

Report on IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Meeting

April 10, 2012

(Final; Information)

The [Faculty Advisory Council](#) (FAC) of the [Illinois Board of Higher Education](#) (IBHE) held a regularly scheduled meeting at [Harry S. Truman College](#) on Tuesday April 10, 2012 with 27 [member institutions](#) present. The Council had a lunch meeting with members of the Board. In the afternoon, the Council joined a regularly scheduled meeting of the Board as has been the tradition for April meetings of the Council and the Board.

In the morning, the council held a discussion on topics to raise with the Board during lunch. In addition, the council discussed what its priorities for activities should be in the upcoming year.

The Council recommended to the Board that a fellowship be established for member institutions to send faculty with expertise that would complement the IBHE staff to join the staff for a period of one or two semesters as fellows. This would be a great opportunity for some faculty to spend their sabbatical leaves. Specifics of such arrangements need to be agreed upon between the IBHE Staff and the faculty member's home institution. Board members were very excited about this proposition and offered their strong support. It was planned that the Council Chair will meet with the IBHE staff over summer to develop a more detailed plan for consideration and approval by the Board at its August meeting. It is hoped that Faculty Fellows may be able to begin their work in January 2013.

The second issue raised with the Board was to ensure that quality education remains at the center of all higher education discussions. There was a mention of a number of recent state bills that were lacking adequate assurances for quality education. The Council expressed concerns about the metrics used in higher education Performance Based Funding (PBF) and reiterated that quality measures must be included in any plans that affect higher education. It was specifically noted that the Council had previously recommended that the ratio of tenure-system to nontenure-system faculty be used as a measure for PBF. The Board appreciated and agreed with the Council's emphasis on quality.

The third item raised with the Board was concerns about college readiness of some students graduating from high schools. It was noted that the situation causes delays in graduation of affected students and costs the State millions of dollars each year in offering remedial courses to a large number of students. The Council felt that the State's P-20 Council should address this issue more rigorously.

Finally, the Council brought to the Board's attention a number of concerns relative to the State's [Monetary Award Program](#) (MAP). It was specifically mentioned that the method and schedule for distribution of MAP funds disadvantage community college students. The Council felt that there needs to be a rigorous review of MAP funding and administration of the awards. The Board agreed that the issues should be addressed.

Board Chair Carrie Hightman thanked the Council for its discussions and noted that the group is highly organized in terms of presenting its positions rationally and clearly compared to other group the Board meet with.

The meeting adjourned at about 12:45 PM after which Council members joined the meeting of the Board. The next meeting of the Council will be held at SIUC in Carbondale on Friday May 18, 2012.

Respectfully submitted
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