the state to provide adequate economic support for the development of intellectual capital. Second, faculty are very concerned about the impact of the cuts in state support on this year's budgets, the impact of making those cuts permanent, and threat of a very minimal budget next year. Gains of the last several years had just begun recovery from the impact of the cuts of a decade ago. Also, the burden of putting health care costs on the institution will exacerbate the problem.

Ken Andersen
Campus representative to the FAC of the IBHE