

HE.02.09
April 29, 2002

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

HE.02.09 Report on the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Meeting, April 5, 2002.

The April 6 FAC meeting hosted by Rend Lake College was held at the Rend Lake Resort. The 9 a.m. meeting began with a welcome by Homer Cissell, Academic Dean of the College. He stressed the impact of the greatly disparate funding in public schools (\$3,500-\$4,000 for students in southern Illinois, \$10,000-\$12,000 in northern suburbs) producing an urgent need for remedial instruction for entering college students. This has a heavy cost impact for community colleges such as Rend Lake with an open admissions policy for all high school graduates.

Marcia Langsjoen, Associate Director/Staff Counsel for Academic Affairs at the BHE discussed BHE policies for institutional and program approval at private colleges. The presentation followed her April 2 report to the BHE on this issue and concern about granting last fall of operating rights to the University of Phoenix in Illinois. BHE's ability to regulate private institutions results from consumer protection legislation in the 1945 Private College Act and 1962 Academic Degree Act. The BHE, given responsibility for administering these regulations after it was created, developed a set of "administrative rules" explicating its procedures. It has revoked operating rights for some institutions and the rare revocations have not been overturned.

The legislation seeks to ensure that students "contracting" for an education do not receive one that is substandard and are guaranteed a facility, curriculum, faculty, appropriate tuition and fees and refund policies that meet minimum standards. The laws have been interpreted to cover correspondence schools and non-residential instruction including the Internet. She stressed that private institutions have rights; public institutions have responsibilities.

Of the 128 private colleges in the state, 73 were "grand-fathered" in the legislation. That means the BHE has no regulatory power unless these institutions go outside the region in which they already have their campus. Thus, Northwestern can offer any program it wishes on its own campus but needs approval to offer a program at a site in Peoria. It does not need approval for individuals to take the course via the Internet in Peoria unless they physically met at a particular site. A physical presence/site is the key to the ability to regulate.

The University of Phoenix demonstrated on the basis of programs offered outside Illinois that they met the criteria including demonstrated positive results in their courses. The issue with Phoenix as with others is the significant change in methods of delivery of instruction. She noted a trend for private corporations to "buy up" institutions in financial difficulty: one now owns more than a dozen in Illinois. She also noted that these corporations would exert a powerful influence through lobbying if legislative changes relative to regulation are introduced.

The wide-ranging discussion raised a number of issues linked to budget, faculty, educational quality and technology, i.e., it tied to each of the four Council committees. These committees met from 10:30 to 12:15 with the personnel committee meeting through lunch.

The Business meeting at 1:00 p.m. opened with a discussion of the BHE meeting focused on *All Faculty Matter*, the report on nontenure-track faculty and the implications of the simultaneous retirement of BHE Chair Phil Rock, Vice-Chair Jane Williamson, and Executive Director Keith Sanders. FAC resolutions will be crafted honoring Rock and Sanders. Sanders and Director-Designate La Vista will be invited to attend the next FAC meeting at EIU on April 26.

The Technology Committee is addressing several issues: the most important in their view is the threat to academic freedom in monitoring computer usage. Others include the digital divide, faculty credit for on-line teaching, faculty needs linked to the growth of technology, on-line plagiarism, and the evaluation/assessment of multimedia and distance learning. The Budget Committee is developing a statement calling for the state to use the original appropriation levels of 2002 adjusted for inflation as a basis for building the 2004 budget for higher education. The Personnel Committee is developing a response to the BHE report, *All Faculty Matter* and asked for input from faculty senates. It is greatly concerned that the number and percentage of part-time faculty continues to grow, in part as a response to budget shortfalls. It supports many of the report's recommendations but has concerns about the survey conducted as one element in the process of developing the report. There was a call for faculty involvement in developing the BHE mandated plans for dealing with issues of nontenure-track faculty. The Quality of Education Committee continues work on its statement on adequate preparation for college.

The FAC adjourned at 2:30 p.m. with thanks to Mike Mullen, FAC member from Rend Lake College and to the college.

Ken Andersen, Campus representative to the FAC of the IBHE