

Information on the Illinois Board of Higher Education Faculty Advisory Council

Per the [FAC website](#), “The Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) is a representative group of faculty in the State of Illinois that acts as an advisory group to the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE). It has 36 members comprised of the following institutions in the state: 12 Representatives from each of the twelve public universities, 12 Representatives from private and proprietary institutions, and 12 Representatives from public community colleges.” The 12 public universities enjoy permanent representation on FAC; the private, proprietary, and community college members rotate on a schedule.

FAC is advisory to the IBHE. FAC members participate in discussions of issues across the range of higher education matters in the State of Illinois. Activities include:

- The FAC Chair attends Board meetings and makes a report to the Board.
- IBHE staff regularly attend FAC meetings and make reports about policy issues and budget matters to FAC.
- The UIUC faculty member who serves as a voting member of the IBHE regularly attends FAC and reports about Board activities.
- Currently, FAC has a Public University Caucus, a Private/Proprietary Caucus, and a Community College Caucus. Representatives of these groups meet at each meeting, and sometimes between meetings, to address issues of common interest to these groups.
- FAC regularly divides into working groups. These issue groups tend to change year-to-year as circumstances evolve. They typically meet at each meeting, and can meet between meetings.
- FAC is regularly solicited for volunteers for IBHE committees on issues under study. For example, FAC had a representative on the committee working on the IBHE’s most recently updated strategic plan. FAC also had members on committees addressing access and affordability issues, as well as on teacher training matters. IBHE typically treats FAC as a “go to” place for volunteers on issues IBHE is focusing on in any given cycle.

The duties of the IBHE-FAC Representative include:

- Regular attendance at FAC meetings. There are usually 9 of these a year. Prior to the pandemic, they were always in-person. About half were somewhere in the Chicago area; during the pandemic all meetings were virtual. Current plans are to try three virtual meetings and six in-person in 2021-22. Meetings are almost always on Fridays. Dates for 2021-22 have not yet been set. Meetings typically run from 8:30 am (snacks, etc.) to 3:00 pm. One meeting per year may be on a different day of the week. This meeting is typically in Springfield, although it has been held in Chicago.
- Attendance at optional Thursday gathering. Reps regularly meet for dinner somewhere near the meeting site and discuss all the things one does in such an environment. Usually, this is an opportunity to get to know one’s colleagues better, as well as to get some business done in an informal way.
- Participation in caucus meetings and volunteering for a working group. Participation in “between meetings” meetings as required. Drafting and editing white papers or similar documents.

- Making regular reports to the Academic Senate about what happens on FAC. Representative may be asked to make reports to the Senate in person.
- Communication with the alternate IBHE-FAC representative regarding dates of meetings and what the issues are being addressed. IBHE-FAC rep should keep the alternate apprised of the basic work of the working group the rep has volunteered for. If the rep cannot attend a meeting, the IBHE-FAC rep should give the adequate notice (at least 5 business days) so the alternate can organize attendance at the meeting.

Please note that this all requires a significant investment of time. Anyone doing this job should expect it will take several days work a month.

Illinois State University provides travel support for the FAC rep, administered from the provost's office. This includes direct travel costs (miles, train tickets, parking deck fees in Chicago, etc.), and hotels (when arriving at the meetings on Thursday) and per diem expenses. Thursday meals and other entertainment costs are the responsibility of the FAC rep.