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**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE**
(Final; Information)

HE.14.10 Report on the June 20, 2014 meeting of the Faculty Advisory Council to the IBHE.

The [Faculty Advisory Council \(FAC\)](#) of the [Illinois Board of Higher Education \(IBHE\)](#) held a regularly scheduled meeting at the Northern Illinois University with 28 members present. Special guest of the meeting included Dr. Doug Baker, NIU President and Dr. Lisa Freeman, NIU Provost.

Chair Aminmansour called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. After introduction of members present, President Baker advocated improvements in vertical and horizontal collaboration among our institutions. He also discussed Common Core and [Partnership in Assessment of Readiness for College and Career](#) (PARCC) as important issues in Illinois higher education. He added that if higher education leaders came together, there may be an opportunity to reverse the impact of state budget cuts.

Chair Aminmansour reported on his participation in the Lumina Foundation's convening of about 30 people in Indianapolis, mostly administrators and some faculty to discuss "Engaging Faculty." He also reported that he had participated in the IBHE meeting and that four subcommittees of the Board have been formed on the following topics: Increasing Influence; Improving Affordability; Reducing Gaps and Increasing Adult Completions Aligned with Economic Needs.

Vice Chair Donovan reported that the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) had recently elected new officers both of whom will be students at UIUC. She hoped that there would be increased collaboration between FAC and SAC.

Faculty Board member Allen Karnes discussed the state's higher education budget and noted that things could have been worse. He added that mid-year budget cuts are possible.

The Council held a discussion on the IBHE Faculty Fellows Program and the next round of soliciting applications. It was noted that timing of the application period should be established to allow potential candidates to use their sabbatical for this purpose.

Professor Julie Peters of UIC, one of this year's IBHE Faculty Fellows gave a presentation on her work titled, "How teacher education programs prepare candidates to enter the workforce." She discussed her research method and received suggestions/input from FAC members.

The three caucuses of the Council (four year public universities; community colleges and private/independent institutions) met separately and reported back to the Council later in the day. Community Colleges discussed affordability and the role of retired faculty including the fact that some want them back after retirement, some don't.

The independent institutions' caucus argued that we need to make sure that faculty understand and sympathize with the students in their debt problems. Among their aspirations for next year are the production of some white papers, possibly including one on MAP funding cuts and possible changes in how MAP operates. They also would like some discussions of the pervasiveness of academic dishonesty in universities.

Four year public universities' caucus emphasized how we could communicate more effectively with the public, perhaps through newspapers or other mass media. They discussed the possibility to send out a quarterly newsletter earmarked for legislators. They discussed communicating the results of reduced funding and how we can disseminate our views about that.

In other business, the Council approved minutes of the May 16, 2014 meeting at DeVry.

Under Old Business, the Council agreed on the following statement: "The IBHE Faculty Advisory Council urges the Congress to restore full bankruptcy protection to all student loans, both private and federally guaranteed, as well as other standard consumer protections." This statement will be forwarded to UIUC Law student Tony Fiorentino who is working with Senator Durbin's office on the subject.

The Council also agreed on issuing the following statement to be sent to the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning (CAEL): "The IBHE Faculty Advisory Council identifies the need for research into current practices in recognizing military learning for college credit through prior learning assessment." Some members argued against this statement. However, the motion to issue this statement was passed by a majority vote.

In addition, the Council voted unanimously on issuing the following statement on the [edTPA](#): "The Faculty Advisory Council asks the IBHE to urge the Illinois State Board of Education to delay implementation of the edTPA as a high-stakes teacher licensure requirement for two years, to September 2017, thereby enabling all P-20 institutions and their students to be properly prepared for this new assessment." Also, the Council voted unanimously to adopt the following statement: "The Faculty Advisory Council asks the IBHE to work with the Executive Director to designate staff analysts to develop review criteria for alternative/nonconventional teacher preparation programs that match the rigor and expectations applied when reviewing conventional teacher preparation programs proposed by colleges and universities in Illinois."

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 PM. The next FAC meeting is scheduled for September 19, 2014 at the Illinois State University.

Respectfully submitted
Abbas Aminmansour