

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

HE.13.02 Report on the October 19, 2012 meeting of the FAC to the IBHE.

The [Faculty Advisory Council \(FAC\)](#) of the [Illinois Board of Higher Education \(IBHE\)](#) held a regularly scheduled meeting at the [Danville Area Community College \(DACC\)](#) on Friday October 19, 2012 with 28 member institutions present. Guests of the Council included Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs, DACC President; Linda Brookhart, Executive Director, State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA); Toby Trimmer, Director of Political Activities, Illinois Federation of Teachers; State Representative Chad Hays; State Senator Michael Frerichs and John Kindt, UIUC Academic Senate Chair of Faculty and Academic Staff Benefits.

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 AM by Chair Abbas Aminmansour. Dr. Alice Marie Jacobs who has served as the College President since 1999, welcomed the group to her campus. She reported that DACC is 65 years old and serves about 10,000 students focusing on both student access and success. Challenges include about 25% reduction in operating costs and late state payments in recent years. The DACC campus has recently gone tobacco free with good success.

Aminmansour reported on his activities over the recent months as the Chair of the Council including participation at a national and a state conference on higher education, planning meetings and liaising with legislators and other interested parties.

Steve Rock, the Council's representative on the [Illinois Student Assistant Commission \(ISAC\)](#) Monetary Award Program (MAP) task force gave a presentation on the group's recent discussions on award criteria and distribution of MAP funds.

Linda Brookhart, Executive Director of SUAA, joined the Council over the phone and offered her perspectives on the state constitutional amendment on the ballot for this November's elections. She noted that the SUAA web site has more information on the topic.

Toby Trimmer, Director of Political Activities for the Illinois Federation of Teachers joined the Council over the phone as well and gave his thoughts on the proposed constitutional amendment.

The three caucuses of the Council (four year public universities; community colleges and private/independent institutions) met separately and reported back to the Council. The follow up discussion included distribution of MAP funds among four-year public universities, community colleges and private/independent institutions.

State Representative Chad Hays (R-104th district) joined the Council after lunch. He was educated at DACC and SIU, and is currently a member of the Higher Education Committee. He noted that he has

consistently supported higher education. He stated that he believes that the state should not alter the pension rules for retirees as well as those soon to retire. He expressed concern about the proposed tradeoff between the cost of living adjustment and health care coverage. Hays called this idea problematic and probably unconstitutional. He said that he would like to see all stakeholders participate in the discussions on developing a solution to the problem. Hays noted that the Medicaid liability is increasing rapidly and is having an adverse effect on other state spending. Hays was pleased to have participated in the discussion with the Council and encouraged the faculty to communicate with other legislators as well.

State Senator Michael W. Frerichs (D) 52nd District joined the Council next for a general discussion higher education issues. He offered brief remarks to the Council and noted that he is a strong supporter of higher education. Frerichs was asked about the recent desire by some to establish a four-year public institution in Peoria. He responded that in today's fiscal climate, such a proposition will undergo scrutiny by many. Frerichs was also asked about the state's plan with the goal of 60 percent of all adults in Illinois having completed some form of postsecondary education by the year 2025 (also referred to as the 60/25 plan.) He replied that this is a good goal as long as the expectation is for us to do our best to accomplish this objective. There was also a discussion on the legislation to require four years of math for high school students. Some Council members noted they believe curricula should not be legislated.

The Council approved the minutes of its September 21, 2012 meeting at Moraine Valley. A discussion took place under new business on distribution of MAP funds among public universities and colleges versus private institutions. The majority opinion was that such funds should be available to all institutions, public or private.

The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM. The next IBHE-FAC meeting is scheduled for November 16, 2012 at the Lewis University.

Respectfully submitted

Abbas Aminmansour