

**University of Illinois
Urbana-Champaign Senate
Final Information**

HE.02.07 Report on the IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Meeting, March 1, 2002.

N.B.: The meeting of the FAC scheduled for February 1, 2002, at UIC was cancelled due to weather and road conditions.

The March 1 FAC meeting at Chicago State University opened at 9:00 a.m. with a welcome by President Elnora Daniel. Chicago State, the oldest public university in the Chicago area and the second oldest in Illinois, offers 36 undergraduate and 26 graduate programs. While most of its students live within 5 miles of the campus, 10% are from out-of-state. The 7,100 students have an average age of 26, are 80% African-American and 75% female. CSU grants a high proportion of the undergraduate and graduate degrees to African-Americans in Illinois and ranks relatively high in the nation in this category. The recent cuts in state support have caused significant problems for the campus that will continue into the 2002-03 year.

The major focus of the morning session was budget issues. Ed Hines, Emeritus from Illinois State University, addressed concerns about the balance of state funds used in support of public versus private education. Always an issue, it tends to become more prominent when budgets are tight and funds cut from public institutions. He believes that because private institutions contribute to the "public good," using state funds to support private education is sound public policy. However, amount of and allocation of these funds are major concerns. In 2001 in terms of headcount, public universities enrolled 191,151 students, community colleges 339,956 students, and private colleges including proprietary institutions 218,087 students. (Figures for FTE—full time enrollments--would differ.) Private institutions provide education for a large number of Illinois residents, increase student access and opportunity, and give greater choice to students. Graduates of private institutions provide the state with "a good return" on its investment and the institutions contribute to the local economy in their area.

The state provides money to the private schools in three ways: 75.5% of the student aid money (\$162.8M in 2001) goes to them currently, up from 67.1% in 1981. The trend of the last 20 years has been for more money to go to the privates given increased tuition. Second, is direct grants and third is categorical grants in support of goals such as increasing the number of engineering graduates. Capital improvement funds also go to privates including \$10M to Northwestern in 2001 and a total of \$41M in 2002 including \$19M to the University of Chicago, \$11M to Loyola and \$10M to Northwestern.

While Hines supports student assistance based on need, he is not supportive of some direct and categorical grants. Categorical grants are not reviewed in terms of need but often continue due to political influence. He noted that many struggling small private liberal arts institutions do not receive significant state help as contrasted to larger, research-oriented institutions. He supports the FAC recommendation on the need to close the salary/benefits gap between public and private

institutions and noted that the gap in compensation is growing. We need to bring more out-of-state students into the state, but he believes Illinois will always be a net student out-migration state. He disagreed with the recommendation that student assistance programs be adjusted to provide less support to private institutions since that was a legislative policy decision. He supports cutting capital appropriations to privates. Finally, private institutions should have to show "need" when asking for new program approval just as the public institutions are required to do. We do not have a level playing field.

Hines noted that while Illinois is a wealthy state, 7th nationally in terms of per capita personal income and recently ranked about 11th in the nation in increased support of higher education, it does not support higher education well. Illinois is 23rd in the national ranking of faculty salaries for public universities and 47th among the 50 in expenditures for public colleges divided by the number of students. Average private university salaries in Illinois rank 5th nationally and private university benefits average 23% of salary while those of the publics are well below 20%.

Debra Smitley, IBHE Deputy Director Budgets and Administration discussed the allocation of funds given the Governor's budget recommendations. She noted that the projected \$900M in new revenue this current year is now estimated at \$90M. The cuts this year will be permanent. **The Governor put together the budget in a fashion unlike any previous budget. The governor said that this year's higher ed budget should have been cut an additional 3% beyond the \$25M called for initially as a budget reserve. He built next year's budget assuming higher education has a base of \$2,563B. To this he proposed adding \$75M, 2.9%. This represents a \$30M cut from the original appropriation for the current year although he claims he is giving a 2.9% increase. \$24.2M will go to SURS for retirement; \$16.1M to student financial aid, \$26.8M for academic base support at public universities, \$6.6M for community colleges and adult education and \$1.3M for various agencies and grant programs. The future of health insurance coverage and costs is unknown pending the outcome of CMS negotiations with unions. (If higher education has to pay a portion of health care costs, it should have a person at the table when negotiations are conducted.)**

Budget cuts are less severe in Illinois than in many states, e.g., Missouri with a 10% cut and Ohio with 12% in two years. Many states will cut higher education 5 to 7%. Tuition will rise: Ohio State may raise tuition 35%.

Great concern was expressed by the FAC about the impact of the budget cuts on individual campuses with classes cancelled, part-timers terminated, faculty not replaced, tuition increased, course loads increased, etc. The effort to fill faculty positions vacant due to the budget crunch of the early 90's is being undone by the cuts. The use of part-timers and non-tenure track faculty will increase with negative implications for educational quality. Illinois, traditionally a low tuition state for public institutions, is now a marginally high tuition state.

The Business Meeting included action to approve a statement on standards for courses and curricula for distance education and a resolution congratulating the IBHE Director Designate, Dr. Daniel J. LaVista, on his appointment effective May 1. (The current Executive Director, Keith Sanders, retires on May 31.) The FAC seeks an early meeting with Dr. LaVista. In the

discussion, concern was voiced that Dr. LaVista's experience after his appointment in theatre at ISU has been totally in administrative roles at community colleges in and outside of Illinois.

The majority of the Business Meeting was given over to a discussion of the IBHE report on the issue of non-tenure track and part-time faculty. Opinions varied widely ranging from a vote of "no confidence in the report" to endorsement of some sections and qualifications to others. One key factor was that individual experiences did not confirm the report's judgment that part-timers are happy with their pay and conditions of employment. Many adjuncts may be pleased because they earn extra income and have an opportunity to teach and share their professional expertise. However, those who are teaching introductory courses and working part-time because they are unable to be appointed to a full-time position may be very unhappy. Several expressed concerns about the sampling procedures used to provide data and failure to conduct some disciplinary specific surveys and differentiate part-time from full-time non-tenure track faculty. With regard to recommended participation by part-timers and non-tenure-track faculty in governance it was reported that in some instances these individuals already can outvote tenure-track faculty on curricular and other educational policy decisions. Some expressed concern that the report does not provide salary recommendations for part-time faculty. A major concern was that the report appeared to endorse extensive use of part-time appointments whereas the FAC believes most positions should be full-time tenure track except for those adjuncts sharing professional expertise based on their full-time appointments outside the academy. A resolution being drafted expressing reservations about the report, recommends that the FAC report of February, 2001, be reviewed again by the IBHE, and states that the FAC will generate a series of reports commenting upon various report recommendations. Meanwhile, FAC members were asked to get input from their campuses.

Given the reports of impending bad weather, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Ken Andersen, Campus representative to the FAC of the IBHE