

**HE.12.02**  
November 7, 2011

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**

Faculty Advisory Committee to the Illinois Board of Higher Education  
(Final;Information)

The Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE met at 8:30 a.m., October 14, 2011, at North Park University in Chicago. The Council was welcomed by the LAS Dean, Charles Petersen. North Park University is private, owned by the Evangelical Covenant Church. The Swedish founders emphasized educating immigrants and pastors. It has maintained a focus on serving immigrants: over time that successively meant Jewish, Korean, Eastern European, African and Middle Eastern students. The neighborhood is one of the most diverse in the United States. North Park sees itself as a liberal arts university characterized as Christian, urban, and multicultural. They offer pre-professional programs and have a School of Theology.

Facing a decline in student enrollment in 2004-5, North Park lowered its tuition from \$20,000 to \$13,000. Not only did enrollment increase but also revenue as the institution lessened its discounting of tuition through financial aid. It became a university, rather than a college, as a "marketing move" so people would not see it as a community college. Undergraduate enrollment totals over 1900 students: 10% African American, 15% Hispanic, 6% Asian, 7% international and 53% white. Its current capital campaign is linked to new science and student services buildings.

Ocheng Jany, IBHE liaison, reported that Don Sevenser, long-time IBHE Deputy Director of External Relations (legislative) and recent Interim Director, is retiring in December. Keely Burton in academic affairs area is also leaving. (IBHE staff have not received a raise in 5 years, morale is low and there have been significant cuts and staff losses.) A new employee, Dan Cullen, will work on proposals coming from proprietary institutions.

In the absence of Abbas Aminmansour, Vice-Chair Marie Donovan (DePaul) chaired the meeting with the major focus being Performance Based Funding (PBF) issues. Donovan noted the repeated mantra of Performance Based Funding is: "60% of Illinois adults with post secondary credentials by 2025." Numerous concerns were raised: PBF is to be accomplished with no new funding. It is not tied to the IBHE Public Agenda goal of college affordability. Longitudinal data on student progress through the educational system is needed. While the number of degrees may rise, the goal is defined in terms of individuals, not number of degrees held by an individual. What constitutes a "post-secondary credential"? Since currently only 41% of working age adults have an associate degree or higher, the 60% by 2025 (only 14 years) seems a worthy goal likely impossible to achieve. An urgent concern of the Council is that educational quality not be undermined in the pressure to increase the number of degrees. Where will the blame be placed when the goal is not achieved? While private schools are not directly involved in PBF, a concern was raised about the privates losing MAP funding. High school preparation is a key element in achieving the 60% goal but that does not receive significant attention. Community colleges have open enrollment so retention and completion rates are problematic and tied to the quality of high school preparation for college.

Don Sevenser briefed the group on a variety of legislative issues with a focus on the upcoming veto session. Many issues are on the table but it is not clear which will be addressed. Senate Bill 512 may be pushed: the bill would phase out the defined benefit pension plan for current employees. Actions on pensions may be delayed to the spring session until primary election results are known. He noted increased awareness that the breakdown in pension system funding was not the fault of the payers but

of the state. Even so, a solution must be found. Taxing pensions is being discussed. Speaker Madigan has three or four groups working to find a solution. Annuitant's health insurance may see a change with benefits tied to income on a sliding scale.

The Monetary Award Program does not have sufficient funds to pay the awards in the spring semester. ISAC has asked to use \$33M in reserve funds to cover the shortfall, which requires legislative action. Some legislators, SB1773, favor removing eligibility for MAP grants to students attending profit making institutions. Even if passed that could not go into effect this academic year.

Legislative action to remedy the problems in procurement, SB436, may not receive legislative action. The recent legislation on procurement poses major problems for higher education and relief is needed. The intrusion of the State Ethics Office is causing significant delays in needed purchases.

Sevener concluded by addressing some of the issues of PBF. The IBHE wants new money for the PBF effort. That will not happen and the IBHE says it will move forward with PBF. In other states where this has been tried, the amount of money involved in additions and subtractions tend to increase over time. To the degree an institution falls short of its goals it is punished by funds being reduced, making it even more difficult to meet its goals. He believes the IBHE already collects much or all of the data required for PBF.

The various caucuses (public, community college, private/proprietary) met following lunch and essentially reiterated concerns about PBF. The Council previously sent a letter setting forth many concerns about PBF and consideration was given to developing a second such letter. (That did not occur but the concerns were forwarded to Allan Karnes (SIU-C) and Abbas, who serve on the PBF Steering Committee.)

Following a brief review of possible changes in the FAC bylaws, the minutes of the September 18 meeting at Western Illinois University were approved and the meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Ken Andersen

Alternate UIUC Representative to the FAC