

Report on IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Meeting

May 18, 2012

(Final; Information)

The [Faculty Advisory Council](#) (FAC) of the [Illinois Board of Higher Education](#) (IBHE) held a regularly scheduled meeting at [Southern Illinois University – Carbondale \(SIUC\)](#) on Friday May 18, 2012 with 16 [member institutions](#) present.

The meeting was called to order at 8:40 AM by Chair Abbas Aminmansour. SIUC Chancellor Rita Cheng welcomed the group to her campus and noted that the higher education budget is on everyone's mind along with pension changes, financial aid, performance based funding, and health care. She said that despite the fact that SIUC is in its fourth year of student growth, more than 300 SIUC employees will be retiring soon. SIUC's research funding is \$78 million. A discussion of higher education funding with Chancellor Cheng followed.

Aminmansour reported on his meeting along with FAC Vice Chair Marie Donovan and FAC Community College Caucus Chair John Bennett with State Representative Daniel Biss. He noted that the group had an excellent discussion with Biss and hoped to continue dialogue with him on higher education matters in the future. Aminmansour also reported on his meeting with Eric Zarnikow, the new Executive Director of Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC). He reported that they discussed Monetary Award Program (MAP) funding and faculty representation on the MAP Eligibility Task Force established by Illinois General Assembly, Senate Joint Resolution 69. Mr. Zarnikow has agreed to include an FAC representative on the task force.

The three caucuses of the Council (four year public universities; community colleges and private/independent institutions) met separately on issues of particular interest to them and reported back to the Council.

Jonathan Lackland, IBHE Deputy Director for External Relations and Candace Mueller, IBHE Assistant Director for External Relations offered an update on the latest higher education related legislative activities. State pensions and the longitudinal data system were discussed in more details.

SIU President Glenn Poshard addressed the Council after lunch and shared his views on the proper role of boards of trustees in university administration. He spoke about his public disagreements with the Governor and the SIU Board of Trustees on the independence of trustees and the role of the President versus that of the current Board of Trustees in SIU affairs.

In other business, the Council elected its new officers for the 2012-13 academic year as follows: Abbas Aminmansour of U of I (FAC Chair); Marie Donovan of DePaul (FAC Vice Chair) and Steve Rock of Western Illinois (FAC Secretary).

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 PM. The next meeting of the Council will be held at Black Hawk College on June 15, 2012.

Respectfully submitted
Abbas Aminmansour