

Report on IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Meeting

December 10, 2010

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The Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) held a regularly scheduled meeting on Friday December 10, 2010 at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel & Conference Center in Springfield with 26 member institutions present. The following IBHE staff were present at the meeting: Don Sevener (Interim Executive Director), Bob Blankenberger (Deputy Director, Academic Affairs), Mike Baumgartner (Deputy Director, Planning and Budgeting), Mike Mann (Associate Director, Planning and Budgeting), Ocheng Jany (Associate Director, Academic Affairs), Debbie Meisner-Bertauski (Associate Director, Academic Affairs), Michael Afolayan (Assistant Director, Academic Affairs), Allison Witt (Assistant Director, Academic Affairs) and Keely Burton (Staff Assistant).

The meeting was called to order by Chair Abbas Aminmansour at 8:30 AM. Following reports from the Council Chair and IBHE Liaison, the Council held a discussion with IBHE senior staff. Mike Baumgartner reported that none of the FY2011 MAP payments to public universities and community colleges had been made as of November 30. He added that \$56 million of the FY10 appropriations have not been paid. Further, \$27 million (out of \$907 million in vouchers) from FY11 have been paid out. This could lead to payroll issues. Baumgartner said that \$1.3 billion in tobacco settlement bonds have been sold which should take care of the remaining FY10 obligations by the end of the month. He added that the FY12 budget recommendations are being developed. The Governor's Office approach is "bid for services" with six priorities. The budget request needs to be linked to these priorities. \$980 million is the required pension contribution for next year. The MAP bond funding proposal was mentioned and that there was opposition to it. In follow up discussions, Baumgartner said that the IBHE is again likely to propose tiers of funding, even with the performance-based requirement. He added that the capital budget outlook is better than the operating budget.

Academic Affairs Deputy Director Bob Blankenberger spoke about the six major panel recommendations of the IAI that were taken back to the public institutions. In reference to program applications to the IBHE, the staff looks to see if they meet the minimum criteria/standards; it is up to the Board for approval. Implementation following program approval needs oversight. Other conversations with the Director Sevener and other IBHE senior staff included Common Core Standards, Dual Credit, report of the Higher Education Finance Study Commission and IBHE's new initiative to create awareness among the public of the status and value of higher education using the Board's web site as well as social networking sites.

The afternoon session of the FAC meeting included a discussion by *Illinois* faculty Ken Andersen, former FAC member and retired professor and Joyce Tolliver, Chair of the *Illinois* Senate Executive Committee on shared governance. They spoke about establishing and strengthening shared governance at our institutions. Handouts were also shared with the FAC members. There was a considerable amount of enthusiasm for the presentation. IBHE Associate Director Jany noted that such a presentation should be given to the IBHE staff.

In other business and in response to the Governor's Office request, FAC voted on a number of public university faculty nominations to serve on IBHE. Four top vote getter names were forwarded to the Governor's Office for consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM. The next IBHE-FAC meeting is scheduled for Friday January 21, 2011 at the University of Illinois in Chicago. That meeting will include a number of special guests.

Submitted respectfully,
Abbas Aminmansour