

Report on IBHE Faculty Advisory Council Meeting

February 17, 2012

(Final; Information)

The [Faculty Advisory Council](#) (FAC) of the [Illinois Board of Higher Education](#) (IBHE) held a regularly scheduled meeting at DePaul University on Friday February 17, 2012 with 35 [member institutions](#) present. Guests of the council included DePaul President Father Dennis Holschneider; J.D. Bindenagel DePaul Vice President, Community, Government & International Affairs; Scott Martin, Executive Director of the Center for Operational Excellence and Anne Brennan Project Team Leader from the Reinvention project by the City Colleges of Chicago (CCC); Representative Ken Dunkin, Chair of the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee and IBHE Chair Carrie Hightman.

President Holschneider noted that with 6 campuses and 10 colleges, DePaul is the largest private university in the Midwest. He said that DePaul's mission is to provide a good education and financial aid to the following student groups: first generation, of color, Pell eligible, and from Chicago Public Schools. DePaul is the top transfer school in America. It has gone test optional for admission and constructed 16 buildings in 16 years. When asked about the state of shared governance, President Holschneider said that DePaul has a faculty handbook, which has inconsistencies and is being rewritten. The school is looking at standard practices at comparable universities, but this is a slow process.

Scott Martin and Anne Brennan gave a presentation on the [Reinvention effort of the City Colleges of Chicago \(CCC\)](#) with the vision to transform the City Colleges of Chicago into a world-class institution. The goals of the project are as follows: "Increase the number of students earning college credentials of economic value; Increase the rate of transfer to Bachelor's degree programs following CCC graduation; Drastically improve outcomes for students needing remediation; Increase number and share of ABE/GED/ESL students who advance to and succeed in college-level courses." Guest speakers answered questions from the Council members.

Representative Ken Dunkin, Chair of the House Higher Education Appropriations Committee was the Council's next guest. He has served in the House for 10 years. Representative Dunkin's educational background includes Loop (now Harold Washington) College, Morehouse College, and the University of Chicago. Representative Dunkin noted that his committee uses line-by-line budgeting. He named the following as major issues of discussion for his Committee this spring: MAP funding and its distribution along with P-20; affordability; the Public Agenda; obtaining grant and research dollars; the prepaid investment program; program consolidation; performance standards; capital costs; and faculty recruitment/retention. Representative Dunkin said that he believes in limited government. He noted pension costs must get under control and that there will be shared sacrifices. He added that many of our state universities are flush and looking to student tuition may not be appropriate. Representative Dunkin was reminded of high cost to our institutions of remediation of students who come to colleges unprepared and that remediation could be addressed at a considerably lower cost at the high school level. A number of examples indicating the extent of remediation were shared by Council members with Representative Dunkin as follows: 90% of CCC students need remediation; 94% of Kankakee Community College freshmen are not college ready and there is a high failure rate of those who are unprepared as a

result; 90% of Prairie State College students are similarly not ready. Representative Dunkin found this information surprising.

Representative Dunkin was asked about continued availability of MAP funding for private institutions. He responded by saying "it's on the radar" and that he expects that proprietary institutions will be cut out, and maybe the not-for-profits later. Council argued that many private institutions offer high quality education and that we would like to continue this dialogue with the representative in the future. It was noted that faculty are in the trenches and have a different perspective about many of these issues. Dunkin said he could use our perspective, either formally or informally. Position papers would be welcome. He added that his Committee needs solutions and fiscal suggestions.

Carrie Hightman, IBHE Chair, was the Council's next guest. After introductory remarks, she was asked about how she manages to handle her role as Chair of both IBHE and SURS. She responded that she did not seek those positions, she does not see a conflict between the two roles and that she is capable of handling the two tasks fairly and equitably. The subject of pensions was discussed with Chair Hightman. She wondered why the state is paying for municipal teachers' pensions - - we're being wrapped up in this. She added that most community colleges are at their taxing caps. The key issue is how this will be phased in. Chair Hightman was asked about the [Illinois Public Agenda for College and Career Success](#) and if there is a system in place to assess progress? Chair Hightman stated that at every Board meeting, there is a standing agenda item to look at progress towards meeting the goals of the Public Agenda and added that data on progress is on the IBHE web site. She agreed that a formal assessment of the progress of Public Agenda is a good idea. Hightman added that she welcomes our reports and conversations.

In other business, the Council caucuses met and reported back on their discussions to the Council. Minutes of previous meetings (December 2011 and January 2012) were approved by the Council. In addition, the council held a discussion on a number of Illinois Senate bills regarding higher education that are under consideration. The Council decided to discuss these bills further at its next meeting. If time does not permit such action, the Council asked the Chair/Executive Committee to issue a position statement on behalf of the Council on these matters before the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at about 3:20 PM. The next meeting of the Council will be held at Eastern Illinois University on March 16, 2012.

Respectfully submitted
Abbas Aminmansour